



MERCHANT TAYLORS'
School

Information for candidates

Teacher of Classics
September 2024

For boys 11-18



INNOVATION

since 1561



The School

History

Merchant Taylors' School has been one of the leading boys' schools in the UK since its foundation by the Merchant Taylors' Livery Company of the City of London in 1561. One of the nine great 'Clarendon schools', its alumni have achieved distinction throughout history. However, the school wears its heritage lightly, its strong sense of tradition very much at the service of the future. Through the Merchant Taylors' Educational Trust, it retains close links with other Merchant Taylors' schools, and with the Merchant Taylors' Company itself. Relocated from the City of London to Sandy Lodge, Northwood in 1933, the School sits on 285 acres of playing fields, and woodland, all within easy reach of Central London, Middlesex, Buckinghamshire, and Hertfordshire. There are four distinct boys' day schools on campus.

A selective school

The Nursery, the Pre-Prep & the Prep cater for 340 boys from 3 to 13 years of age, while the Senior School has some 900 pupils from 11 – 18, with over 300 in the Sixth Form (The Prep School shares some of its facilities with the Senior School, but is a separate school in its own right). Competition for places is fierce, and entry is by competitive examination at 11+, 13+, and 16+.

Academic excellence

Public examination results are outstanding, the majority of students proceeding either to leading universities as well as medical schools in the UK or abroad. We pride ourselves on our outstanding pastoral care as well as our excellent academic results, and aspiration in all areas goes well beyond the norm, making Taylors' a particularly exciting and rewarding place to teach.

Innovation

Digital Learning is a key tenet of our provision for exam classes: pupils studying for GCSEs and A Levels each have their own Surface tablet, working digitally on OneNote for most of their lessons. Staff are provided with Surface Pros and this has allowed us to reimagine what school work looks like, enhancing collaboration, differentiation, tailored feedback and engagement. Merchant Taylors' is an exciting, rewarding environment in which to teach and provides the means for the development of a successful career in a place with a real sense of community.



The Person

We are seeking an outstanding Teacher of Classics to join an extremely successful, friendly, and committed Department. We are looking for the ability to inspire the boys, so that learning Classics is a truly exciting experience for them. You will have excellent subject knowledge of Latin and the Classical world, with Greek an advantage, and be passionate about teaching our full range of students, from our youngest pupils in Year 7 to Oxbridge entry.

You will be approachable and caring, an able communicator, with a positive and collaborative style. We expect that your commitment and ideas will make a significant contribution to enabling the school to maintain

its status as one of the UK's top academic schools. You will be an innovative and reflective teacher, who shares our commitment to engendering independent learning. The school embraces the most diverse teaching styles and personalities, deeply believing that boys benefit from exposure to such diversity.

The school is proud of its reputation as a community with a high-achieving culture across a broad range of activities. Our expectations of our pupils and teachers, academically and in terms of attitude and commitment, are therefore very high.

There is a strong Common Room culture of going the extra mile to stretch and support, in and

beyond the classroom, so that every boy realises his potential. You will be ready to engage fully in the life of the school. Enthusiasm and ability are as important for this post as experience.



The Department

Merchant Taylors' is proud of its tradition of excellence in Classics, having educated Lancelot Andrewes and Gilbert Murray; the subject remains at the heart of the curriculum, with compulsory Latin for the first two years. The majority of the department teach Latin and Greek from beginners' level to Oxbridge; teaching at all levels is shared equally throughout the department. Alongside typical academic excellence, we also seek to widen access to Classics. Recently, we have introduced Classical Civilisation as a Year 9 option, and we are currently exploring its introduction in Sixth Form. Therefore the ability to teach Latin is essential, and the ability to offer Ancient Greek and Classical Civilisation is welcome. We enjoy four well-equipped rooms, a departmental

office, and unusually large and wide-ranging Departmental Library.

Curriculum & Results

All boys study Latin up to the end of Year 8, and many also do so in Year 9. Recently we have made the transition from the Cambridge Latin Course to *Suburani*. In Year 9, we follow Taylor's Latin to GCSE. Half of the Year 9 Latin course is devoted to the study of literature and history. Greek is offered along with Latin in Year 9 as a 'Gratin' course, with around 30 pupils in Year 9 studying this each year; we also use Taylor's Greek to GCSE for this. A Classical Civilisation course is offered in Year 9, which has proved very popular, with around 50 students a year. We follow the

OCR specifications for Latin and Greek GCSE and A Level, making use of OCR-endorsed resources alongside in-house materials. The texts studied for these are at the discretion of the teacher. Numbers are healthy: on average, forty pupils study Latin for GCSE and ten for Greek GCSE. A Level numbers for Latin are typically around six in each year, with a smaller number for Greek. Results in public examinations are very strong, in keeping with the outstanding results that the school as a whole consistently achieves. There is a longstanding record of boys going on to read Classics at leading universities, with six Oxbridge Classics offers in the past four years.



Activities

The department has worked hard to create a lively sense of community within the school, which has led to a devoted group of Classicists and a vigorous extra-curricular life.

We run frequent trips to Greece and Italy, and an annual trip to Bath for Year 7 pupils. We have also run several residential 'reading trips' for older pupils, at which they and staff have presented on topics of their choice, extending or completely beyond the curriculum. There

have also been frequent trips to plays in London, Oxford, and Cambridge, and to exhibitions at the British Museum. The school's proximity to London is a great asset, and the department looks to employ this fully.

The Senior Classics Society hosts frequent guest speakers, from members of the department on more esoteric features of Classics, to a wide range of academics, authors, and other classicists of note.

Summary of Responsibilities

The main responsibility of each Teacher is his/her classroom teaching duties; there are, however, other responsibilities, such as being a Tutor, a Form Teacher and taking part of the school's games and activities programme. All these should be carried out to the highest standard to ensure the all-round quality of education for pupils at Merchant Taylors' School.

- To discharge all professional duties as outlined in the Contract of Employment and associated Employment Manual
- To set personal professional standards (for example, in matters of dress and punctuality) that are of the highest level and that will enable the individual teacher to act as a role model for pupils
- To support the ethos of the school and to work in accordance with its desired aims and policies
- To share in pastoral responsibility for all pupils (especially those in the individual's teaching or tutor groups) in liaison with the appropriate Heads of School and senior managers
- To play an active role in the life of the school, including in the games and extra-curricular activities programme

Teaching

- Planning and preparing courses and lessons
- Assessing, marking, recording and reporting on the development, progress and attainment of pupils in line with school and departmental policy
- Promoting the general progress and well-being of individual pupils and groups of pupils
- Exercising proper care of teaching materials, equipment and rooms to maintain a stimulating teaching environment
- Following the agreed policies in the Departmental Handbook with regard to such matters as programmes of study, teaching methods, supporting pupils with learning support needs and homework
- Advising and co-operating in the preparation and development of courses of study, teaching materials, teaching programmes, and methods of teaching and assessment

Pastoral

- When required to undertake duties as a Tutor and/or Form Teacher as detailed in a separate job description
- To discharge all professional duties as outlined in the Contract of Employment and associated Employment Manual to the highest standard
- To set personal professional standards, for example in matters of dress and punctuality, that are of the highest level and that will enable the individual teacher to act as a role model for pupils
- To support the ethos of the school and to work in accordance with its desired aims and policies
- To share in pastoral responsibility for all pupils (especially those in the individual's teaching or tutor groups) in liaison with the appropriate Heads of House, Heads of School and senior managers

Assessment and Reporting

- Providing or contributing to oral and written assessments, reports and references relating to individual pupils and/or groups of pupils
 - Communicating and consulting with the parents of pupils, both formally at Parents' Meetings and informally
 - Participating in arrangements for preparing and assessing pupils' work for public examinations
- Professional Development



Professional Development

- Participating in the school's arrangements for teacher review
- As a teacher new to the school, to take part in the school's programme of induction and review for new teachers
- Reviewing from time to time teaching methods and schemes of work
- Participating in arrangements for further training and professional development as a teacher

Behaviour Management

- Maintaining good order and discipline amongst the pupils and safeguarding their health and safety, both when they are on the school premises and when they are engaged in authorised school activities elsewhere
- To require from the pupils the high standards of behaviour, dress, punctuality, effort and attendance that are consistent with the school's expectations

Meetings

Participating, as required, in meetings that relate to the curriculum, the organisation of the school or pastoral matters

Cover

Supervising (and when appropriate teaching) any pupils whose teacher is not available to teach them as required by the Head of Department or the Deputy Head (Information Systems)

Co-curriculum and Games

To play an active role in the life of the school, including games afternoons and clubs and societies. For a more comprehensive list of activities please see the school website. Many activities occur on Saturdays e.g. inter school sport, prize giving, open days etc



The Benefits

- The School offers membership to the Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) as the default option for Teaching Staff, with an option to join an alternative Defined Contribution (DC) pension scheme under a Master Trust provided by the Aviva Pension Trust for Independent Schools (APTIS).
- High-quality onsite accommodation is usually available and nearly half the academic faculty lives on campus.
- Interest-free loans are usually available to those staff wishing to leave school accommodation and take out a mortgage.

Career

- There is an extensive induction programme for all new colleagues, and we encourage ongoing professional development through generous INSET provision.
- Each member of the academic faculty has a voice on professional matters via the General Purposes Committee.

Personal

- Fee concessions are available for the sons of any member of the academic faculty who meet the school's entry requirements.
- Longer holidays than the maintained sector.
- School Nurse on site.
- Physiotherapist on site
- Typically generous sick and maternity/paternity arrangements.

For Recreation

- Free use of the school's extensive leisure and sporting facilities: 285 acres of parkland, with more than 65 devoted to sport.
- Free lunch and free refreshments are available throughout the working day.



The MTS lifestyle

The Senior Common Room is a beautifully appointed space with a fully stocked bar for refreshments, situated at the very heart of the school. There are also a number of events held throughout the year which offer opportunities to socialise and forge new friendships. With so many staff living onsite this genuinely enhances the experience for staff. Here is a brief summary of activities which staff are welcome to join:

- Staff Choir
- Wine Society
- Life drawing class
- Staff cricket team
- 5-a-side football

There are various trips which are organised throughout the year such as a staff ski trip and an annual pre-Christmas trip to Harrods. There are also many popular events run by Parents Associations such as the summer barbecue by the lake, a rugby dinner & dance, a Burns Night supper and concerts which staff are most welcome to attend.



MTS staff before the Upper Sixth Leavers' Event



Staff Choir



The Process

Please complete an application form and an accompanying letter (maximum 500 words) outlining your suitability for the post; you may wish to include a brief CV.

Applications to be submitted by **Tuesday 19th March 2024, 12pm**

First round online interviews to be held on **Thursday 21st March 2024**

Second round interviews in school to be held on **Monday 25th March 2024**

Please apply as soon as possible as shortlisting/interviews will progress up until the closing date. Should a suitable candidate be appointed, we reserve the right to close the advert early. Candidates may be asked to provide a 10-15 minute video recording of part of a GCSE lesson as part of the process.

Applications to (email or post):

Recruitment Officer
Merchant Taylors' School
Sandy Lodge
Northwood
Middlesex HA6 2HT

Email: recruitment@mtsn.org.uk

Acting Head of Classics, Edmund Gazeley, is happy to answer any questions.
Please contact him at ehg@mtsn.org.uk



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Merchant Taylors' School, Sandy Lodge,
Northwood, Middlesex HA6 2HT



MERCHANT TAYLORS'
Prep

Merchant Taylors' Prep, Moor Farm,
Sandy Lodge Road, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire

Tel. +44 (0)1923 820644

Email. info@mtsn.org.uk

www.mtsn.org.uk

How we use your information

Merchant Taylors' School is an equal opportunities employer and committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. This role will bring you into contact with children, you are expected to share this commitment. This post is exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974. Applicants will be required to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post, including checks with past employers and the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS). Registered Charity No: 1063740