



Merchant Taylors' Schools

One school | One community | One vision

Facing the future

Merchant Taylors' is about to embark on the next chapter in its illustrious history. From September 2025 Merchant Taylors' Girls' will join Merchant Taylors' Boys' to create a single, co-educational senior school. Merchant Taylors' Schools will then be co-educational for all pupils aged 4-18, creating one school, one community, with one vision.

The new School will be based on the current Boys' site which will now be known as the Harrison Site and will house around 850 pupils from Year 7 to Year 13.

The Merchant Taylors' School in Crosby, Merseyside was founded in 1620 by John Harrison, citizen and Merchant Taylor of London, whose founding principle was 'to teach, to educate and to instruct in learning forever'. Throughout our history, the hallmarks of our success have been bold ambitious plans, with strong links to our purpose, mission and values. We remain true to that spirit as we face the future, adapting with agility and integrity.

Our Strategic Plan, prepared in 2021, was to create a Diamond Model School. However, in the intervening period a number of unprecedented external challenges have posed a threat to all independent schools. Nationally, we face a cost-of-living crisis, combined

with ever-increasing operational costs, the threat of VAT on school fees and changes to business rates.

The Governors have had to rethink our strategy to ensure that the School can continue to thrive and we can responsibly ensure that future generations of children can enjoy a Merchant Taylors' education. Uniting the Senior Schools on one site will mean that we can further invest in one estate, refurbishing, modernising and developing it to meet, and indeed exceed, the requirements of all our community.

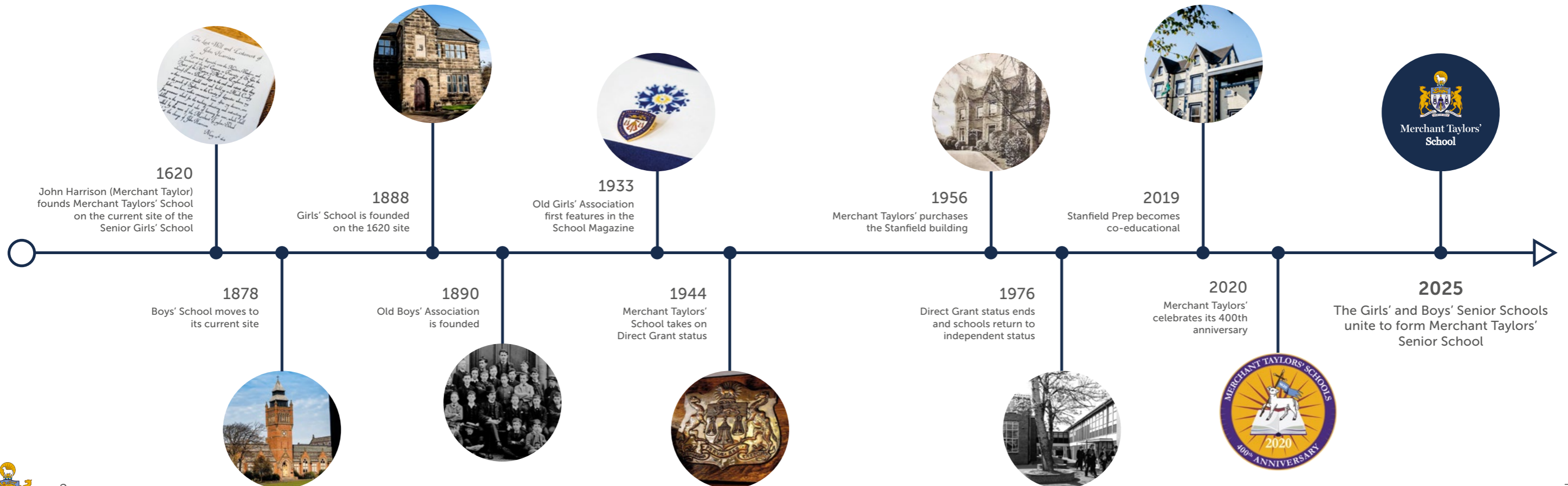
During this transitional phase, the Senior Schools will continue to be led by Dr Michael Alderson. Dr Alderson joins us with a wealth of experience in independent co-education, as Deputy Head at Durham School and latterly as Warden (Head) of Glenalmond College in Perthshire. He has also been an ISI inspector since 2011.

I acknowledge that currently the two Senior Schools have their own unique cultures, born of their individual histories and environments. However, at their heart both Schools strive to provide the same thing: a supportive learning environment that caters for each child as an individual. This will be preserved, developed and improved in the new co-educational Senior School.

Merchant Taylors' is a unique community which is why everyone in it is being asked to participate in a collaborative process to guide the process of change. This will ensure that both the new co-educational Senior School, and indeed Merchant Taylors' as a whole, becomes the best future-facing version of itself, and continues to understand and serve the needs of its community as it has done for the last 400 years.



Mr Philip Marshall KC
Chair of the Board of Governors



Merchant Taylors' School

The new structure of our School means that we can offer boys and girls a seamless educational journey from the age of 4 through to 18, offering an outstanding provision at each stage. Going forward, the structure of the School will be:



Merchant Taylors' Prep School



Merchant Taylors' Senior School



Merchant Taylors' Sixth Form

Merchant Taylors' Prep School

Stanfield Preparatory School will now be known as Merchant Taylors' Prep School and the site where the Prep is based will be known as the Stanfield Site.

We have invested significantly in the Stanfield site, over £1m, and have further plans which will be launched in our 2024-2040 Estates Strategy.

This section of our School is already co-educational, educating pupils aged 4-11 in a happy, friendly school where young minds are encouraged to explore and be inquisitive, unafraid to make and learn from mistakes. Our contemporary facilities, excellent teaching staff and smaller class sizes allow us to bring out the very best in every girl and boy. We offer a wide-ranging programme of enrichment and extra-curricular activities in a contemporary, vibrant learning environment.

Our pupils are gently nurtured allowing them to explore their independence and creativity. We encourage them to develop the confidence and resilience to take risks, try new things and be the best they can be. We delight in seeing our pupils develop their personalities and build new relationships.

There will be no change in the current arrangement for entry to Merchant Taylors' Senior School. We firmly believe in offering a seamless co-educational journey from Reception through Senior School to Sixth Form.

Merchant Taylors' Senior School

Our new co-educational Senior School based on the Harrison Site will offer parity to all pupils while at the same time maintaining the strong traditions of our history and heritage and staying true to our purpose and vision.

All pupils will have the opportunity to learn and grow in an inclusive and diverse community on a spacious, well-appointed site.

The Harrison Site will be improved and enhanced to provide state-of-the-art educational facilities with specific zones within the buildings for general teaching, interactive learning, collaborative working, researching future careers, and social spaces.

Specifically, our ongoing £5m Estates development plan includes:

- The complete renovation and transformation of the former John Bebb House into new classroom and tutoring spaces.
- Refurbishment of our Science facilities in the Luft Building, including new state-of-the-art laboratories.
- A programme of general classroom upgrades, ensuring that the School provides a high-quality learning environment for all our pupils.
- New toilet and changing facilities for girls.
- Further investment is also planned for the modernisation and expansion of our Art and DT, Music and Sports facilities.

All development will be outlined in our forthcoming 2024-2040 Estates Strategy.

In addition to building on the success of our modern Sports Hall, the ongoing £2.5m investment at our Sports Ground at Hall Road, a range of pastoral spaces is being created at the Harrison Site, where our pupils can actively enjoy quiet indoor spaces, covered outdoor areas, and areas for groups to socialise together.

The majority of Senior School pupils move on to our Sixth Form, where they are joined by pupils from other schools who have chosen Merchant Taylors' for their Sixth Form education.



Merchant Taylors' Sixth Form

From September 2024 Merchant Taylors' will offer a co-educational Sixth Form.

The Sixth Form at Merchant Taylors' is an integral part of the School but the experience is unique and distinctly different to the Senior School. Sixth Form is a time of changing needs and Merchants' Sixth Form is well-placed to meet those needs.

Merchant Taylors' Sixth Form offers an outstanding academic education delivered by subject specialists in small classes. With more time for enrichment activities, from clubs to volunteering, Sixth Form pupils are also given more learning time for their academic programmes.

Bespoke pastoral care is central to our provision with teachers knowing each pupil individually. An exceptional Futures programme is being established to support Sixth Form pupils in making the right choices for their next steps into work or study.

From September 2024, Sixth Form teaching and learning will take place at the Harrison Site. The ongoing £5m refurbishment of this site, including the Wylie Building, School House and the old Junior Boys' Block is creating a new, bespoke Sixth Form Centre. We are also bringing forward new Sixth Form spaces, from classrooms to seminar spaces, designed to maximise learning and give Sixth Form pupils their first taste of what life will be like in their future workplaces and universities.

Our aim is that our Sixth Form pupils leave us as independent, confident individuals, who have had the opportunities and support to work out who they want to be.

When pupils leave us at the end of Sixth Form they enjoy the status of being alumni, thereby continuing and strengthening their ties to the Merchant Taylors' community.

The Vision

I am delighted to be the Executive Head as the Schools journey to become a single, co-educational Foundation.

I passionately believe that the education we offer must prepare pupils from the outset to live and to work alongside a variety of people. Socially and emotionally, children develop more broadly in a co-educational setting and see it as normal to have friendships with the opposite sex, helping them to appreciate different views and how to interact. This prepares young people thoroughly for life outside the school gates. Building on that which is being achieved in the lower years, our aim in the new co-educational Senior School is to ensure each pupil is known and challenged to achieve at the highest level in and outside the classroom, and live with courageous integrity.

I remember being asked some years ago what education meant for me; it is a simple question, essentially asking what does one hope to gain from this process, this investment, this commitment. For me, the answer was and remains this: I want pupils to be decent, to have clear values, and to have the courage to stand by them. I want pupils to have the best academic education they can so that they face the future with the greatest number of choices. Finally, I want them to experience a rich range of opportunities as these will develop competence which, in turn, will provide confidence.

At its heart, education is all about relationships: the relationship between teachers and pupils, and the school and home, and these are founded on good communication. While I have only been at Merchant Taylors' a short time, I am thoroughly enjoying getting to know everyone in this very special community.

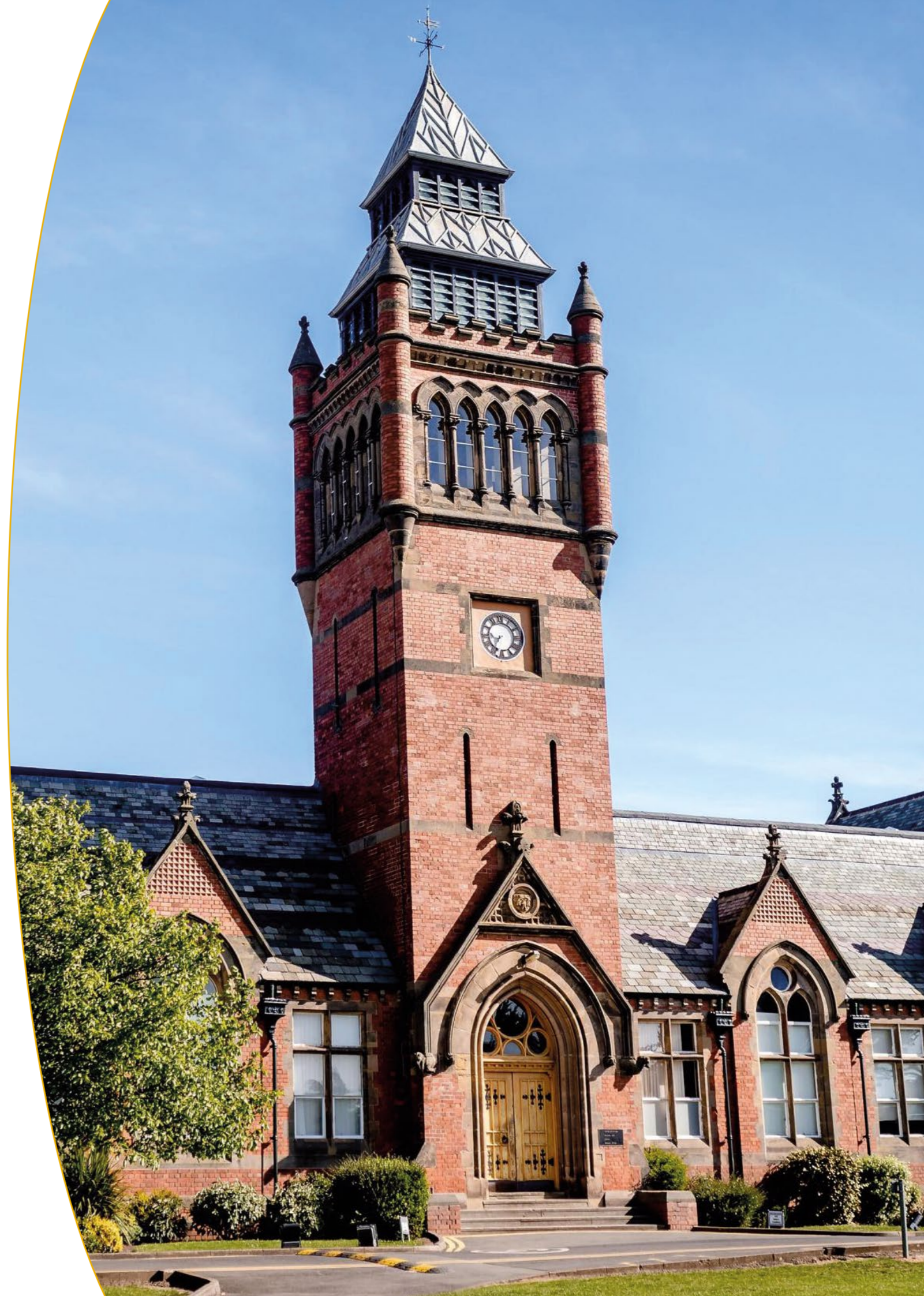
I am one in a long list of proud custodians of a School with a rich heritage. We must be faithful to the ethos of our founding principle and promote the mission John Harrison handed the School in 1620; in order to thrive as well as survive, however, we must continue to look to the future and be progressive in all we do.

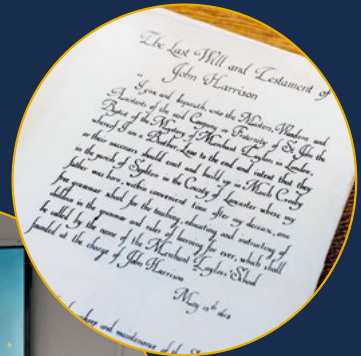
I am excited by the task of creating one school, of serving this community, and building this vision with the strong support of the Board of Governors, the Leadership Team, and the committed staff to ensure a smooth and successful transition to co-education at Merchant Taylors' School.



Dr Michael Alderson

Executive Head





Merchant Taylors' Schools

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