



MERCHANT TAYLORS'
School

New Parents' Evening 2021



5th July 2021

Welcome to Merchant Taylors' School



Parents have always been at the centre of the Merchant Taylors' community, so please continue this tradition by joining our support groups. This really is the best way of meeting other parents, enjoying some superbly run social events, and supporting the activities of your son. We couldn't do it without you, so please sign up!

S. Everson

On the evening:

Welcome and the House System - Tom Jenkin, Head of Lower School

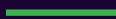
The Friends and Support Services - Simon Everson, Head Master

Badges

Tonight's badges are colour coded so that you can easily identify who's who:

Parent None

Head of House/Tutor Green



Support Group Member Blue



Friends' Support Groups

This is the collective name for our parent support groups. There are groups for key sports, drama and music. They organise and run social events for parents and complement the work of the teachers. Monies raised are used to extend the range of opportunities the boys enjoy.



Chairman	Matthew Whalley (mdw@anteeo.co.uk)
Treasurer	Caron Evans-Evans (cree@mtsn.org.uk)
Ladies' Association	Judy Gilbert (la@mtsn.org.uk)
Scrumpers	Roshan Daryanani (scrumpers@mtsn.org.uk)
Serenaders	Emma Bindloss (serenaders@mtsn.org.uk)
Yardarms	Adam Edwards (yardarms@mtsn.org.uk)
Longstops	Raj Thapar (longstops@mtsn.org.uk)
Footlighters	Louise Gross (footlighters@mtsn.org.uk)
Strikers	Shalini Palmer (strikers@mtsn.org.uk)
Head Master	Simon Everson (hmsec@mtsn.org.uk)
Bursar	Ian Williams (bursarsoffice@mtsn.org.uk)
Development & Alumni Relations	Nick Latham (nlatham@mtsn.org.uk)
Secretary	Sue Williamson (swilliamson@mtsn.org.uk)



Scrummers is a voluntary parent committee that raises funds to support rugby at MTS. Monies raised through the various events go towards subsidising the major tours and also contribute towards the provision of extra kit, professional coaching sessions and pre-season training.

Every three years we support an international tour which last saw 72 boys playing across venues in the USA and Canada in 2019. We are planning our next tour to Japan in 2023 which promises to be a fantastic opportunity for the boys to expand their horizons and enjoy friendships that will last a lifetime.

Our main fundraising event is the annual Scrummers' Dinner Dance which takes place at the end of an intense 'rugby week'. This is a wonderful black tie event with a 4 course meal served by the senior rugby team. We have an auction, bar, raffles and dancing to a live band. The event provides a great opportunity to meet other parents and enjoy a well-deserved fun evening out. Tickets are available via the events page on the school website - everyone is welcome!

Joining Scrummers couldn't be easier - my contact details are below, so please do get in contact, and you too can become involved in making rugby a better experience for all the boys. We're a friendly group and whether or not you are a great rugby player makes little difference. We simply want to welcome people who enjoy the sport and want to help our boys get the most out of their rugby experiences at MTS.

We bring the same camaraderie that characterises the great game of rugby to all our endeavours and guarantee that your involvement, will be appreciated by the committee, MTS and our boys.

Do join us at the events by helping out as part of the committee. Please feel free to contact me at roshan.daryanani@gmail.com or find us on the rugby touchline! We look forward to seeing you soon.

Roshan Daryanani
Scrummers Chair 2021-22

For more information please contact:
scrummers@mtsn.org.uk





Longstops is the parent/staff body that supports cricket at Merchant Taylors' School. We aim to make the cricket experience at school more enjoyable for both boys and parents by building a community that supports our players at matches and occasionally raises funds through social events to help improve their tours. Longstops also fields its own cricket team of both current and past parents. This offers an opportunity to socialise and enjoy some cricket, either as a player or as a spectator.

Events

We hold a major event each year during the summer term, which is very well attended by families and staff. During the past few years, we have had cricket stars attend our events as special guests. In 2016, we were privileged to be joined by ex-England cricket captain Michael Atherton and in 2017 we hosted the inaugural MTS 1st XI vs Lashings cricket match with a marquee lunch for over two hundred guests. In 2019 we held the inaugural "Awards Night", with a jazz band, three course meal and award presentations for the best players in each team. Unfortunately, COVID-19 has prevented us from pursuing our summer schedule of activities, however we plan to be back in action for the 2021/22 season.

Longstops 'Parents' Cricket Team

The team meets for regular cricket nets at school and plays a number of games against sides, such as the teachers' 'Trumpers' team and 'Old Merchant Taylors'. This is open for any parent to join, regardless of skill or experience, and we are always looking for new members to join.

Our Support

The money raised at our events is used to support cricket at MTS. In 2017 we contributed to the Under 15 tour of Spain, and the new cricket nets. In 2019 we contributed to a number of activities including specialist coaching, support for cricket tours and equipment. In 2021/22 our main focus will be on supporting the development and coaching efforts of the MTS Cricket staff.

Joining and How to Help

Please do consider joining our Committee as more help is always welcome. Just let us have your email address and we will keep you updated on events and how to get involved.

Your Longstops year representative will be in contact with more information about Longstops.

Raj Thapar

longstops@mtsn.org.uk

MTS v Radley at Lord's



Strikers are the Parents' Support Group supporting school hockey. Our purpose is to encourage parent support and commitment which positively impacts the boys' passion and energy towards developing their hockey skills. We have parents from all year groups on the Strikers committee which is brilliant as it allows us to share experiences and ideas on how we can support hockey throughout the year groups. We are often found at pitch-side serving teas and coffees while parents watch their sons play hockey. We raise funds to support the hockey 'family' at MTS by contributing towards tours, buy additional equipment such as indoor boards so that the boys can enjoy hockey all year round and we have also supported the cost of external coaches to enhance the experience of the boys across all teams and year groups during training sessions.

We also have strong links with OMT Hockey Club which is a great opportunity for boys to enjoy even more hockey, some of the boys join OMTHC as they train at the school. We hope to bring the School and OMTHC even closer together to promote hockey playing.

Every three years the Senior Hockey boys have the chance to experience playing hockey internationally and in 2020 the boys were due to go to South Africa to take part in high-altitude training and participate in an international schools' tournament across two age groups. Due to COVID-19 the trip was postponed, and we are hopeful that the boys will have a chance to do this again in the future as we believe it is an amazing experience **playing** against high level opposition in challenging conditions.

The U13's have an annual tour to Holland.



U13's in Holland

Over the last few years, MTS hockey has gone from strength to strength and in the 2019/20 season, there were over 25 boys representing various counties of which 5 are currently in the England Performance Centres. All of these boys have represented OMTHC in various teams which highlight the benefits of the 'Hockey family'. School hockey as a result has flourished and plays over 200 competitive fixtures against other schools and now has a reputation as one of the best single-term schools in the country.

As part of the strong relationship, the School and OMTs compete annually for the OMT Cup. This is normally the grand finale to the season and is very competitive. The School and OMTHC take it in turns to host the event and over the years it has become a greatly supported occasion by OMTs and parents alike.

The Strikers support has helped enormously as the 1st XI has now reached the National Plate final four times over the past 5 years, winning in 2017/2018 and the U16 indoor team got through to the National Finals indoor. Along with this, each age group U14, U16, U18 all qualified for the Divisional championships, again showing the strength of this programme across all year groups.

Shalini Palmer

strikers@mtsn.org.uk







Yardarms



Who can do Outdoor Education at MTS?

Recently, the Watersports Games option at MTS was rebranded "Outdoor Education". This saw a number of changes including an increase in the range of activities on offer to the students such as ski racing, mountain biking, climbing and shooting.

Boys in the Fourths and above can take part by signing up for the Outdoor Education Games option. Those choosing Watersports will have opportunities to sail, row, kayak, canoe, stand-up paddleboard (SUP) or windsurf. We are lucky to have several staff that are qualified as canoe, kayak & SUP instructors. Consequently, we are able to train and certify our own students in these disciplines.

There will be a number of opportunities for boys in all years to get involved with trips at the weekends or in the school holidays. These include, power kiting, SUP sea trips, wakeboarding, kayak river trips, mountain biking days and much more.

Yardarms as a 'Friends' Group

Those of us involved in supporting MTS Watersports/Outdoor Education are passionate about giving our sons fantastic opportunities to enjoy Watersports at MTS. Confidence, leadership and responsibility are just a few of the traits and skills cultivated through all of the options available, as well as being tremendous fun. The boys learn the skills of the sport; learn to teach each other; and also organise their teams and equipment. In the past four years, the number of boys enjoying the exhilaration of water sports at MTS has doubled every year. With the new addition of Outdoor Education activities we sincerely hope to reach even more boys. The Yardarms has helped to purchase windsurfers, canoes, boat covers, SUP boards and other equipment for the school.

Yardarms' Social Events

Outdoor Education sports are very sociable activities and we aim to share the fun with everyone in order to support the boys. Any funds raised from the activities go towards upkeep of the boats, team equipment, and any other specific needs supporting the various sports activities and events.

For more information please contact: yardarms@mtsn.org.uk





The Footlighters are a friendly group of parents who support the Drama Department here at Merchant Taylors'.

We are involved with both senior and junior Drama productions as well as other school events such as the joint musical with St Helen's, Duologues and the House Drama Competition. We organize and sell pre-show and interval refreshments and contribute to the 'front of house' welcome.

We also organise two major events every year so that you can get to know other parents and socialise together regardless of whether your son is involved in drama. Any money raised contributes to extras for the boys such as specialist Drama workshops, subsidised theatre trips or the new studio projector. We have in the past hosted a Bollywood Ball, an Abba night and traditionally a Comedy Evening with professional comedians many of whom have featured on TV and radio. This year we are planning a murder mystery evening (with some very special guests) and are looking at holding a drive-in movie night.

Footlighters socialise as a group with our regular dinners and West End theatre trips. In previous years one group went to see 'Witness for the Prosecution' and another to 'Come from Away' with pre-theatre drinks of course!

We are always looking for more people to join us and come to our events. Getting involved doesn't have to be arduous and you can do as little or as much as you'd like. Not only will you be helping the boys, but you'll be making new friends and having fun along the way.

Whether you would like to join the mailing list or get actively involved please do get in touch.

We look forward to meeting you!

Louise Gross

Please contact footlighters@mtsn.org.uk



‘Serious Music, Serious Fun’

A very warm welcome to all musicians, music lovers, parents, pupils, and friends.

Merchant Taylors’ School has a vibrant music tradition and the Serenaders’ Committee are passionate supporters of the Music Department. If you enjoy attending concerts both formal and informal, are keen to support the Music Department as they provide sensational music opportunities for our boys or would like to meet parents of boys active in the Music Department, then the Serenaders’ is for you! We are a cheerful group of volunteer parents who help to promote music in the school, organise a couple of annual social events which raise funds for equipment and assist the Music Department when required.

In normal circumstances, we organise two informal social events each year, Quiz Night in the spring term and Jazz Night at the end of the summer term.

Quiz Night is a great opportunity to meet other parents, make up a table from your year or join a group on the night, many make it an annual event! Pit your wits against our own “Chaser” with a general knowledge quiz, feast on a delicious curry and enjoy musical entertainment provided by the school Dixieland Band.

Jazz Night at the end of the summer term is one of the most popular music evenings in the calendar. It’s an informal occasion with great entertainment provided by the Jazz bands of Merchant Taylors’ and St Helen’s schools while we enjoy a glass or two of Pimms and a delicious buffet. It is a great celebration as we say goodbye to our leavers and mark the end of the musical calendar.



In 2018/2019 we used funds raised at our events to buy new piano stools and most recently a brand new Vibraphone which will be used by boys in percussion ensembles, concert and jazz ensembles and also by GCSE and A level students.

Parents Choir:

The Parents' Choir is a choir for parents with sons at Merchant Taylors' or daughters at St Helen's, and their friends. Such is its appeal that many parents of alumni continue to sing in the choir long after their sons have left school! We perform all year round at major school events including the Carol Service in December and the Joint Merchant Taylors' and St Helen's Concert in March. No audition is required. If you enjoy singing, just come along and make new friends. Rehearsals take place on Tuesday evenings at 8pm in the Music Department Recital Hall, beginning after the autumn half term for the Carol Service in the Great Hall in December. Look out for more details in Scissorum.

Concerts and Performances:

Early in the autumn term, subject to circumstances, the Serenaders and music staff will host the Music Award Holders' Concert, held in the Recital Hall. This is always a wonderful concert featuring the breadth of musical ability from our music award holders.

Every term there are regular informal chamber music concerts in the Recital Hall at which boys perform individually and with their ensembles from guitar, percussion ensemble or in string quartets and trios, wind quintet and clarinet quartet.

There is also a large-scale musical event every term. The Autumn Concert, the Joint Merchant Taylors and St Helens Concert and the Spring Spectacular are all held in the Great Hall and feature the MTs large ensembles - Symphony Orchestras, Sinfonia, Jazz Band, Concert Band, Dixieland Band, Merchants of Groove, Taylors' Brass, Concert band, Swing Band not forgetting the School Choir, the Chamber Choir and vocal group. Every year, there is a school musical presented by the boys of MTS and the St Helens girls.

Please contact our Music Administrator, MTS Music Department for more information music@mtsn.org.uk To register and book tickets for music events please visit the school website at www.mtsn.org.uk/events/

We are very proud to support all this amazing music-making and we look forward to meeting you in person.



A warm welcome from the Committee of the Ladies' Association...

Why are we called the Ladies Association? We were founded over 100 years ago by Miss Wilmet Baker, the Head Master's daughter, when the school was situated in the City. We decided to keep our committee's name in order to retain this link with our past as her then innovative intention was to give all ladies connected with the school the opportunity to be involved in local charity work. Today we continue with this founding principle by raising funds for charities in conjunction with the school. We have a committee of approximately 15 members, but we welcome all parents to volunteer and join us at our events. Our events are definitely not just for ladies!

Our Charities...

We endeavour to raise monies for the school-nominated charity throughout the year. In the last two years we have been delighted to raise funds for three childorientated charities: The Children's Society, Watford Workshop and Tom's Trust, mainly through our very successful biennial Christmas Fair. We also raised money for the wonderful local Mount Vernon Cancer Care Centre and the Northwood Live at Home scheme through several events including an afternoon tea and a Charity Winetasting evening.



Used Uniform Sale...

On specified Saturdays during the academic year, we run second-hand uniform sales.

Dates of sales are in the school calendar and also advertised in 'Scissorum'; in June, we hold our Annual Sale on the New Boys' Induction Day.

Any outgrown/unwanted uniform can be handed in to Reception. For details of how to sell and suggested selling prices, please see 'Ladies' Association' under the 'Friends' web-link on the main school website. 50% or 100%, depending on the donor's preference, of the selling price is retained by the Ladies' Association and given to our charities.

We look forward to meeting you very soon and wish you and your son a very happy start to his time at MTS.

Judy Gilbert

For more information please contact LA@mtsn.org.uk.



