



MERCHANT TAYLORS'
School

Information for candidates

Teacher of English

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 (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+, 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 require a full-time teacher of English, starting in September 2025. You will be a highly qualified graduate with relevant qualifications and/or proven experience, prepared to join an extremely successful, friendly, committed, and experienced team of twelve English specialists. You will come with proven academic credentials, have excellent subject knowledge and be passionate about teaching English over the entire 11-18 age range, including, potentially, Oxbridge preparation and English Extension classes.

We are looking for someone with the ability to inspire the boys, so that learning English is a truly exciting experience for them. We hope that you will bring new ideas to the teaching of

English at all levels and will contribute to raising the profile of the subject even further through your co-curricular involvement.

We expect your commitment and ideas to make a significant contribution towards maintaining the school's status as one of the top academic boys' schools in the country. 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 school is proud of its reputation as a caring and friendly community with a high achieving culture across a broad range of curricular and co-curricular activities. You will be ready to engage fully in the wider life of the school. Expectations

of our pupils and staff in terms of attitude and commitment are 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.

While we welcome applications from experienced teachers, enthusiasm and ability are just as important, and teachers at any point in their career should consider applying for the position.



The Department

Resources & Accommodation

English is one of the largest departments in the school, comprising ten full-time teachers and two part-time teachers, resulting in a diverse range of experience and interests. The atmosphere is lively, supportive and friendly, as you would expect in a busy, academic, high-achieving school. The well-appointed English Office, close to the library, the Sixth Form Reading Room and the suite of English classrooms, is the hub of the department.

Curriculum & Results

The Department teaches its own stimulating Lower School curriculum, broadly based upon and enriching the framework of the National Curriculum. There is a very strong focus on creating readers of taste and discernment. We have recently moved to the Edexcel IGCSE syllabus for both English Literature and English Language. Each year, there is a healthy take up of English Literature and English Language at A Level, and students have a choice of either the OCR specification in English Literature or the AQA specification in English Language (or both for that matter). All English teachers at MTS can expect the opportunity to teach Sixth Form classes. The Department has enjoyed consistently excellent results in public examinations. 2024 saw 63% of our A Level English Literature students

achieve an A*-A grade, with 100% achieving A*-B. In A Level English Language, 64% of students achieved grades of A*-B and 100% A*-C. At GCSE, over 50% of candidates achieved grades 9-8 in both Literature and Language, with over 90% achieving grades of 9-6.

English Literature students looking to read the subject at university are given undergraduate-style tutorials once a week and typically enter at least one of a handful of university essay prizes. Over the years, we have had several students highly commended for their work, including recently for the Corpus Christi Prize, and one outright winner of the Trinity College Gould Prize for Essays in English Literature. English is a popular choice for study at undergraduate level and each year we see students go on to read English at Oxford and Cambridge, as well as top Russell Group universities.



The Department

Activities

We take full advantage of our proximity to both London and Stratford to arrange a wide range of theatre trips. The school has a literary and dramatic tradition that spans nearly 500 years, among our alumni: Edmund Spenser, Thomas Kyd, Robert Herrick, James Shirley, and John Webster. Our English Literature society – The Herrick – offers weekly opportunities for students and teachers, from across different departments, to share a particular literary or linguistic interest, designed to introduce boys to writers, texts and literary theories that go well beyond the A Level syllabus.

We publish our own MTS English Reading Companion, a guide to the English canon, with a different teacher championing a writer or period in English Literature. We also

have a stimulating lecture programme and recent speakers have included Professor John Mullan from UCL and Professor Carolyne Larrington from St John's College, Oxford. The new Middle School Book Club has been created to encourage and sustain a love of reading, and Book Bofz, held each Friday in the Library, is a place for the youngest boys to get lost in the wonderful range of children's literature available to them in the school. There is a thriving culture of student publications overseen by teachers in the English Department. 'The Dependent' is the school's popular satirical newspaper, which is published on a termly basis and showcases the best in student writing and wit.

Every summer, The English Department directs the entire Year 7 cohort in an outdoor production of Shakespeare, a joyful experience.

The English Department is ambitious in our trips programme further afield. Within the last two years, we have organised trips to The Lake District – following in the footsteps of Wordsworth while climbing some of the most famous fells – and to Nepal. This expedition in the summer of 2024 saw a group of boys first trek into The Langtang Valley region of the Himalayas, before returning to Kathmandu to teach in a local secondary school a daily mix of English, Maths and Science. Our intention is to continue this UK-Nepal partnership between our two schools.

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 Wednesday 22nd January 2025, 12pm

First round online interviews to be held on Monday 27th January 2025

Second round interviews in school to be held on Friday 31st January 2025

Applications to (email or post):

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

Email: recruitment@mtsn.org.uk

If you have any questions regarding the role, please reach out to: Head of English, Matthew Hilton-Dennis on MGHD@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

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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 personal data is set out in the School's Staff Transparency Notice, which can be found on the Vacancy page of the School Website 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