



St Thomas More Catholic School

Sixth Form



Introduction

St Thomas More Catholic School is one of the fastest improving schools in England and already has a reputation for its high standards and good Sixth Form results.

Making the choice about where to continue your studies after GCSEs is an important decision and we are delighted that St Thomas More Sixth Form is one of your options. We hope the information contained in this prospectus will answer some of your questions and help to inform your decision.

Our Sixth form is a large, vibrant community that prides itself on an inclusive and positive approach to personal development. As well as over 30 academic courses to choose from, a wide variety of enrichment and extra-curricular activities are also available to students.

We have high expectations and look for prospective students who have good attendance (in excess of 95%), punctuality and behaviour records and a positive work ethic. There is a smart Sixth Form dress code - suitable for an office environment - which all students are expected to follow.

Students tell us that they enjoy being in the Sixth Form, they appreciate the pastoral system and the support they are given and that they value the preparation for Higher Education programme, which is part of the Sixth Form offer. We hope that you will elect to choose us if you are looking for a more supportive environment.

The Governors have made a commitment to securing the highest quality of teaching to ensure continued good results.

I hope that you will decide to invest in your future by making an application to join our Sixth Form.



Mr Martin Tissot
Acting Headteacher



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




**ST. THOMAS MORE
CATHOLIC SCHOOL**
"A Specialist Sports College"
Acting Headteacher: Mr M. Hunt, MA, MBA
Tel: 020 8888 7122


ST THOMAS MORE SCHOOLS
SPORTS CENTRE
THOMAS MORE SCHOOL OF LEADERSHIP
AND COMMUNICATIONS STUDY



Teaching and Learning Philosophy

"Learning how to learn" begins when students make sense of where they are in their learning, where they are going and how to improve; in other words, when they start to become independent learners.

Students are encouraged to learn by:

- being resilient and resourceful;
- being responsible for their own learning;
- being well organised and well equipped;
- reflecting on their own learning;
- being interested and motivated in lessons;
- recognising and achieving success;
- being challenged and stimulated;
- understanding the task;
- being confident, feeling secure and aware of boundaries.

Students will be supported by committed teachers who are:

- responsible;
- learner focused;
- adaptable;
- challenging;
- experts in their field;
- organised and efficient;
- passionate about their subjects;
- inspirational;
- good communicators.

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

Aim

The aim of the Sixth Form is to provide an enriching education that is tailored to the needs of the individual learner. Part of this process is the confidence that students show in the support and guidance that they receive from a dedicated and committed team of teachers. This aim is achieved through a broad curriculum which allows students of varying abilities to enhance their learning and range of skills, as well as allowing them the space and time to mature as individuals and to contribute fully to the wider community. Students are supported in their choices. All prospective students either from this school or from other schools should be assured that St Thomas More Catholic School has a thorough induction process to help you make realistic and appropriate choices.

A strong emphasis is placed on pastoral care within the Sixth Form. Each student starting in Year 12 is assigned a form tutor with whom they spend the first 20 minutes of the school day. In addition to tutor time, the form tutor meets individually with each student every half term in a personal interview where academic and personal progress is discussed.

There is a Common Room and dedicated Sixth Form area well-equipped with study and leisure facilities available for student use and the new Library Learning Resources Centre has been set up specifically to cater for Sixth Form needs.

Compulsory private study is part of a Sixth Form commitment and all students are allocated supervised study time in the Library.

Students can participate in a number of trips including visits to plays, shows and galleries.

An Environment of Commitment

Hard work and private study are essential criteria for academic success and all prospective students should be very clear that at least 16 hours of study per week outside of lesson times will be necessary for success with their courses. There are clear implications here for part time employment as recent studies have shown that employment in excess of six hours every week leads to a significant drop in the level of the final grades achieved.

There is also a varied programme of Enrichment Activities to which students can subscribe. It is felt that these opportunities are vital in developing self-confidence, community awareness, leadership skills, self-esteem and softer 'Transferable Skills'. They also help prepare young people for the world of work and life in general. Emphasis is placed on Sixth Formers adopting leadership roles within the School.

The positive contribution the Sixth Formers make to the ethos of the School and the influence they have over younger students is greatly valued and many are Form Mentors.

A Catholic Community

The Sixth Form reflects and contributes to the Catholic life of the School and students are asked to respect this and to actively support it. All Sixth Form students attend a general RE Course and a General Studies Course. The RE Course covers moral and spiritual issues. There are opportunities to go on spiritual retreats and to become involved in Youth Christian Groups. Gospel values and spirituality underpin everything done in the Sixth Form and reflects what is best about it.

Academic Life

Sixth Form students have the advantage of studying only those subjects which really interest them. They study, in many cases, in smaller groups of like-minded students where the rewards of learning are high. However, the demands of studying at this level are also high and students find that this takes more, not less, of their time. As well as formal class work and homework students are expected to undertake independent study or background reading related to their chosen subjects, in the Library/Learning Resource Centre or the Common Room and much of this is supervised.

Pastoral Care and Enrichment

The Sixth Form represents a new beginning but students continue to benefit from the excellent standard of pastoral care at St Thomas More Catholic School. Tutors are highly experienced in the specific needs of post-16 students and, as well as supporting students through their time in the Sixth Form, offer guidance on the next phase of their lives, whether that is an application to University, seeking employment or taking a Gap Year.

The Pastoral programme in the Sixth Form is geared towards the needs of young adults and covers issues such as study techniques, preparation for University and managing finances, and a range of moral, social and ethical issues.

There are many extra curricular activities including clubs, participation in the schools' musical ensembles and dramatic productions and the highly successful Community Sports Leadership Award.

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





Entry Requirements

To enter the Sixth Form, students should have achieved a minimum of five GCSEs at Grade C or above, preferably including English and Maths, if intending to follow a Level 3 Course. Specific subjects at AS Level often require special entry criteria and this information can be found on the relevant subject insert.

There may be situations where individuals will be accepted with lower qualifications and consideration may be given in such circumstances. Without English and Mathematics at Grade C, or above, it is recommended that a Level 2 Course should be followed for a year and this may lead into a Level 3 Course in the following year.

Pathway 1: Level 2 Course:
BTEC ICT / Business with
GCSE English and GCSE Mathematics.

Pathway 2: Level 3 Course:
Stand Alone BTEC: Sport (Football).

Pathway 3: Level 3 Course:
Up to two BTEC subjects or one BTEC
subject plus two other subjects.
For students who mainly achieve Merits
in BTEC work or C grades in GCSE subjects.

Pathway 4: Level 3 Course:
Three AS subjects.
For students who mainly achieve
B or C grades in GCSE subjects.

Pathway 5: Level 3 Course:
Four AS subjects.
For student who mainly achieve
A* - B grades in GCSE subjects.

Subjects Available

Level 2

Business (BTEC)
English (GCSE)
IT (BTEC)
Mathematics (GCSE)

Level 3

Art and Design (AS/A2)
Biology (AS/A2)
Business (BTEC)
Chemistry (AS/A2)
Dance (AS/A2)
Drama and Theatre Studies (AS/A2)
Economics (AS/A2)
English Literature (AS/A2)
Geography (AS/A2)
Health and Social Care (BTEC)
History (AS/A2)
IT (BTEC)
Mathematics (AS/A2)
Media Production (BTEC)
Music (BTEC)
Psychology (AS/A2)
Religious Studies (AS/A2)
Sociology (AS/A2)
Sport (BTEC)
Sport (Football) (BTEC)

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





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