



MERCHANT TAYLORS'

School

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I do hope your son is looking forward to joining MTS in September. As Deputy Head (Co-Curriculum), I am writing to you to outline some of the many wonderful Co-Curricular opportunities that your son will have at the school, and I do hope the following information is useful.

Clubs & Societies

Over the course of the academic year, there are over 100 Clubs & Societies that take place during the working week. Many take place during the lunchbreak (The Hour), though there are some after school as well. The boys do actually have another half an hour (separate to this) to eat lunch so as to protect Co-Curricular time. The Clubs & Societies programme varies slightly each term (depending on staff availability) but weekly Co-Curricular information will be sent to your son's tutor and your son will be encouraged to try new opportunities as he moves through the school.

Most Clubs & Societies do not involve a signing up process – your son simply turns up and gets registered – though if activities are very popular, we do our best to ensure as many pupils get as many opportunities as possible. Updated information on Clubs & Societies can also be seen on the school's website. This usually appears (along with the tutor notice above) in the second week of each term.

House Events

There are multiple House Events that take place over the course of the academic year, all counting towards The House Competition. These currently include a wide range of sporting activities such as swimming, hockey, tag rugby, cricket, cross-country, table tennis, football, basketball, squash, athletics and even lawn bowls. There are also over a dozen different non-sporting House competitions including music, a spelling bee, maths, board games, D&T, chess, computing, debating, a literary challenge, science, Lego, classics, drama, general knowledge and a Rubix cube competition. Boys are encouraged to take part by their Head of House.

Off-Timetable Days

All pupils are required to participate in a number of off-timetable days and trips as part of their Co-Curricular experience. The programme includes PSHE days, Careers Days, Study Skills Days and various Educational Visits.

Educational Visits (Days & Residential Trips)

There are a wide range of day and residential trips as your son moves up through the school. The programme is as inclusive as possible (in terms of price) and will be published well in advance of the trips. The school uses the EVOLVE platform to organise trips and you will receive regular notifications via EVOLVE to advertise these. Initially, this is in the form of a

‘registry of interest’ (rather than first-come-first-serve) which allows us to randomly select boys if the trip is over-subscribed.

Unfortunately, there may be occasions when your son does miss out on a trip, but we do try to ensure that he has as many opportunities as possible on this front. All consent forms will be sent via EVOLVE and will need to be granted before your son is allowed on a specific trip.

Sports & Games Sessions

You will receive separate information from Mr Roots (our Director of Sport) about Sport and Games sessions. In summary, Year 7 boys have two PE lessons during the week along with whole Year Group games on a Friday period 5 (2.40-3.40pm). Year 9 boys will have ‘games’ during period 5 (2.40-3.40pm) on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Your son may well be involved in other sporting activities on other days as well – for example if he chooses Sports Science in Year 9; or if he wants to be involved in the wide range of sports-based Clubs & Societies we have running during the week. Saturday Sport (training and/or matches) remains an important part of our provision and boys are required to attend when requested.

Coach Timings

For those using the coach service, ‘early’ coaches leave the school at 4.05pm Monday-Friday. There is also a ‘late’ coach service running Monday-Thursday (ONLY) at 5.45pm. The late coach allows a wide range of activities to take place after school, including music ensembles and a wide range of further sports activities. There are a limited number of activities that do run on Fridays after school (CCF in Year 10), but boys are expected to arrange their own transport home.

Lessons finish at 3.40pm every day and the site does get extremely busy at that time until about 4.15pm. The library is open after school each day until 5pm and so if you are planning on picking your son up after school, you may want to delay this to avoid the worst of the traffic.

Many Thanks,

Tristan Greenaway
Deputy Head (Co-Curricular)