



Headlines from the Hall **8 October 2018**

Dear Merchant Taylor

As the fog rolls in and the marquee goes up again in the Courtyard, your new Master and his Wardens are settling in nicely at the Hall, ready to do great things this year. Their first meeting was last week, and they were all smiles.

Royal Parks Half Marathon - 14th October



Royal Parks Foundation
Half Marathon

Four of our members are running in aid of the Livery and Freemen Fund, and last week's sponsorship link was faulty, apologies. If you would like to sponsor one of them, please click [here](#). Our runners are:

- Liveryman Max Carter
- Freeman Rachel Eggar
- Apprentice Alice Mills
- Apprentice Jack Featherby

Christmas Oratorio - 10th December

When we mentioned this before, it felt really far away. Now it suddenly doesn't. Please put this date in your diary as this is going to be a fabulous Christmassy evening. We are hosting the Kilgour Consort, an ensemble of the finest young singers and professional baroque instrumentalists from the University of Cambridge and London's conservatoires, who will be performing four movements of Bach's Christmas Oratorio, his festive masterpiece, along with four exceptional soloists.

It will be directed by Alexander Hamilton (OMT), current organ scholar of Westminster Abbey. Timings are 7 - 9.30pm in the Great Hall with a drink on arrival, an interval and paybar. Everyone is welcome, please bring family and friends and spread the word among your music (and Christmas) lovers.

Details of how to buy tickets will be released later this week.

The Livery Schools Link Volunteering Platform

Giving back and volunteering is an important part of being a member of a livery company.

We are positively supporting the [**Livery Schools Link \(LSL\) Volunteering Platform**](#) - a website that allows teachers and schools to put out requests for volunteers and links them to a database of suitable skillsets among liverymen.

The Merchant Taylors' associated schools have been encouraged to sign up, and we would encourage our members to do so as well. We feel it important to collectively grow the support for this initiative across all livery companies and gain this platform a critical mass. Registering as a possible volunteer does not commit yourself to specific volunteering, but you will be able to see the options available and make your own choice.



Many young people in school struggle to find careers they are interested in; as people with successful careers and different stages of experience, we can help by going into schools and inspiring them to explore our career paths or skillsets.

How to Register

Go to www.liveryschoolslink.org.uk, click the 'sign up' button at the top right of the page. Fill in the basic information about yourself and your interests. As schools publish opportunities, they will email you with any that match your profile. You respond if you are interested and the school will be in touch. The rest is up to you!

The Master and Mistress visit Brightwell-cum-Sotwell CofE Primary School

Brightwell Primary School is now in its second year as an academy under the newly formed Merchant Taylors' Oxfordshire Academy Trust, which was formed by the Merchant Taylors' Company and our associated school and Brightwell's close neighbour, Wallingford School. After a number of very turbulent years, with low results and morale, Brightwell Primary has been transformed in to a positive and productive place - for example, reading rates which were in the 98th percentile have moved to the top 1% in that one year.

The Master and Mistress went to visit the school last week, and met the headteacher, Fin Lewis, who moved across from deputy head of Wallingford in September 2017. They were accompanied by the Clerk, Mrs Clink and the Education Officer.



"It's remarkable what Fin and her staff have achieved," says the Master. "The staff, the children and the parents are happy, confident and enthusiastic. Fin thanked the Company for what we've done - she says our intervention and our funding has completely changed the school and its community. We forget what an essential part of the community a school is. It's wonderful that we've been able to make such a great difference."

Livery Briefing - October 2018

The City Livery Committee have asked Livery Companies to circulate the very informative monthly briefing which you can see [here](#).

**To find out more, or to add an MT event to these listings, please contact
Georgina Annett at gannett@merchant-taylors.co.uk or on 020 7450 4452.**

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