



# ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

*To lead those in our care to grow in their faith and to benefit from an enriching education*



# WELCOME

*to St Thomas More Catholic School*

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I am delighted that you have shown an interest in St Thomas More Catholic School, a forward thinking yet traditional mixed secondary school with a growing reputation for high standards and excellent student behaviour.

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Our recent improvements, celebrated in the press and local media, are founded upon the strong Catholic ethos that permeates the school and focuses upon spiritual development. We believe that every child is capable of exceeding expectations and that a well-ordered and disciplined climate of learning facilitates success for all.

We have a great deal to celebrate in terms of outstanding examination results at both GCSE and A level. We take our responsibility for educating young people seriously and are proud of our achievements. We are blessed with a highly skilled team of teachers, teaching assistants and associate staff. Together with an effective Governing Body here, there is a shared determination and passion to strengthen our growing reputation and continue upon the path of progress.

At St Thomas More we value each student as unique and special. We make sure they are happy, feel safe, enjoy learning, work with enthusiasm and make a contribution to the life of the school. We believe we have something to offer all - whatever

their starting point and irrespective of the skills and abilities they possess. Although we have relatively small year groups, we are able to set and stream pupils to offer a genuine approach to personalised learning. We work hard to ensure students understand how to learn best and we make use of the latest technologies and teaching styles to ensure no one is left behind. We are quick to respond to issues that require intervention and place great store upon personal responsibility, integrity, manners and courtesy.

We prepare our students to stay on in our Sixth Form and it is important to us that when they leave they do so with a strong set of values and are polite, pleasant and ready to take their place as active citizens in a dynamic economy.

My invitation is for you to come and see our school and talk to the students and teachers. You will not be disappointed.

**Mr Martin Tissot, MA, MBA, NPQH**

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*'The school's good engagement with parents has been recognised through the Leading Parent Partnership Award.' Ofsted 2009*

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*The Highest Quality of*

## TEACHING & LEARNING

We are proud of our performance with students of all abilities, and our results show significant achievement at GCSE, A level and in vocational subjects, as well as a positive value added score.

This is a direct result of ensuring that teaching is stimulating and that students understand how to learn best. We recognise that children learn in various ways and so we are always seeking to use approaches, techniques and technologies which will maximise progress for all. Pupils are taught in sensibly-sized classes – grouped as appropriate, according to ability, aptitude and interest – to ensure that the individual's learning needs can be met. The work of teachers and subject departments is kept under regular review, so that we can be sure that students are getting the best opportunities for success.

As an 'Investor in People' we encourage our teachers to keep up to date with developments in their subject area and in the school curriculum.

We use a wide range of learning resources and subscribe to various online providers including 'SAM learning' accessible to our students from home. Our well-stocked Library/Learning Resources Centre plays an important role in the life of our school. Facilities are available for students to borrow books and literature for academic as well as recreational purposes or simply to study at lunchtime and after school!

*'Students make assessments of their own work and are clear about their targets and levels of performance.'* Ofsted 2009

*A School with an*

## INSPIRING CURRICULUM

At St Thomas More, we want to provide an educational experience which is broad, balanced, relevant and challenging.

At the same time we want to place extra emphasis on developing literacy and numeracy skills so in Key Stage three, extra time is devoted to these core subjects. We operate within the framework of the National Curriculum, while at the same time using the flexibility that this gives us to offer a programme which reflects and is responsive to the needs of our students. Our Gifted and Talented Programme identifies those students with particular gifts and provides them with opportunities to fly. In our mentoring programme, students are helped to focus upon ways to make the most of their talents.

The formal curriculum consists of twenty-five one hour periods per week. Four lessons take place in the morning and there is one lesson in the afternoon. Our after school curriculum consists of revision lessons for those taking public examinations and a host of clubs including a Youth Club.

At Key Stage four and five we offer an eclectic range of GCSE and vocational courses to suit the creative, sporting, practical and academic learner. These include Economics, Music, Sociology, Media and Psychology.

*'Students can choose from a wide range of vocational courses in addition to academic subjects at Key Stage four.'* Ofsted 2009



*Caring & Professional Approaches to*

## PASTORAL CARE

We have a well established and successful pastoral system that is designed to monitor and support students throughout their school career.

Pastoral care is initially in the hands of Form Tutors, who are the first line of contact for parents in their dealings with the school. They are led by Heads of Year who ensure that each child is able to make the most of the opportunities offered and, by so doing, reach the highest levels of attainment and personal development.

The promotion of our Catholic ethos is not just the province of the Religious Education Department but woven into the day to day practice of school life. Children are encouraged to develop their relationship with God and develop their awareness of the benefits and challenges of religious

commitment in daily life. Personal well-being and Citizenship are taught both through dedicated lessons and a programme of drop-down days which include religious retreats and health education.

If a student's behaviour or progress gives cause for concern, we will contact parents so that in partnership we can find ways to help the student to get back on track. Parents are advised regularly about academic progress by a system of half-termly assessments and annual parents' meetings. We also collaborate with the full range of outside support agencies to provide specialist help as and when required.

*'The Catholic ethos underpins students' good spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.'* Ofsted 2009



## *An Education for the* **FUTURE**

The School has a strong tradition in sporting and musical achievement and it is our intention that students move on after the Sixth Form either to University or to a career path that allows for progression and development.

Throughout school we emphasise the importance of confident self-presentation, good manners and a well-rounded education that broadens social and cultural horizons. Also we ensure a comprehensive careers education with a range of resources and speakers to help children make informed choices about their future. Visits to theatres, historical sites and places of interest are regular features of the curriculum and there is a Duke of Edinburgh's Award programme that allows participation in expedition trips. We also have strong international links and a programme which has seen visits to China and Russia in recent years.

Our Sixth Formers make a significant contribution to the life of the School. In Year 12 students have the opportunity to support younger students in

their learning through paired reading or in-class support, to raise money for Christmas presents for children in care, to organise community events and to support projects in the developing world.

We are assiduous in preparing our Sixth Form students for university with a programme that starts early in Year 12. Workshops preparing our students for their University applications are organised together with visits to partner universities, including those in the Russell Group.

Careers seminars are organised for our Year 13 students to allow them to explore a range of occupations and to match their personal skills and attributes to potential pathways.

*'Students are effective role models and make a good contribution to the community, for example through mentoring younger students.'* Ofsted 2009



# ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC SCHOOL



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



Healthy Schools





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