



MERCHISTON

Information Booklet

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Why Merchiston?

You want the best education for your son, but you wonder whether Merchiston is right for him and for you.

Below is a summary of what we offer:

- School size of 460 boys, of whom 65% board (Sixth Form 80% boarding)
- Merchiston Juniors, 7-13 years; Middle Years, 13-16 years; Sixth Form, 16-18 years
- Centred around an imposing Georgian house together with purpose-built, modern facilities
- Boys only, allowing greater focus on studies, sports and other activities, but complemented by strong links with girls' schools

Superb Location

- 4 miles from centre of Edinburgh - in the city but close to beautiful countryside
- Edinburgh is an attractive and thriving European centre, with many cultural, social and sporting opportunities
- Under 20 minutes to Edinburgh's international airport and main railway station (direct flights from many European cities and beyond)

Boarding Ethos / Pastoral Care

- Unique House system which fosters friendship and sense of security
- Sense of progression through our boarding system, encouraging increasing independence as boys move up the School
- Friendly, family atmosphere and strong partnership between home and School
- Wide ranging pastoral care staff, including Chaplaincy Team, Housemasters, Medical Sisters and Tutors
- Close links with guardianship agencies, after arrangements made by parents
- Step-up boarding in Merchiston Juniors

Academic Excellence

- Generous teacher-pupil ratio (1:9), resulting in small classes and individual attention
- Wide subject choice of; A Levels/AS/GCSEs/IGCSEs
- Outstanding public examination results
- Talented and dedicated staff, including specialist Support for Learning and ESOL
- Wide range of languages taught, including Mandarin Chinese

- Many national awards for Engineering and Electronics, including Young Engineers for Britain, British Maths, Biology, Chemistry and Physics Olympiads, Maths Challenge, English Speaking Board
- Careful career planning, including courses in leadership, links with industry and dedicated careers advisor

Success in Sports

- Dedicated coaching staff and exceptional range of facilities
- Excellence in a variety of sports, including athletics, cricket, rugby, basketball, golf, shooting, tennis
- Range of different sports represented by current pupils at international level
- Many team tours, including overseas tours to Argentina, Australia, Barbados, Canada and South Africa
- Tennis Academy in association with Tennis Scotland
- Golf Academy in association with Kings Acre Golf Course

Co-curricular Activities

- Strong music tradition, including opportunities to learn many different instruments, play in a variety of ensembles and sing in various choirs
- Many drama productions, usually with sister schools, including Edinburgh Fringe performances
- Wide range of activities available, including cookery, debating, drama, magic, mountain-biking, sailing, skiing, sub-aqua
- Holiday excursions and tours, GAP year and student exchanges

Excellent Facilities

Sports Hall, IT Centre, Library, Theatre, Music Department, indoor Swimming Pool, Squash, Fives and Tennis courts, Shooting range, Rugby, Football and Cricket pitches, Athletics arena, Art and Design centre, Science labs, Masterchef kitchen, History and Languages centre, Memorial Hall/Chapel, Dining Hall, Medical Centre, the Pringle Centre for Merchiston Juniors, Junior and five Senior Boarding Houses, including Laidlaw (a 126 bedroom purpose-built Sixth Form boarding house), School shop.

History



In May 1833, Charles Chalmers took a lease of Merchiston Castle, (the former home of John Napier of logarithm fame) - which at that time stood in rural surroundings - and opened his academy, starting with some 30 boys.

Like his famous brother, Dr Thomas Chalmers, mathematician, physicist and theologian, Charles was also a brilliant and original thinker in Mathematics and Science. It was therefore natural that he should

include these subjects in the curriculum. So, at a time when most other schools confined themselves to the study of the Classics, Merchiston was already giving a lead, preparing its pupils for the world in which they would live.

Merchiston grew, but so did the boundaries of the City of Edinburgh. The Governors decided to move the School to Colinton, so that its 210 students

should once again enjoy the advantages of both town and country; there the new School opened its doors in 1930. Soon after, in 1933, Merchiston celebrated its centenary, an event graced by Their Royal Highnesses, the Duke and Duchess of York.

Fifty years on, at a time of further expansion and with 350 boys on the roll, their daughter, Her Majesty The Queen, in turn visited the School and honoured its 150th anniversary with her presence.

In today's School, traditional Scottish elements, such as the wearing of the kilt for formal occasions, are very prominent, and the Pipe Band features frequently in School life. Rugby is played enthusiastically throughout the School, and indeed the annual fixture against Edinburgh Academy, which has now been played continuously for over 150 years, is the longest established inter-club school match in existence anywhere.

The School's motto 'Ready ay Ready' features in the chorus of the School song (last revised in the 1950s but much older in origin). This refrain is still sung enthusiastically by the School on frequent occasions.

**Merchiston is proud of its past, and
looks forward to the future with confidence.**

Ethos

Visitors to Merchiston often comment on the wonderful atmosphere they sense, something which cannot fully be described in words. Author, Alexander McCall Smith, referred to 'the feeling of friendship and mutual respect' he had become aware of during his visits to Merchiston.

Our ethos is concerned with people and relationships, and particular importance is attached to the development of personal character and moral values in our

pupils. The atmosphere, although in some respects formal, is also one of pleasant and relaxed collaboration between pupils and staff.

Our main objective is always to motivate pupils to try hard and strive towards achieving the highest levels possible. Our pupils are encouraged to make the most of their talents, and look after one another in a caring environment, which ensures that the school years are a happy time for all involved.

Wellbeing, Safeguarding and Child Protection

The School aims to ensure that pupils, staff and volunteers live and work together in a safe environment. Pupils should be able to approach adults about matters of concern to them, confident that they will be treated with respect and listened to. Adults who work in any capacity in the School will act professionally; have knowledge of safeguarding and child protection procedures and be sensitive to the signs of children who are in distress or under stress of some kind.

All new staff undergo Child Protection Induction and all staff participate in

ongoing training, led either by the School appointed Child Protection Co-ordinator and Deputy Child Protection Co-ordinator, or by outside agencies dedicated to furthering Safeguarding and Child Protection awareness. The Child Protection Co-ordinator, who is also Deputy Head Pupil Support, has responsibility for implementing safeguarding and child protection in all areas of School life and works closely with staff, the Headmaster, the Senior Deputy Head and the specially appointed Child Protection Governor.

Care Inspectorate and Education Scotland Reports

We are inspected by Education Scotland and the Care Inspectorate on a regular basis. You can read (and download) the Education Scotland Reports on Merchiston in 2005, 2011, 2014 and 2015 by visiting the Education Scotland

website (www.educationscotland.gov.uk), and the Care Inspectorate Reports in 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015 by visiting the Care Inspectorate website (www.scswis.com).

Benefits of Boarding

Boarding for some is a necessity, due to family or work situations, but for many it is a choice. This choice is made for a variety of reasons, such as the enhanced curriculum which can be provided for boarders, the wonderful community spirit, and the relationship between staff and boys. Boarders themselves recognise that they can enjoy a diverse social life, a wide variety of interests, and close relationships with their friends. Boarding can promote confidence, independence, social skills, cultural awareness, self motivation, and a genuine respect for others.

Whilst Merchiston is primarily a boarding school, many boys join as day pupils for their Junior years. As boys move up the School, a significant number opt to become full-time boarders. Step-up boarding in Merchiston Juniors and a number of boarding-in weekends throughout the year provide an excellent 'taster' for day pupils interested in boarding.

House System

Merchiston has a unique and highly successful House system that allows boys to remain with their peer group as they progress through the School; day boys are fully integrated into this system. In this way, the senior year groups generally experience a new Boarding House and Housemaster at the start of each Autumn Term. This horizontal arrangement means that boys have the best possible opportunity to make friends, and spend time with others with similar interests.

Merchiston's distinctive House system still stands the test of time. We believe its benefits include:

- Academic concerns relating to one complete year group can be overseen by one Housemaster, who fulfils the role of Head of Year.
- Disciplinary structures are perceived as fairer and more consistent because the same Housemaster handles them for all boys in a year group.
- The integration of new pupils can be more easily facilitated.
- School days can be regulated sensibly. All boys start/finish prep, games etc at the same time. The House is therefore run more efficiently.
- Social events are centrally organised to suit a particular age group.
- Bullying within the same House is potentially reduced compared to other House systems.
- On the rare occasion when a Housemaster and pupil do not always see eye-to-eye, the boy has the chance to start afresh the following year.

In the Upper Sixth year, boys who become prefects are allocated to each of the boarding houses to lead the younger pupils in the School. Prefects provide excellent role models for the younger boys and provide valuable support to the Housemasters and Tutors.



The Merchiston Journey

Merchiston Juniors	J4		
	Primary4 (Scotland)	Age 7 and 8	Year 4 (England)
	Pringle		
	J5		
	Primary5 (Scotland)	Age 9	Year 5 (England)
Pringle			
First Form			
Primary6 (Scotland)	Age 10	Year 6 (England)	
Pringle			
Second Form			
Primary7 (Scotland)	Age 11	Year 7 (England)	
Pringle			
Third Form			
S1 (Scotland)	Age 12	Year 8 (England)	
Pringle			
Middle Years	Fourth Form		
	S2 (Scotland)	Age 13	Year 9 (England)
	Chalmers West		
	Shell		
	S3 (Scotland)	Age 14	Year 10 (England)
Chalmers East			
Fifth Form			
S4 (Scotland)	Age 15	Year 11 (England)	
Rogerson			
Sixth Form	Lower Sixth Form		
	S5 (Scotland)	Age 16	Year 12 (England)
	Laidlaw (Boarding) Evans (Day)		
Upper Sixth Form			
S6 (Scotland)	Age 17	Year 13 (England)	
Laidlaw (Boarding) Evans (Day)			

As described previously, the School is divided into six Houses, according to the age of the pupils, each run by a Housemaster. The School is also divided into three sections: Merchiston Juniors, Middle Years and Sixth Form.

In addition to the Housemasters and Assistant Housemasters, each House has a dedicated team of six or seven House Tutors and a team of prefects which assists with the running of the House. The prefects, together with Lower Sixth Form assistants, are excellent role models for younger boys and play a vital role in all aspects of House life. Also of great importance are our Housekeepers and Housemothers, whose role encompasses a wide range of pastoral and domestic issues.

Merchiston Juniors comprises five groups and the boys are cared for by the staff of Pringle House. All boys **J4 to Third Form** are the responsibility of the Head of Merchiston Juniors.

When a boy moves on from Merchiston Juniors, he enters the **Fourth Form** as a member of Chalmers West House, which, together with all the other Middle Years Houses, is located in the heart of the School. Historically there have always been more boarders in the Middle Years than in Merchiston Juniors, but the day boys remain fully integrated into House arrangements, most choosing to complete their homework (prep) in House after supper. In this year, important decisions are taken about which subjects are selected to take forward to GCSE.

After Fourth Form, boys move into **Shell**, and live in the adjacent Chalmers East House. Although they have a new Housemaster in this 'Shell' year, the Head of Middle Years keeps a close eye on their progress, whilst their Academic Tutor looks after them through the GCSE years. Personal space is vital for the boys as they grow up through the School. In Merchiston Juniors, the boys enjoy each others' company in close proximity dormitories of 6-8 beds. In the Chalmers Houses, dormitories are subdivided into semi-private areas for 3-4 beds.

Rogerson is home to the **Fifth Form** pupils, and in this year group each boy has an individual or shared study bedroom. This means that for his final three years at Merchiston, when public examinations are a major factor in his life, each boy has his own private space. This enables boys to enjoy more independence and the opportunity to manage their own time; increasing their sense of personal responsibility.

In the **Lower Sixth Form** and **Upper Sixth Form**, spacious individual study bedrooms with en-suite facilities are provided for each boarding pupil in Laidlaw House; which opened in January 2009, with 126 en-suite study bedrooms. The outstanding facilities include six House kitchens, two atrium-style lounges, flat screen TVs, a fully-equipped fitness suite, a laundry and six self-contained flats for Housemasters and pastoral staff. **Sixth Form day pupils** have their base in Evans House, which offers individual study space with desk and storage space; providing flexible options for study, prep and occasional sleepovers. All Sixth Formers can access the facilities in both Evans and Laidlaw Houses.

Day Boys

For day boys, the School provides many of the benefits of boarding education whilst enabling them to return home each evening.

Each morning, day boys register with their Housemaster by the appointed time. Any pupil arriving after the Housemaster's Registration reports to Reception, which is just inside the front door of the main School building.

We encourage day boys to take part in all aspects of School life, but at the same

time, we aim to be as flexible as possible in arrangements for day boys (School commitments and satisfactory academic progress permitting). We would expect day pupils to stay for prep on long teaching days and attend all Whole School Services. If your son does not register and cannot be found in School, please expect a phone call by 11.00am. It is therefore important that parents inform Housemasters of absences on a daily basis.

Step-up Boarding

Merchiston Juniors offers a step-up boarding programme which gives day pupils and their parents an opportunity to see how the boarders live and to participate in the boarding experience. As step-up boarding can be very popular it is subject to the availability of spare beds and is reviewed on a term by term basis. Please

note that the School reserves the right to cancel any flexible boarding arrangement should there be demand for the bed for a full boarding pupil. This option is also being offered in Chalmers West (Fourth Form) on a trial basis in 2015-2016.

School Policy on Boarding in the Middle Years

Merchiston only permits full boarding in Middle Years Houses and overnight stays for day pupils are charged at a premium nightly rate (available from the Accounts Department). There are no step-up boarding packages available in the Senior School. There is no nightly rate available in Laidlaw and a boarder must stay in for a minimum of four nights a week. Such an arrangement would be rare. A day boy may 'sleep-over' for up to three nights per week in the Middle Years, and beyond this he has to pay the full boarding fee. Such an arrangement in the Middle Years is totally dependent on beds being available, and inevitably, the situation can change from year to year, or even within a year if boarding numbers increase as the year progresses. Beds cannot be reserved for the sole use of day pupils (even on 3 nights) and other students may be permitted to sleep in the same

space on other nights, with the domestic team overseeing bed changes as required.

We accept that some full boarders, depending on circumstances, may not wish to sleep in for all seven nights. Any such arrangement needs to be agreed with the Housemaster, who will discuss the request with the Headmaster, and then review this regularly. We will be happy to consider and establish a phased build up to full boarding, which will be agreed in writing and reviewed periodically.

Full boarders are expected to respect boarding in weekends and all boarders must attend Whole School Services. Unless it is agreed in exceptional circumstances that a full boarder may come in on a Monday morning, all boarders must return in time for Sunday evening Services. Sometimes there are morning services for boarders and boarders are not required to come back to School to attend these.

Timetable

Overlying the School's 6-day teaching week is an 8-day teaching cycle. This ensures that any Saturday morning classes missed for sport do not disadvantage teaching and learning. "Long days" (ie 9 periods) alternate with "short days" (ie 6 periods) over each full 8-day cycle. Days 1, 3, 5 and 7 are "long days" and fall on a

Monday, Wednesday or Friday. Days 2, 4, 6 and 8 are "short days" and fall on a Tuesday, Thursday or Saturday. Boys are issued with a plan of the cycle and soon become used to checking what numerical day it is to see what lessons they have.

Daily Routine

The approximate daily routine for boys in the various year groups is detailed below; this changes from time to time to accommodate special circumstances, eg for an evening theatre trip, an afternoon sports fixture, or in exam time, or in the lead up to a major drama production.

J4 and J5

J4 and J5 follow the same schedule for free time (from wake-up to bedtime) as First-Third Forms. Their school day runs from 8.15am - 4.30pm, with breaks at 10.50am and after lunch. Day boys register at the Pringle Centre; they may then be collected from the Pringle Centre at 4.30pm, 5.30pm after prep or 6.15pm after Tea.

J4 and J5 do not have Saturday School, but have the option of Tennis Club or Saturday Club, 9.00am - 12noon, on certain Saturdays as detailed in the calendar.

First Form - Third Form

	Mon, Wed, Fri	Tues, Thurs
7.20	Wake up	
7.50	Breakfast	
8.00 - 8.15	Day boys arrive	
8.15	Mon Assembly	Tues Assembly
8.50 - 10.50	Lessons 1 - 3	
10.50 - 11.15	Break	
11.15 - 12.35	Lessons 4 - 5	
12.35	Lunch	
2.05 - 4.05	Lessons 7 - 8 & Prep Session	Games
4.20 - 5.20	Games and Activities / Choral Society (Mon)	
4.30		Pick up Day boys
5.30	Tea	
6.30 - 7.15	Prep for I & II Forms	
7.15 onwards	Pick up for I & II Form day boys	
6.30 - 7.30	Prep for III Form	
7.40 onwards	Pick up for III Form day boys	
7.30 - 9.00	Activities: Sports Hall, Swimming, Cricket Nets	
8.30 - 9.30	Bedtime (Depending on age)	

From First Form onwards boys attend Saturday morning school.

Fourth Form - Fifth Form

	IV Form	Shell	V Form
Wake up call	7.00	7.10	7.10
Roll call for boarders	7.40	7.30	7.30
Breakfast	7.40 onwards	7.30 onwards	7.30 onwards
Day boy roll call	8.15	8.15	8.15
Assembly	8.15 Tues & 8.20 Wed	8.15 Tues & 8.20 Wed	8.15 Tues & 8.20 Wed
Lessons	8.50 - 10.50	8.50 - 10.50	8.50 - 10.50
Break	10.50 - 11.15	10.50 - 11.15	10.50 - 11.15
Lessons	11.15 - 12.35 or 1.15	11.15 - 1.15	11.15 - 1.15
Lunch	12.35 or 1.15	1.15	1.15
Lessons	2.05 - 4.05 Mon, Wed, Fri only	2.05 - 4.05 Mon, Wed, Fri only	2.05 - 4.05 Mon, Wed, Fri only
Games/Activities	4.20 Mon, Wed, Fri / 2.30 Tues, Thurs	4.20 Mon, Wed, Fri / 2.30 Tues, Thurs	4.20 Mon, Wed, Fri / 2.30 Tues, Thurs
Tea	5.20 onwards	5.20 onwards	5.20 onwards
Prep	6.30 - 8.00	7.00 - 8.30	6.45 - 8.45
Day boy pick up	8.10 onwards	8.30 onwards	8.45 onwards
Evening Activities	8.15 - 9.15	8.45 - 9.30	
Duties/Bed	9.15	9.30	10.00
Late Night Prep	9.30 - 10.00	9.30 - 10.15	
Lights Out & Silence	9.45	10.00	10.15

Sixth Form

In the Sixth Form, there is much more flexibility, and a recognition that some boys may choose to do the bulk of their work during the day. This skill of organising one's own private and independent study is an essential part of growing up and preparing for university. The routine below is therefore less regulated than in Merchiston Juniors and Middle Years; many of the 'lessons' will in fact be 'study periods' for the Sixth Former.

Breakfast	7.30 onwards
Sign in	By 8.00 at breakfast
Assembly	8.15 Tues & 8.20 Thurs
Lessons	8.50 - 10.50
Break	10.50 - 11.15
Lessons	11.15 - 1.15
Lunch	1.15
Lessons	2.05 - 4.05 Mon, Wed, Fri only
Games/Activities	4.20 Mon, Wed, Fri / 2.30 Tues, Thurs
Tea	5.20 onwards
'Quiet Time' in House	7.00 - 9.00
VIA Club Socials	9.15 - 10.15 Wed & Fri
Sign in for the night	By 10.15
In own rooms	By 11.00

For all year groups, in the winter (October Half Term - February Half Term) lessons & games on Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays are swapped in the afternoons, with games before lessons.

Weekends

Saturday is a normal school day, with lessons taught as they would be on a Tuesday or Thursday. After lunch, most boys will have sports fixtures, either at home or away. Saturday evenings will often see an activity, such as a 'Murder Mystery' night in the House, a Pizza and DVD evening, a theatre or cinema trip, or an event with one of our sister schools - a disco, ceilidh, or a meal.

Sundays have either a Whole School Service (which both boarders and day boys attend) or a Morning or Evening Service for boarders only. Merchiston is an inter-

denominational school and Services cater for a wide range of Christian traditions. Alternative arrangements can be made for pupils of other faiths, in consultation with Housemasters and the Chaplaincy Team. There is often a House trip either into Edinburgh or further afield including activities such as bowling, go-karting, hill-walking, swimming and other watersports (depending upon age). Boys are often able to have a 'lie in', with a later brunch, and older boys may choose to have 'leave-out' or to visit Edinburgh to meet with friends or family.

Contact with Parents

Whilst numerous weekend activities are laid on, both on a School and a House basis, we actively encourage links between School and home and aim to be as flexible as possible. Apart from planned Weekend Leave and holidays, all leave-out is by arrangement with Housemasters. We do expect boarders to stay in School on designated boarding-in weekends.

Each House has telephones for use by pupils, and has rules with regard to when and where mobile phones can be used. All boys have their own school email address and may use email at any reasonable time. Boys in Fifth Form and above have access at specified times to Facebook (or other social networking sites for

overseas students). Skype and Apple Facetime are accessible at specified times from pupil laptops which are suitably configured. There is a computer available in Pringle House for Skype access.

Although there are plenty of opportunities for boys to contact their parents, it may be the case that they do not make contact as often as parents may expect. If you have any concerns about your son, his Housemaster is always the best initial point of contact. Telephone numbers for each Housemaster are listed in the Calendar, which is issued to parents each term.

Academic Matters

Merchiston's overall teacher-pupil ratio is approximately 1:9, which enables pupils to receive individual attention both inside and outside the classroom. Class sizes vary according to year group, but, in general, an average class would be up to 22 pupils at GCSE. Tutorial groups are often arranged in addition to the timetabled lessons. In most subjects, pupils are placed in class sets according to ability, and setting is regular under review. In addition to the traditional subjects in which your son will need to qualify, emphasis is also placed on the acquisition of ancillary skills, including an understanding of Information Technology and Communication skills. The Headmaster, the Deputy Head Academic, Housemasters and Academic Tutors, through consultation with the Heads of Academic Departments (and the pupil

himself and his parents), ensure that each boy follows the most appropriate academic programme. They guide him in selecting a combination of IGCSE/GCSE and A Level subjects to suit his particular abilities and his career aims. Careers guidance begins in the first of the GCSE years and the School has its own experienced Universities, Careers & Enterprise Advisors. In the Fifth Form and the Lower Sixth Form all pupils take an aptitude and interest test. Before both the GCSE and A Level stages, parents are provided with careful briefings on the content of the courses offered, together with details of university choices and the careers to which these courses may lead.

All-Through Curriculum

Merchiston's all-through Curriculum is designed to enable students to progress and demonstrate achievement. Continuity and progression within our planning enables us to meet the needs of every boy, whatever his range of abilities, and varied rates of learning. Communication is at the centre of our curriculum and impacts on all teaching and learning. Our planning is underpinned by Personal, Social and Health Education, within the Wellbeing agenda, and addresses the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development of the boys.

We are not a School which follows the Curriculum for Excellence, although many aspects are woven into the Merchiston narrative as a result of a self-evaluation exercise where departments cross-referenced the Experiences and Outcomes (E&O). Merchiston's curriculum has evolved over many years, and has its genesis in the best of the Scottish and English systems. It is designed to provide maximum opportunity for boys to do the best they possibly can, in a safe and caring environment.

Merchiston Juniors Curriculum

Curriculum content is largely based on the English National Curriculum Key Stages 2 and 3. The School is aware of the aims of Curriculum for Excellence and, although we have chosen not to directly address any of the content changes outlined in this curriculum, we strive to develop all pupils by providing a variety of learning experiences in and out of the classroom. The variety of types of activity within the classroom provides opportunity for individual study, creativity, leadership, co-operative learning, self- and peer assessment and target setting. Co-curricular activities in the arts and sport provide numerous additional opportunities to be challenged, to flourish and to succeed. Staff work closely to ensure breath of learning in the J4 - First Form years and we believe that the wide range of opportunities on offer allows each learner to thrive and develop in a rounded manner.

J4 and J5 boys are predominantly taught by Primary specialists in dedicated classrooms in the Pringle Centre, but have the benefit of subject specialist teachers for Modern Languages, Games, Music, PE and Swimming. The curriculum

is designed with flexibility in mind and has rotating topic provision in History, Geography and Science. This facilitates a broad curriculum in the instance of a pupil consolidating for any reason.

The First Form is considered as a phased transition year, with a mixture of Primary and Secondary approaches employed. About half of First Form lessons are taught in the Pringle Centre and the boys have the stimulus of visiting specialist departments for Art, Design Technology, ICT, Science, Music, PE, Swimming and Games. Spanish is the primary modern foreign language taught from the First Form.

In Second and Third Form, the boys visit specialist departments for all lessons, with most subjects set by ability. The boys are also assigned an academic tutor who will tutor them throughout Second and Third Form. Latin is introduced for all pupils in the Second Form, other than for those who require extra support in English. In the Third Form, Electronics is introduced as a subject, and Science is split into its separate components: Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

Middle Years Curriculum

Fourth Form:

This is the usual point of entry for pupils joining Merchiston from preparatory schools. The Fourth Form should be regarded as a foundation year for the GCSE course. The academic programme is broad-based and intended to ensure a thorough grounding in basic studies and to bring out a pupil's particular talents. It embraces the National Curriculum, and indeed goes well beyond it. All pupils take English, Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, History, Geography, Computing and at least two modern foreign languages. Latin and Classical Greek

are also available. The programme also includes Religious Studies, Art, Design Technology, Electronics, Music, and Physical Education - including swimming. Full details are available in the Fourth Form curriculum booklet.

School examinations take place at the end of the Autumn and Summer Terms. In the Summer Term, recommendations are made to parents regarding their son's course of studies for GCSE. These, together with a booklet outlining the GCSE courses, are sent to parents before the Parents' Meeting.

Shell and Fifth Forms:

Over these two years, boys follow a course leading to the General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE) - Key Stage 4 of the National Curriculum. Most pupils take nine GCSE subjects in total. Many students are entered for the alternative IGCSE (International GCSE) examination in Biology, Chemistry and Physics, History, French, Spanish and German.

In some subjects, there is an amount of internal assessment and practical work as well as a final examination. This means that pupils are constantly building their chances of success, an incentive to them to produce their best work at all times: internal assessment enables teachers to build on their pupils' individual strengths.

All pupils follow compulsory GCSE courses in Mathematics, Sciences, Religious Studies (for which boys may have the option of being entered for a short-course GCSE in Philosophy and Ethics at the end of the Shell Form), and either GCSE English Language and English Literature or an appropriate ESOL course. The other GCSE options available vary each year but are always arranged into columns and boys can make their selection accordingly. An example of how the subject choices might be arranged is detailed below. Boys must choose one subject from each column.

In addition to the programme below, all boys attend classes in Personal, Social and Health Education, and Physical Education throughout the School, and in Careers Guidance in Shell. Other classical and foreign languages (eg Chinese, Japanese, Portuguese, Classical Greek, Arabic, Italian, Russian and Dutch) may also be available as subject choices, though not as part of the formal timetable.

In Shell, boys sit School examinations in February and June and an aptitude and interests test at the end of the year. In the Fifth Form mock GCSE examinations take place during the Lent Term. Discussions with the Deputy Head Academic and the Universities Advisor about A Level choices also take place this term, taking into account the results of the aptitude test, the pupil's performance in his studies to date, including his showing in the mock examinations, and the recommendations of his teachers. At the Parents' Meeting, held after Half Term, the pupil's progress towards his GCSE examinations is discussed and recommendations are made as to his course of studies in the Sixth Form. A booklet giving full details of the Sixth Form courses is produced each year for parents.

The GCSE examinations are taken in the Summer Term at the end of the Fifth Form.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
English	Mathematics	Chemistry	Physics	French	Geography	History	History
(EFL)			Biology	Spanish	Biology	D&T	Art
		Dual Award	Dual Award	German	ICT	Electronics	Latin
				Mandarin	Computing	Latin	RS
				SfL	SfL		PE
					Music		Geography
					Greek		
					French		

Sixth Form Curriculum

In the Sixth Form, a pupil follows a two-year course of A Levels. Typically a boy will take four AS courses in the Lower Sixth, dropping to three A2 courses in the Upper Sixth.

Throughout the Lower Sixth year, opportunities are given through Sixth Form societies, our 'Careers Café' and the 'Links with Industry' scheme to find out about careers and university/college courses. Much care and time is given to careers guidance and to the choice of university or college courses and the application procedure through UCAS. In the Upper Sixth year, there is a further consultation with parents about university and college applications, early in the Autumn Term.

Oxford and Cambridge make offers to candidates after interviews in December. Other universities have differing procedures with regard to offers and interviews, but all offers should be issued by the end of Lent Term of the Upper Sixth.

In the Sixth Form, project work may well form an integral part of the course and study courses and outside visits are frequently arranged. There are Sixth Form societies centred on departments, with guest speakers who are experts in a particular field. Pupils have the opportunity to discuss with the speaker the topic of the talk in small groups. Guest speakers are drawn from universities, industry and public life.

Sixth Form Subject Choices

A Level and Advanced Subsidiary (AS) courses consist of individual units which may be taken independently of each other in the Summer Terms of the Lower Sixth and Upper Sixth year; however, the option also exists for these units to be taught in a linear manner, with all of the examinations taken at the end of a two-year course. The AS is a stand alone qualification and consists of two units: the A level consists of AS plus another two units (constituting A2) taken in the second year of the Sixth Form. In order to provide progression through to A Level, the standard of the AS is somewhere between GCSE and A Level. Despite this,

the AS is worth 50% of the A Level marks: the UCAS weighting of the AS is likewise 50% of a full A Level.

At Merchiston, most boys select three or four A Levels. A few students will be advised not to continue to A2 in a certain subject and then, subject to demand, an alternative path can be found.

The subject choice columns vary from year to year, according to demand.

A	B	C	D	E	F
Chemistry	Biology	Economics	Art	English Literature	Geography
Design and Technology	Government and Politics	Electronics	Classical Civilisation	PE	German
Economics	History	English Literature	History	Physics	ICT
Music		French	Mathematics		Mathematics
Religious Studies		Geography	Further Mathematics		Further Mathematics
		Latin			Spanish
		Mandarin			

Other classical and foreign languages (for example Classical Greek, Portuguese, Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, Russian and Italian) are also available, should there be sufficient demand.

A Lower Sixth Parents' Meeting is held during the Lent Term to review progress at the start of Sixth Form courses. In the Autumn Term, a Parents' Meeting is held to focus on the UCAS process. Predictions for grades are supplied prior to

this meeting.

The column system of the Sixth Form curriculum is frequently updated to take into account particular requests and specialisations. It is very flexible and offers an extremely large number of subject combinations. Care is taken to recommend combinations which fit a student's abilities and interests, career aims, and university entrance requirements.

Academic Progress Reports

All parents are invited in to discuss their son's academic progress on an annual basis. Should parents have any concerns at other times of the year, they are welcome to contact the School to arrange an appointment with the Deputy Head Academic, Head of Department or individual subject teachers.

Regular formal communication with parents is detailed in the table below:

	What type of report will we receive at the end of term?			How many internal Report Cards/Assessments will the teachers write each term?			Does a Parent-Teacher meeting take place?		
	Autumn	Lent	Summer	Autumn	Lent	Summer	Autumn	Lent	Summer
J4	Full		Full	0	0	0	Yes	Yes	Yes
J5	Full		Full	0	0	0	Yes	Yes	Yes
I Form	Full		Full	2	1	1	Yes	Yes	
II Form	Full		Full	2	1	1		Yes	
III Form	Full		Full	2	1	1		Yes	
IV Form	Full		Full	2	1	1			Yes
Shell	Full		Full	2	1 (Results)	1			Yes
V Form	Full	Full	Summary	2	1 (Results)	0		Yes	
LVI Form	Full		Full	1	1	1	Yes	Yes	
UVI Form	Full	Full	Summary	1	1	0	Yes		

Full	A full report with comments by subject teachers, games/activities staff, Tutor, Housemaster, and senior staff
Results	A statement of results of the recent mock examinations sent at Half Term with the report card
Summary	Comprises academic summary by Tutor, co-curricular summary by Housemaster and report by a senior member of staff

Prep (Homework)

Each pupil coming to Merchiston is encouraged to work hard. Prep is set for each evening and the weekend, with the amount graded by Forms. Prep time is supervised in the Houses. In addition, in the GCSE year, and more particularly in the Sixth Form, the pupil must expect to have to devote some of his free time to his studies. At this stage work is also set for the holidays.

We would expect boys to spend the following time on prep each evening:

Year	Prep Time
J4 and J5	30 minutes - 1 hour
First, Second and Third Forms	1 hour
Fourth Form	1½ hours
Shell	1½ hours
Fifth Form	1½ hours
Sixth Forms	2 hours +

Other Support

Support for Learning

All pupils are screened on entry and, if required, enter a Support for Learning Programme overseen by the Head of the Faculty of Support for Learning. Provision within Merchiston Juniors offers either small group, or individual attention, depending on the level of support required. Apart from the full-time staff, several members of the teaching staff have formal qualifications in Support for Learning.

English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)

About 20% of our pupils are international students from approximately 22 countries. The Head of ESOL liaises with the Head of the Faculty of Support for Learning, the two other members of the ESOL department, and other academic departments to support international pupils. All pupils are assessed by the Head of Department and receive a tailored programme to meet their needs, including small group or one-to-one support.

Careers Guidance

All pupils take part in a comprehensive programme of careers guidance, which starts in Shell, and the annual careers convention, and includes individual questionnaires, visiting speakers in our 'Careers Café' and further interviews in the Sixth Form.

Pupil Exchange and GAP Opportunities

We encourage pupils to consider spending time abroad either on a pupil exchange or on a GAP year between School and university. We have exchange and GAP links with schools in Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Canada, India and Argentina. GAP organisations come to make presentations to Sixth Form pupils on a regular basis.

Co-curricular Activities

In Merchiston Juniors and the Middle Years, every pupil is encouraged to participate in team and individual sports. In the Autumn and Lent Terms, the main sport is rugby; in the Summer Term, cricket and athletics. We also encourage the boys to pursue other interests, and on two afternoons a week your son will have the opportunity to choose from a variety of activities. These normally include chess, computing, debating, design, drama, electronics, magic, masterchef, mountain biking, and music. There are also a range of sports, such as badminton, curling, fives, football, golf, hockey, sailing, shooting, skiing, softball, squash, swimming

and tennis. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme is also flourishing at Merchiston. In the Senior School boys can attend a number of concerts, theatre productions and gallery visits in Edinburgh offered through the Arts Programme.

In the Sixth Form, team games are not mandatory, but there is every opportunity for boys to become involved in these and often at a high level. In addition, Sixth Form pupils can gain experience working with people and organisations through the Koinonia Programme (Teamwork with the Community). A full range of other sports and activities is available, as is the case further down the School.

Sport

Athletics

This is one of our major sports. Each summer, many boys participate in regular athletics in the arena at the rear of the School, which is circled by a 400 metre running track. Teams compete at all age groups, against other schools and in the Edinburgh and Scottish Schools' Championships. In recent years the boys have represented the School at club and international level.

Basketball

This sport has developed over the last 12 years, and is particularly popular with international pupils from Europe and the Far East, as well as the taller members of the UK community! The team competes in regular School fixtures and in the Scottish Schools' Cup.

Clay Pigeon Shooting

This activity has developed considerably in the last three years. The boys access Cluny Clays on one afternoon a week and compete in the Scottish Schools' and National Schools' Clay Pigeon Shooting Championships. The School holds the former titles in 2009, 2012 and 2013.

Climbing

The climbing activity takes place at the Edinburgh International Climbing Arena at Ratho and is available to junior and senior boys. Outdoor climbing days are also arranged in the Autumn Term.

Cricket

This is one of our three major sports. Each summer the 1XI has a full card of fixtures against both club and school sides. It tours regularly at home and abroad, including

a recent tour to South Africa in February 2013. The 1XI competes in, and has had great success in the Lothian Schools' Cup, which is now called the Scottish Schools T20 competition. There are two further senior XIs, and two teams in each year group, up to the U15 XI, making 12 teams in all. Boys of all age groups are often selected for regional and national teams.

Curling

This Scottish sport can be played every week through the Autumn and Lent Terms by a dedicated group of boys of all ages outside the activity programme. The team competes in several competitions, including the Scottish Schools' Cup, and has recently had success in all competitions entered.

Football

The School produces one senior team and one U16 team and they play a number of fixtures throughout two terms, during activity time. As a growing sport at Merchiston, in recent years the senior team has reached the semi finals of the Scottish Independent Schools' trophy. Boys from the squad have also been selected for regional trials.

Golf

Throughout the year the boys access the excellent Kings Acre Golf Course practice facilities during activity times. During the Summer Term boys in the Senior School may opt to take golf on three afternoons. The School, in partnership with Kings Acre Golf Course, has developed the Golf Academy at Merchiston to provide a specialist golf programme with a high standard of coaching and a specially adapted curriculum. The Golf Academy has three programmes; Golf Activities for boys of all ages and ability; the Development Squad, which offers a greater intensity of learning; and the Elite Squad for already accomplished golfers.

Hockey

The School has two hockey teams; a senior and junior team, which play a number of fixtures. This sport is growing in popularity at Merchiston with an increasing number of boys playing the game during activity time.

Rugby

Rugby is one of our three major sports. Merchiston is justly famous for its highly successful 1XV, which has won the Scottish Schools' Cup several times in recent history. Rugby is played by all junior boys and a high percentage of senior boys throughout the Autumn and Lent Terms. There are four senior teams, and sixteen junior teams, all of which have regular fixtures against schools from Scotland and the North of England. Sevens squads compete in the National Schools' Sevens as well as other major tournaments. Boys are often selected to play for Scotland at all levels up to U18 and we have produced 75 schoolboy and 64 full Internationalists.

Rugby Fives

Rugby fives is a game which is similar to squash, without the racket, and it is played with both hands wearing gloves. Other variations of the game include Winchester, Eton and Rossall Fives. There are two fives courts at Merchiston, and three age group teams play regular school and club fixtures, and compete in the Edinburgh Schools League and Cups.

Sailing

The sailing activity takes place at Port Edgar Sailing School on the Firth of Forth, beside the Forth Road Bridge, and is available to junior and senior boys. The School recently moved from using its own Mirror Dinghies to hiring higher performance boats from the sailing school. In the future, the sailing club plans to develop its competitive sailing calendar and compete in a range of regional events.

Shooting

Shooting in the School has been highly successful in recent years, and benefits from the use of the 25m indoor Miller Range. There are various shooting teams in the senior part of the School, and they compete every year in the Schools' Competitions at Bisley. Target shooting takes place in the School's own rifle range in the grounds. Merchiston boys have also competed in the British Schools' Small-Bore Rifle Association Annual Postal International matches.

Skiing

Although Merchiston is not ideally situated for snow-covered slopes, a skiing option takes place each week at the nearby Hillend dry ski slope. In the winter, occasional trips are arranged to locations such as Aviemore. The School enters teams in the Scottish Schools Skiing Championships at The Lecht. We also run an annual ski trip to destinations in Europe.

Squash

The School has access to the courts at Colinton Castle Squash Club, which is located on the campus at the rear of the School. A large number of boys use the facility in the activity programme. There are teams at U14, U16 and U19 levels, which have fixtures throughout the first two terms each year.

Swimming

The School has an indoor four lane 25 yard pool, and all boys up to Fifth Form level have weekly swimming lessons. Much of the team coaching is done by professional coaches from nearby Warrender Swimming Club, and many team and individual successes have been gained in recent years.

Tennis

There are three all-weather floodlit tennis courts situated near Pringle House. Teams compete throughout the year against other schools at U18, U15 and U13 levels, in recent years winning Scottish Honours and U15 National Honours in the Aegon Cup and Independent Schools' Championships at Eton College. Additionally, the sport is played less formally as an afternoon games option by many boys each year. Boys practise during the winter on indoor tennis courts and have access to a local tennis club. Merchiston runs its own Tennis Academy providing specialist tennis training with a high standard of education and specially adapted curriculum.

Music

The School has a strong tradition of choral music, with on average 140 boys as members of the Choral Society. The Chapel Choir and Close Harmony Group perform regularly at School Chapel, and at School occasions. Major concerts are given each term both in the School, which has a purpose-built Music School, and at other venues in and around Edinburgh.

The Music Department offers wide-ranging opportunities for pupils to become involved in practical music-making. Boys can take part in the Orchestra, Junior Instrumental Ensemble, Jazz Band, Chamber Groups and Pipe Band. These ensembles give regular performances at the School's termly concerts inside and outside the School, while regular opportunities are given to instrumentalists at all levels for

solo performances.

Instrumental Music lessons are timetabled by rotation through the School week. There is a comprehensive selection of instruments on offer and many pupils play more than one. Over one-third of our pupils take instrumental lessons in the School, and supervised practice rotas are organised to encourage the pupils.

Drama and Music frequently combine in the production of large-scale dramas and musicals in collaboration with St George's School for Girls, Edinburgh. Recent ventures have included *Grease*, *Pygmalion*, *Treasure Island* and *The Boy Friend*. Merchiston Juniors stages its own musicals on a regular basis, most recently, *Hansel and Gretel*.

Drama

Drama is popular at Merchiston, and throughout the year there are drama options, offering technique and workshop skills. Boys enjoy taking part in the full theatre experience, including stagecraft, stage management, sound and lighting, and can also assist with direction. These options allow them to learn skills in a variety of areas which can then be applied in full-scale School productions. Off-stage roles and ensemble acting are considered just as important as principal roles so that, at the end of a production, the pupils will all appreciate the result

of a tremendous team effort.

The structure of drama at Merchiston provides for a biennial musical alternating with a serious play (Shakespeare or modern). These productions are staged jointly with St George's School for Girls. In the year of the musical, a non-musical is staged simultaneously at St George's. Merchiston Juniors stage a biennial musical, and J4 and J5 produce a Christmas pantomime.

Outdoor Education

Various outdoor pursuits are followed at the weekends, or in the afternoons, including rock-climbing at a local centre, watersports, walking, and mountain-biking in the nearby Pentland Hills and further afield.

Weekend House camps for Merchiston Juniors are held in May and September

respectively, focusing on problem-solving, confidence and team building activities. All members of the Lower Sixth attend an outdoor centre for team building and leadership exercises at the end of the Summer Term. Smaller camps for groups are also organised on a House basis at regular points during the year.

Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Many Merchiston boys opt to undertake the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, at Bronze, Silver and Gold level. They participate in organised sessions during the afternoon activity sessions, and must complete individual skill, service and physical recreation sections of the Award, as well as the expedition.

As part of the School's outdoor education experience, every boy in the Middle Years completes both a training and assessed expedition which can be credited to the Award Scheme.

Combined Cadet Force (CCF)

Every boy is a member of the Army section of the School's Combined Cadet Force for a year during the Shell. An annual camp is held, and on many weekends during the year, camping, hill-walking and climbing expeditions take place. At the end of the year, many boys choose to remain in the CCF as an instructor (NCO) on a voluntary basis. The CCF Programme includes drill, first-aid, target-

shooting, campcraft, and fieldcraft, and offers considerable opportunities for pupils to learn self-discipline, independence, teamwork, problem-solving, organisation and leadership, which they can apply to other areas of their lives and to future employment. In 2009, the St George's School for Girls CCF merged with the Merchiston CCF. Boys can now complete a nationally recognised BTEC.

Koinonia (Teamwork with the Community)

A sense of being part of the wider community is a key issue in the education of boys at Merchiston. How this is achieved is always under development, but central to this has been the Koinonia Programme, which has been integral to the Lower Sixth experience at Merchiston for a number of years. Through this programme, our senior students are afforded the opportunity to gain experience of working with people and organisations outwith the Merchiston environment.

As an example of this, students have been involved with Saint Catherine's Homeless Project in the city, where they have helped prepare and serve meals and deliver goods from our Harvest Festival. Students also engage with the elderly in our community through visits to a local retirement home. Pupils have involved themselves in a number of gardening projects: for example, one such project

helped develop the facilities of a retirement home for ex-servicemen. A long-standing project has been with Braidburn School, where some of our students spend time helping the pupils, who have a range of learning difficulties, in class and with other activities. In recent years, we have developed ties with four of our local primary schools and our students have offered some classroom support, and mentoring of pupils through the Place2Be charity.

It is our firm belief that Koinonia provides an excellent opportunity for boys to gain invaluable skills and experiences of a variety of working and living situations which they might otherwise not experience.

Scottish Country Dancing

Few Friday or Saturday evenings during the winter terms pass without the Memorial Hall resounding to the music of reels and jigs, to say nothing of the thunder of feet. Indeed, few boys leave Merchiston without the ability to dance a reel, and many happy evenings are spent dancing and socialising under the banner of the Reel Club.

Our popular Reel Club and Dances provide the boys with the opportunity to meet with pupils from St George's School for Girls in Edinburgh and Kilgraston School

in Perthshire. The boys also have the chance to visit these schools for similar events.

A wide range of dances is covered, starting with simple ceilidh dances in Pringle, leading to quite complex dances in the Sixth Form.

In addition to the dancing of boys and girls, there are many occasions when adult groups dance at Merchiston. A class for couples meets throughout the winter with about 50 couples dancing at each meeting. Fundraising Highland Balls have helped raise funds for a wide variety of charities.

Business and Entrepreneurial Activities

A number of business events take place for all boys in the Middle Years and Sixth Form. This gives students an insight and understanding of business dynamics such as marketing, budgeting, and understanding of their roles within a business

team. Smaller groups of boys in the Sixth Form have the opportunity to develop further entrepreneurship skills through the Prince's Trust activities, Stock Market Challenge and appropriate enterprise schemes.

Trips and Tours

Holiday activities are many and vary from year to year, and have in the past included sports team tours (eg rugby to South America or Belfast; cricket to Holland or South Africa), musical tours (Choir to Provence; Pipe Band and Close

Harmony Group in Canada), academic trips relevant to the curriculum (Third Form Languages trip to Spain), and recreational trips (Ski trip to Austria; Expedition in Peru).

Food

Breakfast, lunch and tea are served in the Dining Hall. The day pupils' fee includes lunch and tea.

The Dining Hall is self-service and we aim to offer a wide selection of healthy meals. Merchiston was one of the first schools in Scotland to gain the 'Healthy Living Award' from the Scottish Executive. There is a daily vegetarian option and whenever possible we use Halal meat. If your son has special dietary requirements, or allergies, the General Manager is happy to discuss these with you.

Pupils are encouraged to think about the amount of food they take. Pupils can take one choice but can always return for more. This helps them to think about waste and costs. Pupil Forums provide an opportunity for boys to give their ideas on catering.

Formal meals are arranged each term either at lunch time, or in the evening for specific Houses. Tables are properly laid for the boys and their meal is served. The benefit of this is that it provides an excellent opportunity for pupils to improve their table manners.

Each House has a kitchen where snacks can be prepared. Before the 10.50am break, supplies are delivered to the Houses, which may consist of milk, bread, cheese, fruit, butter, jam etc.

Sample menus

Breakfast

Boiled eggs, baked beans, plus two other hot choices
A choice of 8 different cereals
Fruit juice, hot drinks, milk
Toast, morning rolls, preserves, and butter
Yoghurt, dried fruit, honey, grapefruit segments

Lunch

Homemade soup with a selection of breads and rolls
Two hot choices plus vegetarian
Salad bar, delicatessen bar, baked potatoes
Two types of seasonal vegetables and potatoes
Hot or cold sweet, whole and sliced fruit, yoghurts,
fresh fruit salad, tinned fruit
Sugar-free squash, water

Dinner

Homemade soup with a selection of breads and rolls
Two hot choices plus vegetarian
Salad bar, delicatessen bar, baked potatoes
Two types of seasonal vegetables and potatoes
Hot or cold sweet, whole and sliced fruit, yoghurts,
fresh fruit salad, tinned fruit
Toast, bread, butter and preserves
Hot and cold drinks, milk and water

Masterchef

Cooking is a popular activity for a number of boys and is part of the Merchiston Juniors activity programme in each term. The Merchiston Masterchef teaching facility has recently been developed for Sixth Form boys to complete a practical course of cooking and food studies. Boys learn to cook quick, tasty and inexpensive dishes,

and gain a basic theoretical and practical knowledge of nutrition, food hygiene and healthy eating. It is designed to ease the transition to independent living at university or college and provide skills for life. Boys also have the opportunity to gain a food hygiene certificate.

Medical

The Medical Centre is staffed by three registered nurses and a Health Assistant; the School doctors hold surgeries in the School Medical Centre twice a week, as does the visiting physiotherapist. Appointments are always available at the Surgery outwith those clinic times; the local practice is adjacent to the School. The Medical Centre is staffed between 7.45am and 7.00pm on a daily basis. Overnight, a nurse becomes resident if a child should require overnight nursing care and cannot go to a parent or guardian. Boys cared for in the Medical Centre deemed well enough may return to the House in the evening. Those who require continuous nursing care will be assessed according to their individual needs. In the event of a serious illness or accident, boys are accompanied to hospital and parents and/or guardians are informed immediately by the Medical Centre or Housemaster. The Medical Centre can be contacted on 0131 312 2210.

Chapel/Religion

Chapel Services are inter-denominational, and it is our policy to invite representatives of the main branches of the Church to address the boys. Most Services will have a guest preacher and every effort is made to select speakers who are able to communicate well with young people.

Whilst all Services are important, there are some which have special significance: Harvest Thanksgiving, Remembrance Sunday and Confirmation. These and some other key Services are whole School occasions, which all boys must attend in formal dress. Throughout the year, each House has the opportunity to conduct a Sunday

Medication

All medicines are stored and administered according to the doctors' and pharmacists' instructions. Over-the-counter medications are administered and recorded as required by the registered nurse on duty.

Documentation required

On joining Merchiston, UK boarders must bring with them their National Health Medical Card and all parents are asked to complete a medical information and consent form. These are stored by the Medical Centre. Additionally at the beginning of each term, parents must complete a form detailing any illness their son has had over the holidays.

Service, as well as being involved in all Services. At the beginning and end of each term, there is an opportunity for parents and pupils who have already been confirmed to participate together in an inter-denominational Communion. Alternative arrangements can be made, on request, for boys of other faiths.

Parents and visitors are very welcome at all our Sunday Services. Coffee is available after all Services.

Merchiston has a full-time Chaplain who works as part of the Chaplaincy Team. The Chaplain lives on site and is available to speak with boys at any time.

Forums: Parent and Pupil Voice

The **Parents' Forum** is a group of nominated parents from each year group, formed to help produce ideas for the development of the School. This group normally meets once a term. A list of each year's representatives is printed in the School Calendar or details are available on request.

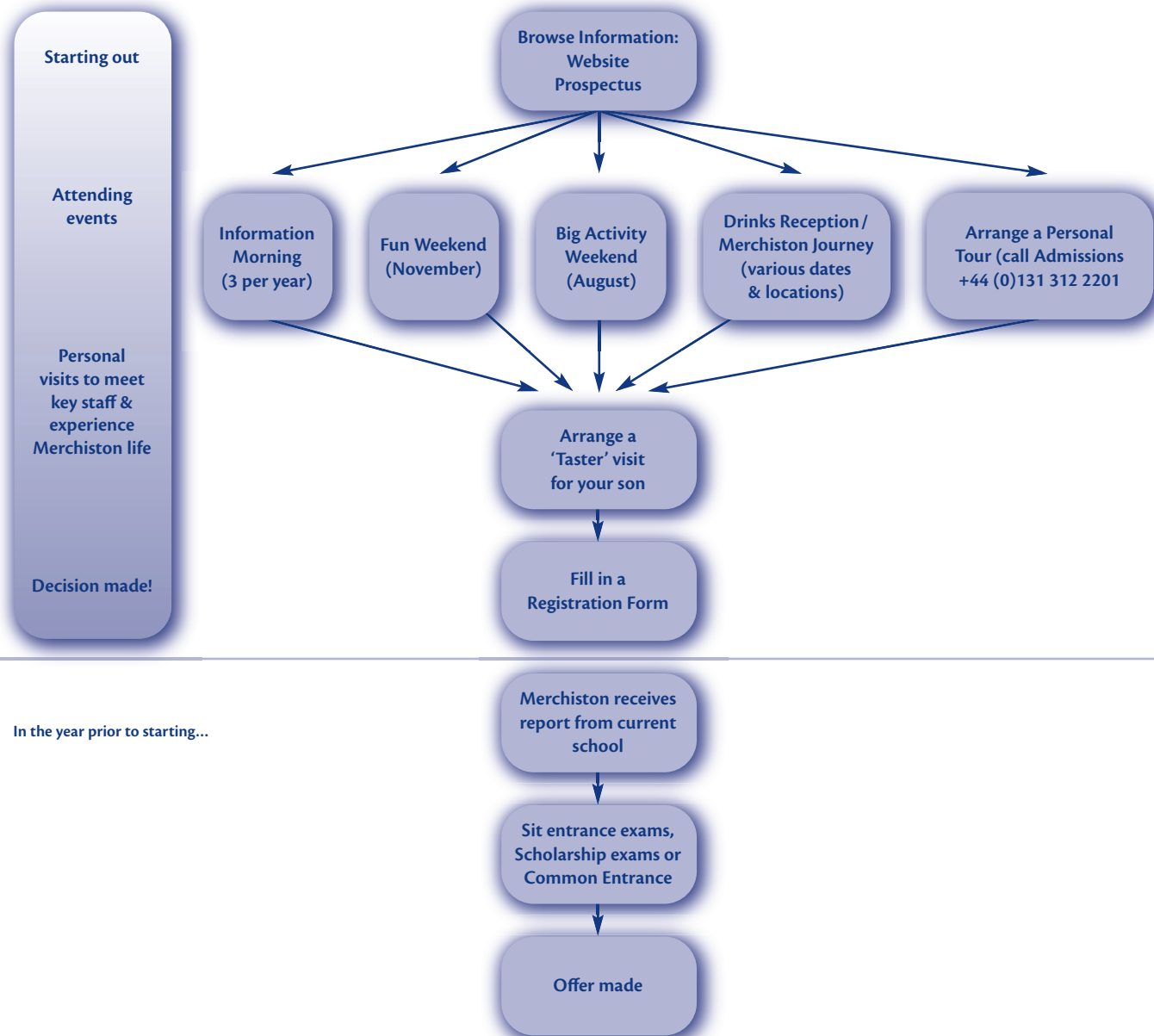
The pupils' **School Forum** is made up of representatives from each House, and also meets once a term to discuss issues of concern and to pass on suggestions to the Headmaster. In addition, each House also has a Forum which meets regularly, as do a number of other forums, for example ICT, Sustainability, International and Library.

Admissions Process

Entry is always dependent on receipt of a satisfactory report from current school and interview.

Each application to Merchiston is dealt with individually, to meet the needs of the family applying.

The admissions process will generally follow the steps below:



In the year prior to starting...

Entry Requirements

Merchiston Juniors (Pringle)

Entry into Merchiston Juniors is by assessment using computer-based InCAS software, which is administered by Durham University. This measures three key areas: Reading, General Maths and Mental Arithmetic. Completion of an online screening assessment is also required. All boys have an interview with Merchiston Juniors staff.

Fourth Form (Chalmers West) and Shell (Chalmers East)

For those joining Fourth Form from preparatory schools, the qualifying examination is the Common Entrance set by a central HMC/IAPS board. For those coming from other schools into Fourth or Shell Form, candidates sit examinations in Mathematics and English, and also sit a Non Verbal Reasoning test and complete an online screening assessment. There is an interview for all boys with appropriate staff.

Fifth Form (Rogerson)

Candidates may be asked to sit written examinations in Mathematics, English and in Science, and undertake an interview.

Sixth Form (Laidlaw and Evans)

Entry into the Lower Sixth Form for a two-year Sixth Form programme depends on a predicted and then achieved satisfactory GCSE or SQA Nationals performance, or on successfully sitting papers at an appropriate level. Boys undertake an interview with appropriate staff.

International Applications

Some international students join the School each year. The School currently has pupils from 22 different countries, including China, Germany, Hong Kong, Mexico, Nigeria and Russia, some of whom choose to go directly into the Sixth Form. Non-UK nationals account for about 20% of the School's roll.

Entrance requirements for international students vary. Younger boys take assessments in Mathematics and English (usually in their home country). Sixth

Form entrants may take Mathematics and English papers, plus other papers relevant to their chosen academic programme. International students may be interviewed in person or by Skype if appropriate.

International students are screened for English language tuition on entry and receive an individual ESOL programme, including small group, or one-to-one support.

Parents Living Abroad

All boys whose parents live outside the UK (including those over 16), require an educational guardian who is resident in the UK within reasonable distance of the School. The guardian acts on behalf of parents in the UK, looks after their son during Half Terms and can be contacted in an emergency. International students can stay in Senior Boarding Houses during Weekend Leaves from the Fourth Form upwards.

The guardian must be arranged prior to arrival at the School and details of the guardian made known to your son's Housemaster or the Admissions Department. The School can recommend guardianship agencies and will send you details on request.

All boys resident outside the United Kingdom must be in possession of a valid passport and, where appropriate, a UKVI (Visa and Immigration) Tier 4 student visa. The School will provide a Confirmation of Acceptance for Study (CAS) code in

support of a visa application once an offer has been accepted and the International Deposit has been received by the School. The cost of the CAS (£14 in 2015) and of couriered documents will be charged to fee accounts. International students hand their passport, together with any vaccination certificates, to their Housemaster for safe keeping on arrival at Merchiston at the beginning of each term. The Visa and Immigration Service makes a significant charge for the renewal of a Student Visa at offices in the UK, and parents are strongly advised to review visas in their home country during holidays. If a boy requires his visa to be renewed during term time, the School will assist by completing an application and providing the necessary Confirmation of Acceptance for Study (CAS). Some non-UK nationals aged over 16 years are also required to register with the local police and the School assists with this. This incurs a minimal cost.

Entrance Assessment and Scholarship Dates 2015-2016

Merchiston Juniors

Entrance Assessments - **Saturday 16 January 2016.**

Entry to J4, J5, First, Second & Third Forms (ie 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 & 12 years of age in September of the year of entry).

Candidates will sit entrance examinations.

Scholarship candidates will be assessed after the results of the entrance examinations are known.

Candidates should expect to be at the School from 8.30 am until 3.30 pm approximately.

Closing date for applications for the above awards: Friday 11 December 2015.

Middle Years

Entrance Assessments and Scholarships (Prep and non-Prep Schools) - **Thursday 21 & Friday 22 January 2016.**

Entry to Fourth and Shell Forms (ie 13+ and 14+ years of age in September of the year of entry).

Candidates will sit entrance assessments in Maths, English and an online screening test and have an interview. There will be specialist assessments for the All-Rounder and Sports Scholarships.

Candidates should expect to be at the School from Thursday lunchtime until approx 4.30 pm on Friday.

Closing date for applications: Friday 8 January 2016.

Prep School Open Academic Scholarship - **Monday 22 February - Wednesday 24 February 2016.**

Entry to Fourth Form (i.e. 13+ years of age in September of the year of entry).

Candidates will sit examinations (based on the Common Entrance Syllabus) and have interviews.

Candidates (inc applicants for day places) will be invited to stay at the School from the evening of Sunday 21 February 2016.

Closing date for applications: Friday 5 February 2016.

Sixth Form

Scholarships - **Friday 6 November 2015.**

Candidates will have examinations, interviews and assessments.

Closing date for applications, together with selected AS/A Level subjects: Friday 9 October 2015.

Detailed information on each scholarship and criteria for success can be found in the Scholarship Booklet.

Please note that Scholarships at Merchiston do not carry an automatic fee concession. Means-tested financial assistance may be available to applicants.

PLEASE NOTE THAT, WHERE APPLICABLE, MEALS WILL BE PROVIDED BY MERCHISTON AND OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATION MAY BE AVAILABLE FOR THOSE CANDIDATES COMING FROM A DISTANCE.

Term Dates

Big Activity Weekend	Sat / Sun	22/23	August	
Merchiston Juniors' Induction	Monday	24	August	10.00 am
New Lower Sixth and New International pupils in Fourth Form (Year 9) and above arrive	Wednesday	26	August	1.30 pm

Autumn Term 2015

Autumn Term starts	Thursday	27	August	8.00 pm
Weekend Leave starts	Friday	18	September	4.15 pm
Weekend Leave ends	Monday	21	September	8.00 pm
Half Term starts	Friday	9	October	1.15 pm
<i>Lower Sixth Parents' Meeting</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>October</i>	<i>6.30 pm</i>
Half Term ends	Tuesday	20	October	8.00 pm
Weekend Leave starts	Friday	13	November	4.15 pm
<i>Upper Sixth Parents' Meeting</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>November</i>	<i>6.30 pm</i>
Weekend Leave ends	Monday	16	November	8.00 pm
<i>First Form Parents' Meeting</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>November</i>	<i>5.30 pm</i>
Autumn Term ends	Tuesday	15	December	1.15 pm

Lent Term 2016

Lent Term starts	Monday	11	January	8.00 pm
Weekend Leave starts for J4 / J5 / First Form	Thursday	21	January	4.00 pm
<i>Second Form Parents' Meeting</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>January</i>	<i>5.30 pm</i>
<i>Third Form Parents' Meeting</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>January</i>	<i>6.00 pm</i>
Weekend Leave starts (all other year groups)	Friday	22	January	4.15 pm
Weekend Leave ends (all year groups)	Sunday	24	January	8.00 pm
Half Term starts	Friday	12	February	1.15 pm
Half Term ends	Sunday	21	February	8.00 pm
<i>Fifth Form Parents' Meeting</i>	<i>Saturday</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>February</i>	<i>1.30 pm</i>
Pringle Weekend Leave starts	Friday	11	March	4.15 pm
<i>Lower Sixth ALIS and UCAS Meeting</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>March</i>	<i>6.00 pm</i>
Pringle Weekend Leave ends	Sunday	13	March	8.00 pm
Lent Term ends	Thursday	24	March	1.15 pm

Summer Term 2016

<i>Fourth Form Parents' Meeting</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>April</i>	<i>6.00 pm</i>
Summer Term starts	Tuesday	19	April	8.00 pm
Whole School Commemoration Service	Sunday	24	April	10.00 am
Weekend Leave starts	Friday	13	May	4.15 pm
Weekend Leave ends	Sunday	15	May	8.00 pm
Headmaster's Concert and Art & Design Exhibitions	Thursday	26	May	7.00 pm
Half Term starts	Friday	27	May	4.15 pm
<i>Transition Meeting for Shell</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>June</i>	<i>5.00 pm</i>
<i>Shell Parents' Meeting</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>June</i>	<i>6.30 pm</i>
Half Term ends	Thursday	2	June	8.00 pm
<i>Transition Meetings for Pringle (including Third Form)</i>	<i>Saturday</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>June</i>	<i>12.00 pm</i>
<i>Transition Meetings for Fifth Form/Middle Years Gathering</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>June</i>	<i>6.00 pm</i>
Summer Term ends	Saturday	2	July	1.00 pm

Fees

School fees include tuition, 24-hour supervision and care, meals (and snacks), laundry (excluding dry-cleaning), travel for school matches and careers counselling. School fee accounts will also include charges for 'Extra Items'. Most charges for 'Extra Items' are added to fee notes in the term following the activity for which the charge is raised.

Means-tested Financial Assistance

Where parental income is not sufficient to allow the pupil to attend Merchiston, parents may apply for means-tested assistance, which may be up to 100% of the day or boarding fees depending upon financial circumstances. Assistance is normally offered from Year 8 (Scottish S1) upwards.

Applicants' parents will be asked to complete a confidential Statement of Financial Circumstances. In this way, Merchiston strives to ensure that financial

assistance is used to widen access to the School and to assist the greatest number of parents who require support. The School may also assist parents with applications to external trust funds, such as the Royal National Children's Foundation, for additional financial support where appropriate. Further information about financial planning for school fees, applying for scholarships and assistance, and support from Educational Trust Funds is also available from the Independent Schools Council Information Service website.

A 10% discount is offered to serving members of HM Forces, and to members of the clergy. There is a rebate of 5% for a second son, and 20% for a third son in the School at the same time. Additionally, Merchiston operates joint fee schemes with Kilgraston School in Perthshire, Queen Margaret's School in York and St George's School for Girls in Edinburgh.

Registration of entry (non-refundable) £100 (at initial registration).

General Deposit (UK Domiciled Students) £800 (payable on entry with the first term's fees). The balance of the General Deposit will be refunded upon completion of a boy's career at Merchiston, less any extra charges incurred during his final term at the School.

General Deposit (International Students and non-UK domicile) £5,000 will be charged to all pupils normally resident outside the United Kingdom. The deposit will be refunded upon completion of a boy's career at Merchiston, less any extra charges incurred during the final term at the School. The International Student Deposit is payable by 1 January in the year of entry, or at acceptance of a place.

Fees from September 2015

Merchiston Juniors			
J4, J5 and I Form		II and III Form	
Boarding	£6,345 per term	Boarding	£7,375 per term
5 Night Package	£5,985 per term	3 Night Package	£6,290 per term
3 Night Package	£5,410 per term	Day	£5,130 per term
Day	£4,540 per term *		
Merchiston Juniors		Senior School	
Merchiston Juniors (J4-III Form)		IV Form and above	
Rate per Night	£40 Sunday - Thursday	Boarding	£9,900 per term
Rate per Night	£45 Friday & Saturday	Day	£7,315 per term
Weekend Rate	£80 (2 nights)	Rate per Night	£45

Specialist Academies	
Tennis Academy	add £1,170 per year
Golf Academy	Elite Squad - add £2,030 per year
	Development Squad - add £1,100 per year

A premium is charged for direct entry into Sixth Form, equivalent to 5% of the Senior School boarding fee for each of the two Sixth Form years.

Extra charges A comprehensive list of Extra Items is available from the Bursar's office. The most common are:

English for Speakers of Other Languages: £185 per term

Music Lessons: £17.50 per half hour lesson

In addition to the deposit, the following extra item charges may appear on your first fee note:

Visa Charges

Confirmation of Acceptance for Study (CAS) assignment and courier fees for visa documentation. The Visa and Immigration Service charges £14 for the generation of a CAS (correct in 2015). Courier fees may vary according to location.

* The Juniors day pupil fee includes all provision for pupils from 8.00am until a flexible pick-up time (4.30 - 6.30pm), with two meals if required and Saturday Morning club when applicable.

Insurance(s)

Some insurance premiums (Personal Accident, Personal Effects and Denplan) are **automatically added to the first fee note**, and we strongly recommend that these items are covered in some way. If these policies are not required (eg because they are covered by your own insurance), please advise the Assistant Bursar, Caroline McIntosh, **in writing**, that you do not wish to take out the School's suggested policies.

Co-Curricular: Various co-curricular activities run at the School are included in the fees, but certain outings and activities are charged as extras. Major trips, tours and expeditions are charged as extra items on pupils' accounts. Parents will generally be notified of the cost of these in advance and can choose whether or not to allow their sons to participate.

Dry-cleaning: Laundry is included in the fees, but any dry-cleaning will be charged to a pupil's account.

Books and Stationery: Pupils can purchase items from the School shop (open 10.30am - 2.30pm Monday to Friday) and these will be charged to their accounts at the end of each term. Parents fill in a form setting the limit for this for both stationery and books. If you have a bookshop query, please email Mrs Loata Millard at lnm@merchiston.co.uk

School Transport: Where possible, School transport will be available (mornings only) within parts of Edinburgh and East Lothian. Priority is given to pupils in Merchiston Juniors and places are offered on a first-come-first-served basis. There is a moderate daily charge for transport. This service may, in due course, be extended to other areas. Please see the website for details of current routes available.

For further details, please contact:

The Assistant Bursar (Finance), Caroline McIntosh - Tel: +44 (0)131 312 2217 Fax: +44 (0)131 441 5952 Email: cmcintosh@merchiston.co.uk

Uniform

Merchiston has its own dedicated shop which will supply **ALL** items of uniform and will also supply books and stationery. It does not supply footwear apart from some pre-owned sports shoes which can be found in the School Uniform Exchange Shop alongside other second hand uniform items in good order.

The School shop will be open Monday to Friday between 10.30am and 2.30pm during term time. Pupils can visit the shop, with their Housemaster's permission, and items can be added to your School account. Any additional opening times will be published out with this information.

Most parents like to start buying their son's uniform quite early. If you have any

queries about the uniform list, please do not hesitate to contact Marta Cordingley at the Merchiston School Shop or the Admissions Department using the details below.

If you would like to visit the shop outwith the opening times during term, please contact Marta Cordingley on 0131 312 2253 (during shop hours) or email her at schoolshop@merchiston.co.uk. During the Summer holidays please contact either the Main School Reception on 0131 312 2200 or reception@merchiston.co.uk or the Admissions Office on 0131 312 2204 or kwilson@merchiston.co.uk who will be pleased to help you.

Merchiston Juniors Uniform List (J4 - Third Form) - 2015-2016

**ALL CLOTHES MUST BE CLEARLY NAMED WITH NAMETAPES. A SUPPLY OF SPARE NAMETAPES FOR NEW PURCHASES IS REQUIRED.
CLOTHES SHOULD BE IN GOOD CONDITION AND FIT PROPERLY.**

Everyday Wear	PE & Swimming Kit	Other Sports Kit
<input type="checkbox"/> 6 white shirts	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 pair Merchiston PE shorts	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 towel
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 pairs charcoal dark grey long trousers	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Merchiston Juniors PE top	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Merchiston games holdall
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Merchiston Juniors tie	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 pair Merchiston swimming trunks	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 pair shin pads
<input type="checkbox"/> 6 pairs dark charcoal grey socks	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 towel	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 pair cross trainers (multipurpose) for general use and should be a neutral colour
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 pair plain black leather (non-matt) lacing shoes (J4/J5 Pupils may wear secure Velcro fastening shoes - no slip ons)	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 pair goggles	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 pair non-marking cross trainers for indoor use and should be a neutral colour
	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Merchiston Juniors tracksuit top (1/4 zip)	
	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 pair Merchiston tracksuit trousers	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Merchiston Juniors fleece and a navy raincoat or cagoule (J4/J5 only)	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 pairs white sports socks	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 pair navy blue jogging trousers for outdoor play
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 V-neck navy blue pullover (optional)	<b style="background-color: #d9e1f2;">Rugby Kit	<b style="background-color: #d9e1f2;">Cricket Kit (not needed until Summer Term)
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 regulation blazer (I - III Form only)	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 pairs red rugby socks with garters	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Merchiston cricket shirt
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Merchiston waterproof jacket (I - III Form only)	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 navy blue Merchiston rugby jerseys	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Merchiston white cricket underskinz (optional)
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Merchiston backpack	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 light blue Merchiston rugby shirts	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 cricket box
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 pair navy blue gloves and hat (optional)	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 navy blue Merchiston rugby shorts	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 cricket cap
<b style="background-color: #d9e1f2;">Formal Wear (not J4/J5 Day Pupils)	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 mouthguard (OPRO Scheme available - also available in the School shop)	<b style="background-color: #d9e1f2;">Items for II & III Form team members ONLY
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 tartan kilt (choice of tartan)	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 navy blue long sleeve underskinz (optional)	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 pair long white cricket trousers
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 tweed or black kilt jacket	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 navy blue long sleeve underskinz (optional)	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 pair white cricket shoes (1XI only)
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 pair of kilt socks (colour appropriate to kilt jacket ie green lovat jacket/ green lovat socks)	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 navy blue legging underskinz or 1 navy blue support underskinz shorts (optional)	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 blue cricket helmet (1XI only)
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 sporran	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 pair black rugby boots with screw in or moulded rugby studs (soccer studs not acceptable)	<b style="background-color: #d9e1f2;">Athletics Kit
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 set garters and flashes		<input type="checkbox"/> 1 blue Merchiston athletics vest (only required if competing)

Stationery in a pencil case (clearly named)		
<input type="checkbox"/> 15 cm & 30cm ruler	<input type="checkbox"/> Protractor	<input type="checkbox"/> Fountain or roller ball pen (not J4/J5)
<input type="checkbox"/> Rubber & pencil sharpener	<input type="checkbox"/> Calculator (not J4/J5)	<input type="checkbox"/> Laptop Computer (III Form only)
<input type="checkbox"/> HB writing & colouring pencils	<input type="checkbox"/> Full geometry set (not J4/J5)	<input type="checkbox"/> Old shirt for art work (named)

Boarding Requirements and Naming of Kit		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 spare pair black shoes	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 pair slippers	<input type="checkbox"/> Toiletries including brush and comb (no aerosols)
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 extra white shirts and 1 spare tie	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 towels	<input type="checkbox"/> Shoe cleaning kit
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 extra pairs of dark grey socks	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 duvet with 2 covers	<input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate nightwear (dressing gown optional)
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 extra pair of dark charcoal grey trousers	<input type="checkbox"/> Pillow and pillowcases (optional)	<input type="checkbox"/> Handkerchiefs or a box of tissues
<input type="checkbox"/> 8 sets underwear	<input type="checkbox"/> 6 coat hangers with a bar	

CASUAL WEAR

Pupils in all year groups are permitted to wear casual clothes at weekends and in the evenings. On occasion, pupils will be required to wear Smart Casuals: one pair of smart trousers (not jeans or jogging bottoms); a collared shirt (polo shirts are acceptable); shoes or loafers (not trainers, canvas shoes, sandals or flip flops).

NAME TAPES

A supply of spare sew-in and printed (shoe) labels must also be provided for your son's Housekeeper at the beginning of each year. If any pupil does NOT have spare labels, the School reserves the right to order these on your behalf. **We would recommend you order 100 name tapes.**

LAUNDRY

All School/smart shirts, handkerchiefs and duvet covers are sent to an outside laundry. School jackets, kilts, trousers (whether or not washable), sweaters (whether or not washable), and ties are dry cleaned and charged to your son's account. Underwear, socks, casual clothes, rugby and sports kit are laundered at our on-site laundry. However, it is recommended that pupils do not bring to School clothes that require specialised laundering facilities. Hand washing of garments is not feasible.

ALL ITEMS MUST BE CLEARLY NAMED AND NO EXTENSIVE MENDING CAN BE UNDERTAKEN AT SCHOOL.

Middle Years Uniform List (Fourth, Shell & Fifth Forms) - 2015-2016

**ALL CLOTHES MUST BE CLEARLY NAMED WITH NAMETAPES. A SUPPLY OF SPARE NAMETAPES FOR NEW PURCHASES IS REQUIRED.
CLOTHES SHOULD BE IN GOOD CONDITION AND FIT PROPERLY.**

Everyday Wear	PE & Swimming Kit	Other Sports Kit
<input type="checkbox"/> 6 white shirts	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 pair Merchiston PE shorts	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 towel
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 pairs of dark charcoal grey long trousers with black belt if needed	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Merchiston PE top	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Merchiston games holdall
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 regulation blazer	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 pair Merchiston swimming trunks	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 pair shin pads
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Middle Years tie	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 towel	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 pair trainers for general use and should be a neutral colour
<input type="checkbox"/> 6 pairs of dark grey socks	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 pair goggles	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 pair non-marking trainers for indoor use and should be a neutral colour
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 pair plain black leather (non-matt) lacing shoes	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Merchiston tracksuit top (full zip)	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 pair navy blue jogging trousers
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 V-neck navy blue pullover (optional)	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 pair Merchiston tracksuit trousers	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 waterproof Merchiston jacket	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 pairs white sports socks	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Merchiston backpack	Rugby Kit	Cricket Kit (not needed until Summer Term and only for those playing team cricket)
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 pair navy blue gloves and hat (optional)	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 pairs red rugby socks with garters	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Merchiston cricket shirt
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 scarf (optional)	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 navy blue Merchiston rugby shirts	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Merchiston white cricket underskinz (optional)
Formal Wear	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 light blue Merchiston rugby shirts	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 cricket sweater (long or short sleeve - optional)
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 tartan kilt (choice of tartan)	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 navy blue Merchiston rugby shorts	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 pairs long white plain socks
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 tweed or black kilt jacket	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 mouthguard (OPRO scheme available - also available in the School shop)	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 cricket box
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 pair of kilt socks (colour appropriate to kilt jacket ie green lovat jacket / green lovat socks)	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 navy blue long sleeve underskinz	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 pair white cricket trousers
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 sporran	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 navy blue legging underskinz or 1 navy blue underskinz shorts	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 pair white cricket shoes (1XI only)
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 set garters and flashes	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 pair black rugby boots with screw in or moulded rugby studs (soccer studs are not acceptable)	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 blue cricket helmet (1XI only)
		Athletics Kit
		<input type="checkbox"/> 1 blue Merchiston athletics vest (only required if competing)

Stationery in a pencil case (clearly named)		
<input type="checkbox"/> 15 cm & 30cm ruler	<input type="checkbox"/> Protractor	<input type="checkbox"/> Fountain or roller ball pen
<input type="checkbox"/> Rubber & pencil sharpener	<input type="checkbox"/> Calculator	<input type="checkbox"/> Laptop Computer
<input type="checkbox"/> HB writing & colouring pencils	<input type="checkbox"/> Full geometry set	<input type="checkbox"/> Old shirt for art work (named)

Boarding Requirements and Naming of Kit		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 spare pair black shoes	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 pair slippers	<input type="checkbox"/> Toiletries including brush and comb (no aerosols in IV and Shell)
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 extra white shirts	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 towels	<input type="checkbox"/> Shoe cleaning kit
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 extra pairs of dark grey socks	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 duvet with 2 covers	<input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate nightwear (dressing gown optional)
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 extra pair of dark charcoal grey trousers	<input type="checkbox"/> Pillow and pillowcases	<input type="checkbox"/> Handkerchiefs or a box of tissues
<input type="checkbox"/> 8 sets underwear	<input type="checkbox"/> 6 coat hangers with a bar	

CASUAL WEAR

Pupils in all year groups are permitted to wear casual clothes at weekends and in the evenings. On occasion, pupils will be required to wear Smart Casuals: one pair of smart trousers (not jeans or jogging bottoms); a collared shirt (polo shirts are acceptable); shoes or loafers (not trainers, canvas shoes, sandals or flip flops).

NAME TAPES

A supply of spare sew-in and printed (shoe) labels must also be provided for your son's Housekeeper at the beginning of each year. If any pupil does NOT have spare labels, the School reserves the right to order these on your behalf. **We would recommend you order 100 name tapes.**

LAUNDRY

All School/smart shirts, handkerchiefs and duvet covers are sent to an outside laundry. School jackets, kilts, trousers (whether or not washable), sweaters (whether or not washable), and ties are dry cleaned and charged to your son's account. Underwear, socks, casual clothes, rugby and sports kit are laundered at our on-site laundry. However, it is recommended that pupils do not bring to School clothes that require specialised laundering facilities. Hand washing of garments is not feasible.

ALL ITEMS MUST BE CLEARLY NAMED AND NO EXTENSIVE MENDING CAN BE UNDERTAKEN AT SCHOOL.

Sixth Form Uniform List (Lower and Upper Sixth Form) - 2015-2016

**ALL CLOTHES MUST BE CLEARLY NAMED WITH NAMETAPES. A SUPPLY OF SPARE NAMETAPES FOR NEW PURCHASES IS REQUIRED.
CLOTHES SHOULD BE IN GOOD CONDITION AND FIT PROPERLY.**

Everyday Wear	PE & Swimming Kit	Other Sports Kit
<input type="checkbox"/> Lower Sixth - 5 white shirts	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 pair Merchiston PE shorts	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 towel
<input type="checkbox"/> Upper Sixth - minimum 2 white shirts. Mid to light blue or pastel shirts may also be worn	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Merchiston PE top	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Merchiston games holdall
<input type="checkbox"/> 6 pairs dark grey/black plain socks	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 pair Merchiston swimming trunks	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 pair shin pads
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 (minimum) dark suit - black, dark charcoal grey (not light grey or navy blue) colour (no pin stripes)	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 towel	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 pair cross trainers for general use and should be a neutral colour
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 pair plain black leather (non-matt) lacing shoes or non-buckled (non-matt) slip on shoes	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 pair goggles	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 pair non-marking trainers for indoor use and should be a neutral colour
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Merchiston waterproof jacket	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Merchiston tracksuit top (full zip)	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 pair navy blue jogging trousers
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Sixth Form tie	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 pair Merchiston tracksuit trousers	Cricket Kit (not needed until Summer Term and only for those playing team cricket)
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 v-neck pullover - dark green, grey, dark red or navy blue	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 pairs white sports socks	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Merchiston logo hat (optional)	Rugby Kit (if required)	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 pair navy blue gloves (optional)	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 pair red rugby socks with garters	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Merchiston cricket shirt
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 School scarf (optional)	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 navy blue Merchiston rugby shirt	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 cricket sweater (long or short sleeve - optional)
Formal Wear	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 light blue Merchiston rugby shirt	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 pairs long white plain socks
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 tartan kilt (choice of tartan)	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 pair navy blue Merchiston rugby shorts	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 cricket box
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 tweed or black kilt jacket	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 mouthguard (OPRO Scheme available - also available in the School shop)	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 cricket cap
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 pair kilt socks (cream socks for evening functions only or green jacket / green socks. See etiquette for wearing kilts)	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 navy blue long sleeve underskinz	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 pair long white cricket trousers
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 sporran	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 navy blue legging underskinz or 1 navy blue support underskinz shorts	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 pair white cricket shoes
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 set garters and flashes	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 pair black rugby boots with screw in or moulded rugby studs (soccer studs not acceptable)	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 blue cricket helmet (compulsory)
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 pair lace up black, formal shoes		Athletics Kit
		<input type="checkbox"/> 1 blue Merchiston athletics vest (only required if competing)
Stationery		
<input type="checkbox"/> Pencil case with pens etc	<input type="checkbox"/> Books determined by teachers	<input type="checkbox"/> Old shirt for art work (named)
<input type="checkbox"/> File paper	<input type="checkbox"/> Laptop Computer	
Boarding Requirements and Naming of Kit		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 spare pair black shoes	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 pair slippers	<input type="checkbox"/> Toiletries including brush and comb
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 extra shirts	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 towels	<input type="checkbox"/> Shoe cleaning kit
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 extra pairs of dark socks	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 duvet with 2 covers	<input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate nightwear
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 extra suit	<input type="checkbox"/> Pillow and pillowcases	<input type="checkbox"/> Handkerchiefs or a box of tissues
<input type="checkbox"/> 8 sets underwear	<input type="checkbox"/> 6 coat hangers with a bar	

CASUAL WEAR

Pupils in all year groups are permitted to wear casual clothes at weekends and in the evenings. On occasion, pupils will be required to wear Smart Casuals: one pair of smart trousers (not jeans or jogging bottoms); a collared shirt (polo shirts are acceptable); shoes or loafers (not trainers, canvas shoes, sandals or flip flops).

NAME TAPES

A supply of spare sew-in and printed labels must also be provided for your son's Housekeeper at the beginning of each year. If any pupil does NOT have spare labels, the School reserves the right to order these on your behalf. **We would recommend you order 100 name tapes.**

LAUNDRY

All School/smart shirts, handkerchiefs and duvet covers are laundered in house. School jackets, kilts, trousers (whether or not washable), sweaters (whether or not washable), and ties are dry cleaned and charged to your son's account. Underwear, socks, casual clothes, rugby and sports kit are laundered at our on-site laundry. However, it is recommended that pupils do not bring to School clothes that require specialised laundering facilities. There are also washing machines available for personal use.

ALL ITEMS MUST BE CLEARLY NAMED AND NO EXTENSIVE MENDING CAN BE UNDERTAKEN AT SCHOOL.

What Now?

How do I arrange a visit to Merchiston?

The easiest way is to contact the Admissions Office:

- Admissions Manager, Mrs Kay Wilson on +44 (0) 131 312 2201
admissions@merchiston.co.uk

She will be pleased to arrange for you to visit the School at a convenient time, either by a personal tour, or at one of our Information Mornings, which take place three times a year.

How can I register my son at Merchiston?

Simply fill in the registration form supplied with the prospectus, or on the website, and send it to the School, together with the appropriate registration fee and a copy of your son's birth certificate and a copy of the identification page of his passport (where available).

International applicants are asked to submit copies of their son's most recent school reports with their application.

Can I speak to the Headmaster directly?

Yes. You can telephone the Headmaster's PA on +44 (0)131 312 2203 during office hours (9.00am - 5.00pm), Monday to Friday, during term time. If you are unable to speak to the Headmaster immediately, he will return your call as soon as possible. E-mail: headmaster@merchiston.co.uk; website: www.merchiston.co.uk; fax: 0131 441 6060.

Notes

A Boarding and Day School for Boys aged 7-18.

Merchiston Castle School, Colinton Road, Edinburgh, EH13 0PU, Scotland

Tel: 0131 312 2200 Web: www.merchiston.co.uk Email: admissions@merchiston.co.uk

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