



MERCHISTON
EDINBURGH

**Koinonia Report
2018-19**



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AIMS

HISTORY OF MERCHISTON

Merchiston has a rich heritage of learning and achievement. Ever since Charles Chalmers took lease of Merchiston Castle, the former home of John Napier, in May 1833, the School has prided itself on the ability to provide a secure and encouraging environment for its pupils. Throughout the years, Merchiston has grown in size, and in 1930 the School moved to its present location close to the village of Colinton. Here, boys enjoy both a country setting as well as convenient access to the cultural benefits of Edinburgh.

ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION – 2010: OBJECTS OF THE SCHOOL

“The objects for which the Company is established are to advance education including, but not limited to, the provision of a day and/or boarding school(s) or colleges(s) in or near Edinburgh, or at other such places as the Governors may think fit.”

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is: *“to lead young people in the pursuit of personal excellence through a well-rounded education”.*

We develop this statement with the following Aims: To give each boy in his way the capacity and confidence to live in an uncertain world, and to make that life as rich as possible; more specifically, to encourage him to work hard and take a pride in achievement, to think honestly and independently, to face up to challenges, to accept responsibility, to show concern for others and the environment and to develop wider skills and interests.

Our main objective is always to motivate pupils to try their hardest and to strive to achieve the highest levels possible in all areas – first, academic, and then cultural, sporting, leadership and simply living together as part of a community. They are encouraged to make the most of their talents, and to look after one another in a safe, caring environment, to ensure that the school years are a happy time for all. The ethos of Merchiston is concerned with people and relationships, and particular importance is attached to the development of personal character, and moral and spiritual values in our pupils. In the pursuit of excellence, we place great emphasis on two critical relationships – between the boys and the staff, both within and outwith the classroom, and between the School and the home of each boy. Thus, we can all give encouragement and confidence to our pupils and prepare them for the challenges and opportunities ahead in an extremely competitive world in which they will be required to demonstrate commitment, flexibility, teamwork, clarity of purpose, and integrity, whatever their chosen field of endeavour.

Our **Vision** for the School, ie what we believe we are all trying to do together, is simple:

- to provide the best possible pupil support and pastoral care in a boarding school which has day pupils within it, supported by high quality child protection and safeguarding policies and procedures;
- to achieve the highest possible academic standards;
- then to achieve, within the sport-for-all philosophy, the highest possible sporting standards and to instil a lifelong love of sport;
- to achieve, within a wide degree of participation, the highest level of cultural standards and a love of art, drama and music for life;
- to help our pupils to develop their communication skills;
- to enable our pupils and young men to become leaders and have a sense of adventure and of service, of belonging to the world and a desire to contribute to society;
- to help our pupils develop an awareness of environmental issues and an understanding of how to live in a sustainable way;
- to ensure that our pupils understand the difference between right and wrong, between decent and poor behaviour; that they respect each other as being different and unique; and that they understand the importance of Manners Makyth Man – in other words, we wish to help them to develop as good people;
- to foster in our pupils a sense of the spiritual and encourage them to value relationships.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

The School actively strives to attain the highest of standards in the independent schools' sector, partly through networking with other major schools and partly through peer group studies of the evaluation of quality and performance improvement methods. The School also co-operates with local schools and other organisations in its ongoing endeavours to widen public access to its education, to optimise the use of its cultural, sporting and other facilities for local public benefit and to awaken in its pupils an awareness of the social context of the all-round education they receive. Although the charity functions primarily as a school, consistent with the Objects for which it was founded, it is involved in many other activities which are of public benefit, eg links with local schools, widening access to Merchiston. Community initiatives focus on three areas: Koinonia (Teamwork with the Community) by pupils and staff, both locally and further afield; the provision of staff expertise to other educational agencies; and the provision of facilities on a non-profit basis for community use. Furthermore, Merchiston continues to make available means tested assistance to a significant number of pupils. At the forefront of our minds are the concepts of social inclusion, social mobility and the fairness agenda. On a daily basis, we try to live to these principles.

1. Academic Contribution

We ended the year with 448 pupils (285 boarders and 163 day pupils) which is extremely pleasing and is a great credit to the continuing high reputation of the School and the considerable efforts of the Headmaster and all staff involved in the recruitment process.

1.1. The curriculum

Merchiston teaches a primarily English Curriculum, ie GCSE, IGCSE, AS and A Level, but it is also possible for pupils to sit an SQA examination if it suits him better. This enables pupils to retain a breadth of study, by for example, studying a modern foreign language or science for longer. Studying a fourth subject in the Upper Sixth also boosts UCAS points: 3 As at A Level equates to 144 UCAS points; Merchiston's average in 2018/19 was 141 points.

We continue to promote traditional academic subjects, particularly in the Sixth Form, such as Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics and Further Mathematics, Design & Technology and Languages, including French, German, Spanish, Italian and Russian.

We also teach less common subjects, such as Classical Civilization, Latin, Greek, Mandarin, Computing Science, and Economics.

Mandarin and Chinese are very successful subjects here:

- A Level Chinese – 12 A*s, ie 100% A*
- Advanced Higher Mandarin – 11 As, ie 100% A
- Advanced Higher Cantonese – 1 A, ie 100% A
- GCSE Chinese: 8 A*s, ie 100% A*

In November 2018, three Merchiston pupils gave a presentation to the Scotland China Education Network (SCEN) Scotland China Youth Summit on their experiences of Shenzhen and Chinese learning.

Some of the competitions in which pupils achieved outstanding success included the following:

- Achieved Bronze in the Upper Sixth British Biology Olympiad.
- Achieved Silver and Bronze in the Upper Sixth RSC Chemistry Olympiad.
- Achieved Silver and Copper in the Lower Sixth Cambridge Chemistry Challenge.
- Each year boys in the Lower Sixth have the chance to undertake a Cecil Stagg project, an independent research project on a subject of their choosing. This has resulted in the production of some truly excellent work over the years. This year 17 boys completed projects to the standard required to receive a Headmaster's Distinction, a tremendous achievement.
- 2018/19 was another very successful year in the UK Mathematics Challenges and Olympiads. The results were as follows:

- Senior: 10 gold, 11 silver, 17 bronze, 1 British Mathematics Olympiad qualifiers, 10 European Kangaroo qualifiers
- Intermediate: 7 gold, 11 silver, 13 bronze, 1 Intermediate Maths Olympiad qualification, 5 qualifications for the European Kangaroo
- Junior: 3 gold, 4 silver, 15 bronzes.

Examination Results (2018/19)

The A*-C grade pass-rate for A-level examinations was 89%, and an impressive 73% of grades were A*, A and B grades. 62% achieved at least one A or A* at A Level, and 10 pupils gained a clean sweep of A*/A grades. At Advanced Higher level, there was a 100% pass rate at grade A (12 entries), and at Higher level, 83% were awarded A-C grades.

The combined GCSE pass rate at 9-4 and A*-C grades this year was 93%. Furthermore, 35% of grades were at 9/8 or A*, and 57% of grades were at 9/8/7. We are delighted that 16 pupils achieved a clean sweep of A*/A grade.

Leavers' Destinations

- 92% of pupils gained grades which enabled them to accept the offers at their first or second choice of university.
- 64% of successful applicants in 2019 gained places at UK Russell Group Universities, Bath St Andrews and leading international institutions.
- 2 pupils gained places at Oxford University for the coming academic year.

1.2. Co-curricular activities

In addition to outstanding academic success and developing the capacity in young people to become successful learners, the School's ethos of all-round personal development places great emphasis on participation and active involvement in co-curricular activities. In line with *Curriculum for Excellence*, Merchiston understands the importance of the recognition of wider achievement, which aims to give credit to achievement in non-academic areas, as well as to attainment in examinations. We believe that the co-curriculum forms the one third of the total curriculum where the children and young adults are given the chance to experience a wide range of opportunities outside the classroom. This allows them to explore and find their talents for the School to nurture. These may include sport, drama, music, outdoor education and other activities.

- The School ran 164 clubs and societies during 2018/19.
- In 2018/19, there have been 78 different teams, of all abilities, playing competitive fixtures across 15 sports: a total of 544 fixtures. More impressive is that 91% of all pupils from 7-18, have represented the school in sport at some stage this year. 26 pupils gained international honours in athletics, cricket, football, golf, hockey, rugby, skiing, squash, and tennis.

Drama

- Merchiston students trod the boards in the Autumn Term with *Beauty and the Beast*, produced jointly with St George's. In the Lent Term, the First, Second and Third Form took to the stage in the production of *Pirates of the Curry Bean*. In total, 55 pupils (along with 14 girls from St Georges) took part in senior and junior drama productions.

Music

- 200 boys participated in School choirs, orchestras, ensembles, and bands, and performed on public occasions in Edinburgh and elsewhere.
- Each week, pupils participated in 198 instrumental lessons in the School.

Outdoor Education

- In taking part in a large variety of outdoor pursuits, the pupils are involved in increased physical activity, hopefully developing healthy hobbies for life, as well as an understanding of Scottish culture in relation to hill walking, stalking, fishing, land clearances, Gaelic place names and archaeological features, the flora and fauna of Scotland; and such aspects as conservation, ecological awareness, and sustainability issues.

Outdoor education provides space for learning beyond subject boundaries so that boys can develop their organisational skills, creativity, and teamwork, helping them to become confident individuals and effective contributors. Many of our pupils took part in the **Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme** last year, with 55 involved at Bronze Level; 13 at Silver Level and 12 at Gold Award Level.

Sport

- The Tennis Academy completed its twelfth year of operation. The programme has continued to allow elite players to combine their tennis schedule with their education and in 2018/19 the Academy comprised of 15 pupils. Access to this opportunity is available to talented pupils and means tested assistance is offered if required and if funds remain available. Our Tennis Academy Head Coach, David Brewer linked with Tennis Scotland and ran the National Representative trip to specific tournaments around the UK. In 2018/19 the Tennis Academy had another successful year:
 - Number 1 tennis school ranking in UK
 - National School U18 Champions
 - Scottish Schools U18 Champions 7th in a row
 - Scottish Schools U15 (in final in September)
 - U15 coming 3rd in National Schools
 - U13 coming 2nd in National Schools
 - Jacob competed in all four Grand Slams making quarter finals at Wimbledon
 - Charlie winning ITF title in Cork and winning a National singles title
 - Matthew R gaining ITF ranking and winning three National singles titles
 - Johannus gaining ATP ranking and winning men's British Tour event
 - Several LTA grade 3 titles across different age groups
- In its eighth year, the Golf Academy continues to go from strength to strength under the guidance of Alan Murdoch and his team of fellow instructors. In 2018/19 the GA consisted of 15 pupils.
 - Number 1 Scottish ranking Golf School (ISGA)
 - Number 2 UK ranking Golf School (ISGA)
 - Number 1 Junior Golf School 2014/15 - 2018/19 (ISGA)
 - Winners of the British Colleges and Schools' Southern Schools and Northern Schools competitions, and recorded a top 10 finish in the National Finals – an incredible result considering they were competing in the U25 age group.
 - U18s finished third place at the ISGA UK National Finals.
- The rugby programme caters for nearly three quarters of the School. The pupils are dedicated to being the best they can be and rugby is often used as a vehicle to engage with the community in terms of coaching young children and fixtures against local state schools. In 2018/19 the 1XV won 86% of their fixtures and this included winning the U18 Scottish Schools' Cup, retaining the Sesquicentenary trophy against Edinburgh Academy, and finishing in 4th place at the St Joseph's Festival. The U16As were semi-finalists in the U16 Scottish Schools' Cup, and the B1s had an unbeaten season – they were crowned Langley School U15 Rugby Festival Champions and won the Newcastle Falcon's U15 Schools' 7s Festival.
- To date, no fewer than 66 Merchistonians have played rugby and 24 cricket at full international level; we see this as an important part of fostering the development of sport outside Merchiston at national level.

1.3. Expertise of staff

We provided 13 markers/examiners/moderators/paper-setters for the Assessment and Qualifications Alliance (AQA); Edexcel; Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA); Oxford, Cambridge and RSA Examinations (OCR); and the International Baccalaureate; providing marking for 23 different papers in the summer of 2019.

Our Head of Science and Technology is on the British Physics Olympiad Committee and writes the Physics Challenge paper, set to approximately 4,000 GCSE level students nationally. In addition, he is one of the main leaders at the experimental training camp at Oxford during the Easter break and helps to train the British Physics Olympiad team through mentoring during the Summer Term. In July he travelled to Israel with the British team.

Our Head of Mathematics is a Test Constructor and Candidate Proxy for the OCR AS Level and A Level Mathematics and Further Mathematics papers.

Our Mandarin specialist works with SQA as Principal Assessor, Deputy Principal Verifier and Visiting Assessor for Higher and Advanced Higher Chinese courses; she is also an Associate Tutor with the Edinburgh University PGDE programme and Governor at the Alba Cathy Chinese School in Edinburgh.

One of our Biology teachers is a Director of the Marine Conservation and Education Charity Project Seagrass. He is also a Science Mentor for the journal Frontiers for Young Minds and is a member of the Education Committee for the International Marine Conservation Congress.

2. Facilitated Access

2.1. Means tested assistance

Merchiston has always tried to make places available to pupils whose parents are unable to afford the full fees, although, unfortunately, we are not a wealthy school in terms of endowments provided by previous generations of Merchistonians. However, in order to enable parents from as wide a range of backgrounds as possible to have their sons educated at the School, means tested assistance is available on admission to the School or during the course of a boy's schooling. This is granted, when appropriate, to the parents of boys who pass the entrance assessments, and the assistance is subject to regular review in order to ensure that disbursed funds go to those who genuinely have need of them.

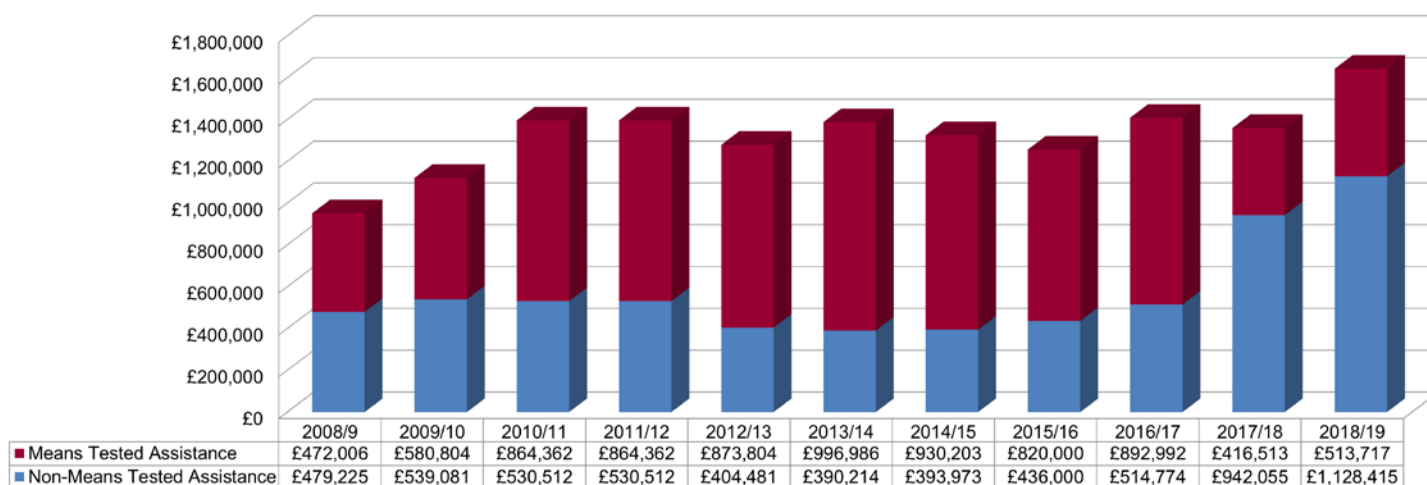
During the year 147 pupils or 33.9% of the School roll received a bursary or other fee remission, which includes 2 pupils receiving support from the Royal National Children's SpringBoard Foundation, John Watson's Trust and the Emmott Foundation. 4 pupils are in receipt of an Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA).

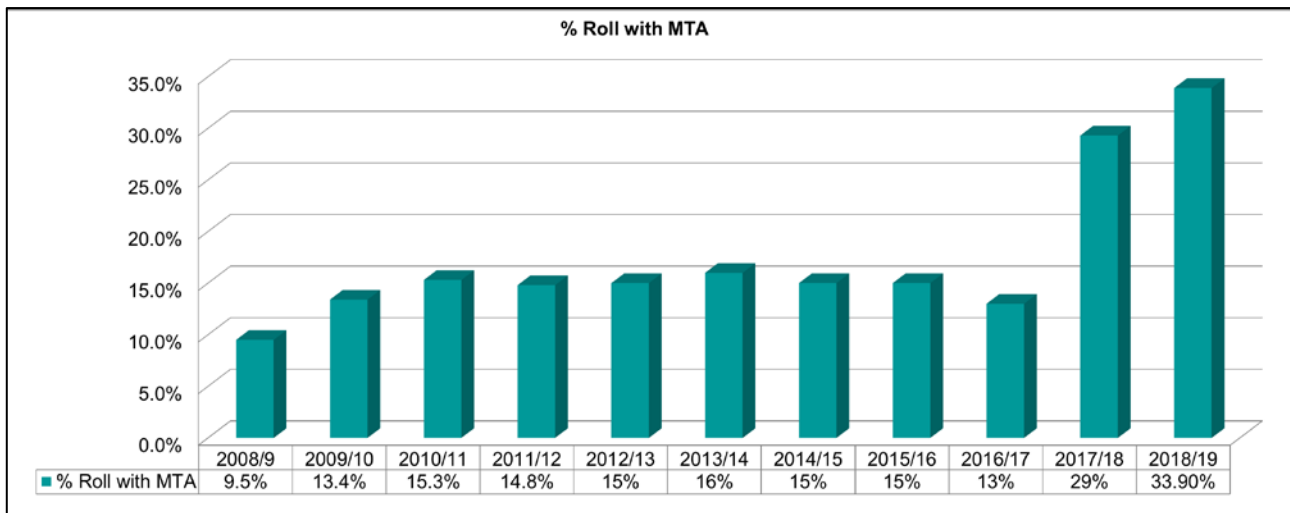
The value of means-tested bursaries awarded in academic year 2018-19 amounted to £1.13m which is 9.2% of gross fee income. Other forms of non-means tested assistance were also awarded during the academic year, including sibling and staff discounts. In total these awards amounted to £514k (4.2% of gross fee income).

Merchiston participates in the Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference Projects in Central and Eastern Europe scholarship scheme and offer means tested assistance where applicable. In 2018/19, there was 1 HMC Scholar at Merchiston Castle School.

We compete successfully for **Arkwright Scholarships** in the field of Design Technology on an annual basis. An Arkwright Scholarship is worth £1000 to the pupil over the course of his Sixth Form career, and the school is also awarded £500 per year. In 2018/19 we had two Arkwright Scholars in the School.

Value of Means Tested/Non Means Tested Assistance





3. Collaboration with the Maintained Sector

3.1. Current collaborative working with local state maintained schools

a) Place2Be Mentorship Programme

Organisation: Place2Be (a charity which offers support and mentoring to school children)

Aim: To promote positive mental health in schools

Frequency: Weekly from early October to late March (20 weeks), on an annual basis

What we do: Merchiston Castle School pays Place2Be to train all the pupils in the Lower Sixth Form as mentors. The pupils learn what is involved in supporting young, vulnerable people, as well as important life skills such as being a good listener, being non-judgmental and putting yourself second to someone else – skills which are also entirely transferable and are important for developing citizenship. 68 pupils undertook this training programme in 2018/19 at a cost of £5,000. Every year, some pupils decide to volunteer as mentors to P7 pupils in local state maintained primary schools that take part in the Place2Be programme. This twenty-week programme starts in early October and runs until late March, and sessions happen once a week. The focus in the various primaries is on having fun as each Merchiston boy is teamed up with an individual student in order to support them in a range of activities. One half hour is spent on games and craft work, and the second half of the session is spent on more physical games and sport in the gym hall. In 2018/19, 8 pupils in the Lower Sixth Form volunteered for Balgreen Primary School. Balgreen Primary School was undergoing a six month refurbishment, so we transported their children to us - picking up and dropping off with our minibus. The school was delighted that we overcame that massive logistical barrier, and the Balgreen pupils enjoyed spending time playing with the amazing resources down at Pringle and then playing sport out on the playing fields.

Photos from the buddying scheme at Balgreen Primary:



b) Pupils volunteer as rugby coaches at Longstone Primary School

Organisation: Longstone Primary School

Aim: To promote the “sport for all” ethos

Frequency: Weekly from early October to late March (20 weeks)

What we do: As part of Merchiston’s Koinonia (Teamwork with the Community) programme, pupils in the Lower Sixth Form coached rugby to pupils at Longstone Primary School. In 2018/19, 8 pupils attended the school on a Wednesday afternoon to offer core fitness training and an introduction to basic rugby skills to all P6 and P7 pupils. This initiative runs alongside the traditional one-to-one support our Lower Sixth offers under the organisational umbrella of Place2Be. Feedback from Headteacher of Longstone Primary School in April 2018:

“I cannot thank you enough for all that you, the boys and staff have done through your rugby coaching and mentoring. Again this year, the rugby has been a huge success and the highlight of the week for many of our children. I must also tell you how much the children have enjoyed the buddying and I was speaking with one of our P6 boys this week who is really sad that it has come to end as he has enjoyed it so much.”

The Catering Department at Merchiston contributed to a Christmas party for the Balgreen and Longstone pupils at Merchiston. The Longstone pupils said that it was the highlight of the term and they were thrilled to visit a boarding school. Their only criticism was that they would like a whole day rather than an afternoon at Merchiston; the amount of time dedicated to having fun is never enough.

c) Pupils volunteer as Classroom Assistants at Braidburn School

Organisation: Braidburn School – a state maintained school for children with additional support needs

Aim: To promote positive mental health in schools; to develop social skills

Frequency: Weekly from early October to late March (20 weeks), on an annual basis

What we do: Four Lower Sixth Form pupils attended Braidburn School on a weekly basis to volunteer as Classroom Assistants, helping the children with additional support needs, and acting as positive mentors. The Acting Depute Headteacher gave this feedback on the mentors in 2017:

“We will thoroughly miss the boys and all the help they have given. They are a complete asset to your school and have shown such amazing skills in communication. I honestly can’t speak highly enough of each of them.”

d) Sounds Like Friday

Organisation: City of Edinburgh Council Youth Music Initiative

Aim: To create access to high quality music making opportunities for young people, offer young people the chance to achieve their potential in or through music making, and support the development of the youth music sector for the benefit of young people.

Frequency: Weekly during term time, on an annual basis

What we do: We provide free-of-charge piping and drumming lessons to pupils in local primary schools on a weekly basis (we call this initiative **Sounds Like Friday**). In 2018/19, 33 pupils from Bonaly, Craigroyston, South Morningside, Buckstone, Oxfgangs, St Peter’s and Pentland Primaries attended. 23 pupils attended piping lessons and 10 attended drumming lessons. Merchiston provides the services of our piping and drumming instructors, and in 2018/19 the scheme cost the School £6,221.50.

Headlines from the results of a questionnaire given to parents in 2018:

- Sounds Like Friday provides a form of music outreach, giving children the opportunity to learn a musical instrument who have not had this opportunity before. *Roughly half of the children had not received musical instrument tuition before (46%, 6 respondents).*
- Sounds Like Friday inspires children to pursue an interest in performing music. *All the children would like to continue learning a musical instrument once their Sounds Like Friday lessons had finished (100%, 13 respondents).*
- Sounds Like Friday at Merchiston promotes an interest in playing traditional Scottish instruments. *All the children would like to continue learning the chanter or pipe drums (100%, 13 respondents).*
- Cost of lessons is an important factor for the parents when they decide if their child can continue learning a musical instrument after Sounds Like Friday. *67% of parents said that any future musical instrument lessons would need to be free of charge (6 out of 9 respondents).* However, the Sounds Like Friday experience at Merchiston was so good that they would have still taken up the opportunity for chanter/pipe drum lessons if they had to pay for it *(85%, 11 out of 13 respondents)*, although they would prefer a subsidised fee.

- The pupils really enjoy their Sounds Like Friday lessons at Merchiston. *In response to the question, "What does your child think is the best thing about their chanter/pipe drum lessons?" the parents said the following: "Excellent tuition and encouragement"; "Likes being taught in a small group with other children. Likes the teacher"; "He likes all of it! He enjoys the group lesson"; "Great teacher and learns from peers".*

e) Swimming Lessons for Oxgangs and Colinton Primary Schools

Organisation: City of Edinburgh Council – Oxgangs Primary School and Colinton Primary School

Aim: To ensure that every pupil can swim before the end of Primary 7.

Frequency: Once a week during term time (Oxgangs in the Autumn and Lent Term; Colinton in the Summer Term), on an annual basis

What we do: Oxgangs Primary School and Colinton Primary School send their pupils for **swimming lessons** at Merchiston, withdrawing from the City of Edinburgh Council scheme, thereby freeing up the City of Edinburgh Council to offer additional slots to their schools. Each weekly session consists of 2x 40 minute lessons, with 12/16 pupils in each lesson. To support this mission we commit 2/3 members of staff each week on an ongoing basis. This scheme generated approximately 650 child visits in 2018/19. The cost of transport and of staffing the lessons is estimated at £4,700 per annum.

Feedback from Oxgangs Primary School

P4I class

1. Some pupils have never been in a pool before. Quarter of the class are keen to keep going and wouldn't otherwise have attended swimming lessons.
2. Some are very able swimmers and already attend private lessons
3. The children love going swimming. Swimming complements our PE provision in school and enables us to deliver 2hrs PE. Swimming provides opportunities to encourage growth mindsets, challenge and developing talents
4. Without this some children would never get to a pool. Now they feel confident and enjoy it they are much more likely to ask a parent to take them swimming.

Quotes:

'I think the teachers explain it really well'

'I'd like to keep swimming' (child had never been in a pool before)

'They give you lots of feedback to help you get better' (from a confident swimmer)

P5C

The children really enjoyed swimming and would love to do it again.

Quite a few children in this class (5 out of 27) do not have the opportunity to go swimming out of school – they found it beneficial.

The children have learned a great deal and have become much more confident. One girl has since joined a regular swimming group.

P5H

Majority of the class would not have accessed swimming lessons outwith school time so have benefitted from lessons in Merchiston.

Most pupils feel that their swimming skills have improved.

All pupils enjoyed the lessons, in particular the last one!

A couple of children felt that their confidence as an early swimmer improved *'I learnt how to breathe under water'*

Hope this is helpful to you.

If swimming lessons are stopped at Merchiston for Oxgangs children then we wouldn't have a swimming provision at all. As you can see from comments above we have quite a number of children who would then never have a swimming experience.

f) Maths Fun Day for primary schools

Organisation: City of Edinburgh Council, local primary schools

Aim: To promote amongst young children the study of Mathematics as an academic subject.

Frequency: Once a year on an annual basis

What we do: We hold a **Maths Fun Day** to which Primary 5 pupils are invited for Maths games and puzzles. In 2019, 128 children from 25 different primary schools attended. This event involved 8 members of Merchiston

staff, contributing 30 hours (on day, plus organisation), with an estimated cost of £250. In 2018, we received the following feedback from the Retired Depute Headteacher of Pentland Primary School:

"I am writing to thank you and your colleagues for all your work in organising the Maths Fun Day last week. It was, as always, a really positive experience for the youngsters. Our team members very much enjoyed the tackling the maths problems and liked the different formats. They also appreciated the good humour of the day, as well as the catering (which never fails to impress!).

As an ex-teacher, I'm well aware of all the behind-the-scenes work which is needed to make an event run as smoothly as the Fun Day does. It was particularly good of you to go to the trouble of rescheduling the occasion after the earlier forced cancellation.

Please pass on our thanks to all involved."

g) Primary Schools' Science and Technology Day

Organisation: City of Edinburgh Council, local primary schools

Aim: To promote amongst young children the study of Science and Technology as academic subjects.

Frequency: Once a year on an annual basis

What we do: We hold a **Primary Schools' Science and Technology Day** to which Primary 6 pupils are invited for Science and Technology workshops. In 2018, 176 pupils attended from Bonaly, Canal View, Oxbgangs, Primary Schools, and Braidburn School. This event involved 21 members of Merchiston staff, contributing a total of 96 hours. The organisation and preparation took 24 hours of staff time.

h) Prestige Physics Lecture

Organisation: City of Edinburgh Council

Aim: To promote the study of Physics in Higher Education

Frequency: Annually

What we do: An academic in the field of Physics is invited to the School to give a lecture to pupils. We invite pupils from local high schools to attend. In 2018, the lecture was given by Dr David Macfarlane from St Andrews University on the topic of "3D body scanning to volcano mapping: What is millimeter radar and how does it work?" A total of 110 pupils from 7 schools (not including Merchiston) attended the lecture.

i) Bonaly Primary School Sports Day

Organisation: City of Edinburgh Council, Bonaly Primary School

Aim: To promote the ethos of "sport for all"

Frequency: Once a year on an annual basis

What we do: Bonaly Primary School holds its annual **Sports Day** in the grounds of Merchiston.

3.2. Sports fixtures with state maintained secondary schools

Merchiston had sporting fixtures with the following schools in 2018/19:

- Braes High School
- Currie High School
- Harris Academy
- Holyrood High School
- James Gillespie's
- Lasswade High School
- Leith Academy
- McLaren High School
- Peebles High School
- Portobello High School
- Royal High School
- St Andrew's RC High School

As part of these fixtures our visiting teams will always dine with us – promoting a positive inclusive atmosphere and good sportsmanship.

4. Other Work in the Community

4.1. Current collaborative working with members of the local community

a) Pupils volunteer as companions to older people at a local care home

Organisation: Davidson House Care Home

Aim: To promote positive relationships between the older and younger generations

Frequency: Weekly from early October to late March (20 weeks)

What we do: As part of our Koinonia programme, 10 pupils volunteered on a regular basis at Davidson House, offering support and companionship to the residents. We received the following feedback from Davidson House:

"I would just like to say that the pupils were very accommodating to whichever activity that was taking place in the care home. Their presence really benefitted the residents and they also looked forward to the pupils coming. I know it can be difficult coming in to a care home, but the boys adapted to any situation and showed no judgement. They were very kind and engaged well with the residents. On behalf of Davidson House Care Home, we would all like to thank the pupils for their input in making the residents' day a pleasurable one. We would all like to wish the pupils every success wherever their career takes them."

b) Pupils volunteer at a local food bank

Organisation: Trussell Trust Edinburgh SW Foodbank

Aim: Supporting local people in crisis

Frequency: Weekly from early October to late March (20 weeks)

What we do: As part of our Koinonia programme, a group of 4 pupils volunteered on a regular basis at a local foodbank on Gorgie Road.

c) External examination candidates

Organisation: Individual members of the public

Aim: To enable members of the general public to sit examinations that are not available to them in the state sector – either because they wish to sit English exam board qualifications, or because they are mature students no longer attending school.

Frequency: Annually during the exam periods

What we do: External examination candidates find it extremely difficult to find an examination centre prepared to enable them to sit examinations in English exam board qualifications such as GCSE, A level, STEP and IGCSE. Merchiston takes its responsibilities to the general public in this regard very seriously, and we try to help external candidates where we can. This year we had 31 external candidates taking a range of qualifications through us. Mature students looking for qualifications in English Language and Mathematics to enable them to enter teacher training is a growing constituent of the candidates we help, and others seek to improve their qualification portfolio for employment opportunities or for University entrance. We charge a small fee to external exam candidates, which covers the cost of the exam entry with little or no profit to the school (£30 to register and £5 per exam).

d) Pupils perform music concerts for older people

Organisation: Old Farm Court sheltered housing, Colinton Road, Edinburgh

Aim: To promote positive relationships between the older and younger generations

Frequency: The Pipe Band plays at a Burns Supper in January every year, and musicians perform a concert in the Spring.

e) Upkeep of the Edinburgh United Football Pitch

Organisation: Edinburgh Utd FC

Aim: Improving and maintaining the pitch to a professional standard

Frequency: Daily to weekly maintenance working depending on the time of year

What we do: Since 1 July the Grounds Team at Merchiston have taken over the upkeep of the Edinburgh United football pitch.

4.2. Free use of our facilities on a regular basis

a) Friends of the Pentlands

Activity: Meetings

Facility: Old Library

Frequency: Twice a year

Numbers: 27 adults on 2 November 2017 and 40 adults on 10 May 2018

Feedback: "On behalf of Friends of the Pentlands may I thank Merchiston school, your team and David for your help and excellent hospitality which once again contributed to a very successful AGM."

b) Colinton Amenity Association

Activity: Executive Committee meetings

Facility: Old Library

Frequency: two-monthly

Feedback: "Colinton is not over-blessed with public rooms large enough to take 15 people, and to be able to sit down around a large enough table in such pleasant conditions is a real benefit." I have been the Chairman since August 2016, and Communications Convenor since 2012; the latter has involved me leading an editorial committee that publishes the thrice-yearly Colinton Magazine, a full-colour glossy magazine. My work as sub-editor of The Merchistonian magazine has stood me in good stead!

c) Merchiston Castle Reel Club

Activity: Scottish country dancing

Facility: Memorial Hall

Frequency: Monthly (first Monday of the month)

Information: On average, about 25 couples attend each month and they hold 2 fundraising events each year. In the 2018/19 session they raised £1,181 for charity.

d) Colinton & Merchiston Choir

Activity: Community Choir

Facility: Memorial Hall

Frequency: Weekly

The Colinton & Merchiston Choir (which largely comprises members of the local community) practises here on a weekly basis, performs two concerts annually and is directed by a member of Merchiston staff.

e) Rotary Club of Braids

Activity: Music competition

Facility: Memorial Hall

Frequency: Annually

We provide the facilities and refreshments for the annual Rotary Club of Braids music competition.

f) Military

Activity: Cadet Training Course

Facility: Rifle Range

Frequency: Four weekends a year

5. Hire of our Facilities by External Organisations

For a number of years now, we have provided residential accommodation, catering and practice facilities to various youth and children's groups during our School holiday periods. Regular lets include **National music bodies** such as: the National Youth Orchestra of Scotland, the National Youth Choir of Scotland, and the Mackenzie School of English. The **Edinburgh International Harp Festival** which attracts participants both young and old and is a major annual event. Using facilities and accommodation at Merchiston allows groups and organisations to keep their costs to a minimum to the benefit of all participants.

In 2018/19 our facilities were also let to:

- Warrender Swimming Club (weekly)
- MAKE Summer School
- Youth Movement Theatre UK
- Colinton Choir
- Eastern Knights Cricket Club
- Cricket Scotland
- Kings Camps (Summer holiday childcare)

- James Norton
- Malvern College
- Nordnaes Forening

6. Charitable Giving and Fundraising

In 2018/19, **over £27,739** was raised by the School for charity through Sunday Services, collections, and sponsored and other fundraising activities. The full listing is published on our website; many of these donations were directly associated with children and children's charities.

- The collections from the Whole School Services raised **£4,758.53** for 8 charities
- Our annual Burns Supper raised **£3,000** for three charities: Braidburn School, Place2Be, Royal Caledonian Education Trust.
- The produce donated at our Harvest Thanksgiving Service is donated to **St Catharine's Homeless Project** on an annual basis.
- We sponsor the award of a two year **Arkwright Design & Technology Scholarship** on a bi-annual basis, providing £300 per annum for two years to the pupil and £200 per annum over two years to the scholar's school for equipment and materials. 2 pupils from Firrhill High School, 1 from Alva Academy, 1 from Preston Lodge High School, 2 from Kirkcaldy High School and 1 from Boroughmuir High School have benefited so far. In September 2018 our scholarship was awarded to a pupil at Kirkcaldy High School. The previous recipients have gone on to study Product Design at The Glasgow School of Art, Mechanical/Electrical Engineering at Strathclyde University, Engineering Science at Strathclyde University and Dartmouth College, New Hampshire, USA (gaining an extremely generous scholarship).

7. Economic Benefit

- In 2018/19, the education of **47** boys aged 8-11 and **281** boys aged 12-18, whose parents are UK residents (out of a total School roll of 459), would have **saved the maintained sector over £2 million**, based on a City of Edinburgh Council 2017/18 estimate of £4,570 and £6,640 as the cost of educating a primary and secondary pupil respectively.
- As a boarding school, we can accommodate up to **500** pupils, of whom **440** can be boarders. We started the 2018/19 academic session with **459** pupils, **296** of whom were boarders. A number of pupils board at Merchiston due to difficult family circumstances, and boarding here gives them educational and personal stability and security. We provide high quality schooling for the sons of expatriates working abroad and children of Forces families. The Scottish Council of Independent Schools (SCIS) estimated in 2015 that SCIS members generated £29.8 million in export earnings for the Scottish economy by providing places for international students. This also brings the consequent inward investment, benefits to tourism, goodwill etc.
- We provided employment for **177** teaching and support staff at Merchiston at a cost to the School of **£6,570,899** in the year to 31 July 2019.
- The School makes a major contribution to the **turnover** of local food suppliers, utility companies, maintenance and building contractors, and travel and transport firms, whilst also supporting local cultural and leisure industries with regular large scale bookings.

BENEFITS IN SUMMARY

- The benefits of top quality education in terms of the individual personal development of boys and their consequent high level of self-confidence and sense of self-worth, and through this their productivity and, later, leadership and management roles in society.
- The benefit to the well-being of the country and to its gross national product; the benefit also to society of productive, hard-working and involved men who wish to make a contribution in their chosen field of endeavour, and as members of society.
- The independent sector can be seen as an educational pace-setter, encouraging the government to push up standards and to increase spending on education. The sector also plays a strong role in curriculum innovation, safeguarding academic standards, and providing key subject skills, ie Maths and Science, Modern Languages, Music etc.
- Inward investment to the City of Edinburgh, Scotland and the United Kingdom, through the provision of top quality education within the city; this is a major attraction for companies and individuals relocating to Scotland and it is used by some of Scotland's biggest firms in order to attract the best staff to Scotland.
- The benefits to the long term health prospects of thousands of children through the School's promotion of healthy living and healthy eating, and particularly sports, both for its own constituency and for those beyond its membership.
- The reputation of Scotland benefits from a school such as Merchiston, which upholds Scotland's reputation for high quality education and from the activities of many of Merchiston's groups, such as the Pipe Bands, Choir, debaters and sportsmen who act as ambassadors for their country, both at public occasions in the City of Edinburgh, in Scotland, and on trips and tours within the UK and abroad.

CONCLUSION

We believe strongly in the development of all-rounders; boys who are interesting, articulate, adaptable, marketable and aware of the needs of others.

Merchiston seeks to consider what we, as a school, are contributing to society and to encourage our pupils (and former pupils) to ask themselves if they could contribute more.

Finally, as a School, we endeavour on an annual basis to maintain an agreed level of facilitated access to the School through a mix of Means Tested Financial Assistance and the use of our facilities by school aged children.

These concepts are at the very heart of Merchiston's approach to the provision of education as an independent school, which is also a charity.

To conclude, at the forefront of our minds are the concepts of social inclusion, social mobility and the fairness agenda. On a daily basis, we try to live to these principles.

Jonathan Anderson
Headmaster
October 2020