



MERCHANT TAYLORS'
School



Academic
Scholarship

Scholarship:

An Ideal

Scholars at Merchant Taylors' all have something in common: the School has seen in them particular academic talent and promise, which we will look to cultivate over the course of their career. They are in the company of a fine tradition of Merchant Taylors' Scholars who have gone on to distinguished universities and who have used their academic talents to make substantial and positive contributions to a wide variety of fields.

Central to the idea of scholarship is the pursuit and recognition of excellence. In academic terms, we understand this to mean excellence in the pursuit of knowledge and understanding. An academic scholar has a love of learning because they are curious, because they want to understand the world in which they live, and because they understand that the purpose of academic study is to provide a means of answering the questions they might have about the world.

The offer we make to Scholars through our Scholarship Programme is twofold. Firstly, the opportunity to be exposed to a wide range of important and fascinating ideas. Secondly, the opportunity to undertake guided academic extension and research projects to enhance and further develop their understanding and to apply those ideas. In so doing, we hope that current and future generations of Scholars will be equipped to go on to leave their mark on the world in whatever field they choose to enter.

Alex Miller

Head of Scholarship

A photograph of two young boys in school uniforms. The boy on the left is looking towards the boy on the right, and they are both smiling. They are standing in front of a brick wall. The boy on the right is wearing glasses and has a backpack strap visible. The text 'Academic Vision' is overlaid on the top left of the image.

Academic *Vision*

Our vision is holistic; our curriculum is academic.

This academic focus exists to stretch, challenge, and support the intelligent, enquiring minds of each individual in his pathway through school. Our curriculum challenges and engages across all academic disciplines; pupils look forward to our lessons.

Our first-class curriculum is delivered by caring, passionate and inspiring role models who develop their teaching practice through continuous personal reflection. By evaluating the impact of their teaching and seeking ways to become ever-more effective, those teachers inspire students to be lifelong learners.

Like their teachers, Merchant Taylors' pupils are reflective and independent thinkers who are adaptable, creative problem-solvers, diligent in their scholarship. As a consequence, academic outcomes are excellent and pupils go on to great success at university, in their careers, and in all facets of their life.

A young boy in a school uniform is pointing at a computer screen in a classroom. He is wearing a dark grey blazer over a white shirt. In the background, other students are visible, some working on computers. The text 'Becoming a Scholar' is overlaid on the image.

Becoming *a Scholar*

We recognise that Scholars will differ in their interests and abilities. Some might excel in STEM and others in the Liberal Arts. Still others might be fortunate enough to achieve excellence across the board. Therefore, whilst general academic ability and strong performance in examinations are important considerations in our scholarship selection process, it is equally important that potential Scholars have intellectual interests that go beyond their school curriculum.

Our Scholarship process takes both of these into account. Candidates who have excelled in our entrance examinations will be invited to a Scholarship Day, during which they will participate in a range of activities that are designed to enable their problem-solving skills, curiosity and joy of learning to flourish. Throughout the day, candidates will be in small groups, which gives them the chance to shine and gives us a chance to get to know them.

A photograph of two young men in school uniforms. The boy on the left has light brown hair and is looking off-camera to the left. The boy on the right has dark, curly hair and is looking off-camera to the right. They are both wearing white shirts and dark jackets. The background is blurred, showing what appears to be a classroom or office setting.

The Scholars' *Lecture Programme*

Scholars in each year meet weekly, with each half-term having a different focus of a seminar led by a teacher on a topic that is not encountered in the regular syllabus. Topics in the past year have included Cryptography, a history of philosophy from the enlightenment, Fine Art appreciation, a study of the Cuban Missile Crisis, Data Science and sustainable product design.

Scholarship Projects

Each year, Scholars will work on projects, either individually or in groups. These might be projects designed and run by teachers at Merchant Taylors' or national competitions. Examples in recent years include researching an environmental policy or invention that would promote improvements to climate change globally, submissions to the Earth Prize Competition, an investigation into what makes social media elements go viral, and addressing the economic challenges facing the UK through participation in the FT's Young Economist of the Year competition.



In the *Sixth Form*

In the Sixth Form, we expect all our pupils to consider themselves scholars. As such, every lesson should be approached with scholarly curiosity and our staff take great joy in extending their classes beyond the confines of the A Level specifications.

Nevertheless, there are also numerous additional ways for our top scholars to stand out from the field at Merchant Taylors' and the wider cohort with whom they will be competing for the most competitive university courses. In addition, all members of the Sixth Form participate in directed extension classes across a wide range of academic disciplines, both those that operate in parallel with taught subjects and those that open up new fields such as law. Pupils also have the benefit of weekly small group tutorials with an Academic Supervisor who facilitates and manages their development and wider reading. Our pupils leave the Sixth Form thoroughly prepared for further study, and it is a source of great pride at Merchant Taylors' that so many OMTs go on to excel at university.



Handmade,
for you.

mtsn.org.uk

Tel: 01923 820644

Email: amiller@mtsn.org.uk