



MERCHANT TAYLORS'  
School

Information for candidates

Teacher of RS & Philosophy

From September 2025



# 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.

## A selective school

The Nursery, the Pre-Prep & the Prep cater for 340 boys from 3 to 11 years of age, while the Senior School has over 950 pupils from 11 – 18, with over 300 in the Sixth Form. Competition for places is fierce, and entry is by competitive examination at 11+, 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 Religious Studies and Philosophy Teacher for September 2025. The successful candidate will join our collegial and committed team with a strong sense of community. You will have excellent subject knowledge and be passionate about religion, theology and philosophy. Applications are welcome from experienced teachers as well as new graduates. The ability to teach A Level Philosophy is required and the ability to teach a second subject would be an advantage.

Studying Religious Studies and Philosophy should be a truly exciting experience. We are

constantly looking to discover and develop innovative and interesting new teaching methods and resources; a willingness to commit to this is essential. The successful candidate will provide a lively, stimulating and supportive environment which inspires students and engenders the highest levels of achievement.

The school is proud of its reputation as a caring and friendly community with a high achieving culture across a broad range of activities. Enthusiasm and involvement in the pastoral and co-curricular life of the school is the norm. There is a strong culture of

going the extra mile to stretch and support pupils, in and beyond the classroom, so that every young person realises their potential. We hope that you will bring new ideas to the department and will help us continue to raise the profile of the subject through stimulating extra-curricular activities.





## The Department

### *Resources & Accommodation*

The department currently consists of three full-time teachers plus additional colleagues who have also taught Religious Studies and Philosophy at Lower School. We have three dedicated classrooms and a department office with extra computers, a printer and a reading corner for the ever-expanding department library. With GCSE and A Level students also using Surface Pro devices in most lessons, we make widespread use of Microsoft Teams and OneNote in class.

### *Curriculum & Results*

Religious Studies and Philosophy is compulsory at KS3. In Years 7 and 8, we teach Ethics, Religion and Philosophy via a spiral curriculum model. In Year 9, we progress to the history of philosophy, theories of religion, ethics and philosophy of religion from both religious and secular perspectives.

At KS4, we teach Edexcel specification B GCSE Religious Studies with a focus on Christianity and Islam. At KS5, we currently teach AQA Philosophy A Level, although there may also be a possibility of delivering OCR Religious Studies A Level

(with Developments in Christian Thought) as an additional A Level offering.

The department consistently gains excellent GCSE and A level results, with 75%+ typically gaining an A\*/A grade at A Level. Students regularly enter and often enjoy successes in essay competitions. Each year, several students go on to study Philosophy, Theology and related subjects at Russell Group universities, including Oxbridge. The department provides extension and enrichment classes to help pupils prepare for their Oxbridge interviews.





## The Department

### *Activities*

The school ensures all pupils (including those who do not study the subject) are exposed to a variety of debates and religious ideas. Interfaith Week is marked with an inter-faith lunch and our pupils have previously helped to organise inter-faith evenings, which have been attended by several prominent public figures. In one of his last public appearances, the late Chief Rabbi Lord Sacks visited the school to discuss his book 'Morality: Restoring the Common Good in Divided Times.' He was also

previously welcomed to speak about his book on confronting religious extremism, 'Not In God's Name'. To mark Holocaust Memorial Day, the school was in the privileged position of receiving a talk from a Holocaust survivor – the abundant turnout at this talk is testament to the values of our pupils and community.

# Summary of Responsibilities

The main responsibility of each Teacher is their 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 and to promote and safeguard the welfare of children and young persons.

- 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 the 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 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 and 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 Parent's Meetings and informally
- Participating in arrangements for preparing and assessing pupils' work for public examinations





## Professional Development

- Participating in the school's arrangements for teaching review
- 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

## Meetings

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

## 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

## 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 a Defined Contribution (DC) pension scheme under a Master Trust provided by the Aviva Pension Trust for Independent Schools (APTIS)
- Access to a cash flexible benefit in lieu of pension contribution
- As a member of the pension scheme, there is life cover 4x annual salary and income protection
- Staff accommodation is often available and nearly half of the academic faculty lives on campus
- Interest-free loans are available to staff vacating school accommodation and taking 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
- School Counsellor on site
- Typically generous sick and maternity/paternity arrangements

### For Recreation

- Free use of the school's extensive leisure and sporting facilities: 250 acres of parkland with more than 65 devoted to sport
- Free lunch and free refreshments are available throughout the working day during term time





## 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 **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2024, 12pm**

First round online interviews to be held on **Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2024**

Second round interviews in school to be held on **Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2024**

The Head of RS & Philosophy, Gemma Solomons, is happy to answer any questions; please contact her at [gsolomons@mtsn.org.uk](mailto:gsolomons@mtsn.org.uk)

Applications to (email or post):

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

Email: [recruitment@mtsn.org.uk](mailto:recruitment@mtsn.org.uk)

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).





MERCHANT TAYLORS'  
School

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](mailto:info@mtsn.org.uk)

[www.mtsn.org.uk](http://www.mtsn.org.uk)

#### How we use your information

We will use the information which you provided, and which we collect from other sources (such as from references and from the Disclosure and Barring Service) for the following purposes: to assess your suitability for the role for which you have applied, to assess your suitability to work with children and to enable us to comply with our legal obligations (including safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children). Further information on how the School uses personal data is set out in the School's Staff Transparency Notice, which can be found on the Vacancy page of the School Website