



ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC SCHOOL SIXTH FORM



Ofsted Outstanding

INTRODUCTION

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

St Thomas More Catholic School has a strong and well-established reputation for high standards and excellent 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 to have very good attendance (in excess of 95%), punctuality and behaviour records and a positive work ethic. There is a smart Sixth Form

dress code 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 value the intensive preparation for higher education, which is part of the Sixth Form offer. We hope that you will consider us if you are looking for a more supportive environment.

The Governors have made a commitment to secure the highest quality of teaching and extra support to ensure continuing 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, MA, MBA, NPQH
Executive Headteacher

‘...the school remains outstanding.’ Ofsted June 2019
‘The leadership and management are outstanding.’ Ofsted June 2013





AIM

The aim of the Sixth Form is to provide an enriching education that is tailored to the needs of the individual. There is a broad and varied curriculum choice which allows students of different abilities to enhance their learning and develop a range of skills. There are many opportunities for extra-curricular activities including sports, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, community service and a wide variety of other clubs. These facilitate a growing maturity and help students to understand the contribution they can make. All prospective students can be confident that the Sixth Form team will induct them thoroughly and help them to make realistic and appropriate subject choices.

Teaching & 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.

'Determined leadership continues to raise Sixth Form achievement.'

Ofsted June 2019



An Environment of

COMMITMENT

Tutors are highly experienced in meeting the specific needs of post-16 students. In addition to students day-to-day they offer guidance on progression whether that be in application to university, seeking employment or taking a gap year.

Each student 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 half-terminly for an informal interview to discuss academic and personal progress.

The pastoral curriculum includes preparation for higher education, money management and a range of moral, social and ethical themes.

Pastoral Care and

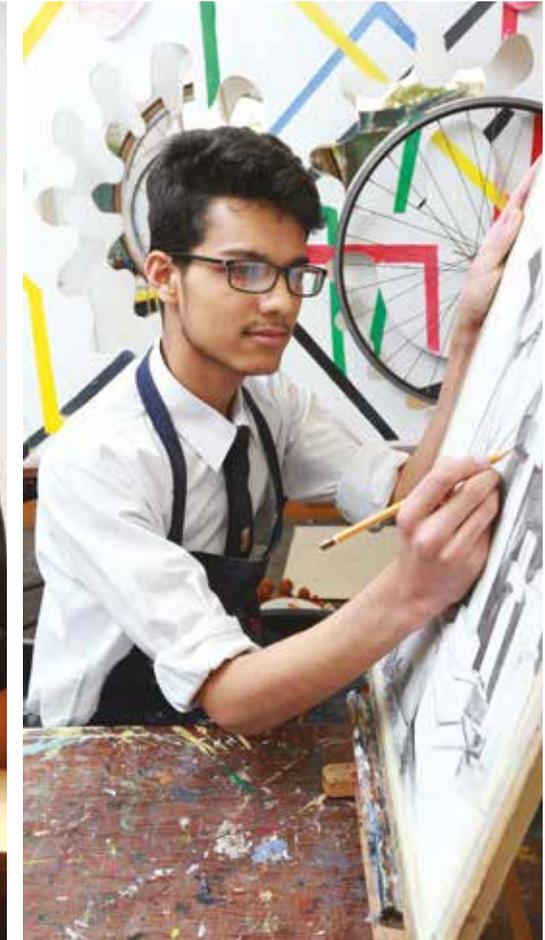
ENRICHMENT

Hard work and private study are essential prerequisites for academic success. All prospective students should be clear that they are expected to complete at least 4 hours of assignments per subject at home which amounts to 16 hours of private, at home studying per week. This is necessary for success in 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 choose to peer mentor individuals in lower year groups.



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 study a General RE Course. The programme of study covers a range of moral and spiritual issues. There are opportunities to go on retreat and to become involved in Youth Christian Groups. Gospel values and spirituality underpin everything done in the Sixth Form and reflect what is best about it.

Academic

LIFE

Sixth Form students will be studying subjects they have opted for and thus, by definition, will be studying subjects which really interest them. Classes are smaller and the atmosphere is one of collegiality and studious hard work. The demands of studying at this level are high. In addition to formal classwork and homework, students are required to undertake independent study and background reading in the Learning Resource Library or in the Common Room.

'Pupils' behaviour and approach to learning are excellent.' Diocese of Westminster 2018



Entry

REQUIREMENTS

To enter the Sixth Form, students should have achieved a minimum of five GCSE at Grade 4 or above, preferably including English and Maths, if intending to follow a Level 3 course. Specific subjects at A Level often require special entry criteria and this information can be found in relevant subject inserts.

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 4 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.

Subjects Available

Level 2 English (GCSE)
Mathematics (GCSE)

Level 3

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Art and Design (A Level) | Mathematics (A Level) |
| Biology (A Level) | Further Mathematics (A Level) |
| Business (BTEC & A Level) | Media Production (BTEC & A Level) |
| Chemistry (A Level) | Music (A Level) |
| Drama and Theatre Studies (A Level) | PE (A Level) |
| Economics (A Level) | Philosophy & Ethics (A Level) |
| English Literature (A Level) | Physics (A Level) |
| French (A Level) | Politics (A Level) |
| Geography (A Level) | Psychology (A Level) |
| Health & Social Care (BTEC) | Sociology (A Level) |
| History (A Level) | Spanish (A Level) |
| IT (BTEC & A Level) | Sport (BTEC) |

'All pupils benefit from high quality teaching.' Ofsted 2019



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