

# St Thomas More Catholic High School



## Curriculum Policy

Policy Written:

September 2022

**Adopted By Local Governing  
Committee**

**11/10/2022**

# Curriculum at St Thomas More Catholic High School

St Thomas More Catholic High School is a Catholic school and as such we strive to follow the example of Jesus Christ in our work, worship and relationships.

*"Educating is an act of love; it is like giving life." Pope Francis*

## Intent

At St Thomas More we believe that all students are entitled to a rich and broad curriculum that inspires real thinking and creates opportunities for deep and lasting learning. We know that access to a knowledge rich Curriculum can empower our students and believe that every student at St Thomas More deserves equity of challenge and opportunity; we are academically ambitious for all. Our Curriculum will broaden the horizons of all of our young people and equip them with the knowledge and skills to contribute with confidence to Society, so in the words of Oscar Romero they "Aspire not to have more, but to be more."



Our Curriculum will enable all of our students to meet our school's aim to "strive for the highest standards in all areas of activity" and "develop their full potential as human beings."

## Implement

### Key Stage 3:

STM students will receive a rich and varied three year offer with a strong choice of EBacc subjects within Years 7, 8 and 9. This formal curriculum is further enriched by a wide range of additional opportunities for learning and personal development including extra-curricular clubs and trips.

At subject level the National Curriculum is used as a starting point for core knowledge and our Heads of Department have identified and mapped the key skills, knowledge and understanding within their subject discipline to ensure progression across the curriculum.

At Key Stage 3 students will develop a joy of learning and the understanding, skills and confidence to thrive in a broad range of disciplines. Throughout Key Stage 3 there is recognition that challenge is for all, not just the most able pupils and at STM our evidence informed approach means that we use the STM Ten Tenets as Teaching and Learning strategies in all of our Classrooms.

The Key Stage 3 curriculum is taught in subject areas and an overview of each subject curriculum intent and journey is available on the school website.

## Key Stage 4:

At STM we share a moral imperative to prepare all of our students to thrive in our quickly changing world. At Key Stage 4 students continue to follow a broad and balanced curriculum that is suited to their individual needs. Although our offer is strongly Ebacc we also offer a growing choice of vocational qualifications and understand that each subject is uniquely important and therefore is equally valued.

The choice of GCSE or Level 2 qualifications that students take enables them to progress onto their next steps. All students without exception will study at GCSE;

- English Language

- English Literature

- RE

- Mathematics

- Science (either triple or combined)

- 3 x options subjects (incl. MFL, Geog, History and Level 2 Voc options)

Most students will also be encouraged to study a modern foreign language, and we have a high take up of French and German at GCSE. The study of a foreign language also offers insights into the culture and civilisations of countries and encourages positive attitudes and tolerance towards others.

We aspire for every student to complete Year 11 with the best set of GCSE/Level 2 qualifications to take them on to their next stage of learning whether this is Post 16 study, employment or training.

The Key Stage 4 curriculum is taught in subject areas and an overview of each subject curriculum intent and journey is available on the school website.

## Key Stage 5:

STM offers a wide range of A Level and Level 3 qualifications at Key Stage 5. As part of the weekly timetable, all sixth form students are required to take part in the PSHE and General RE programme details of the Key Stage 5 Curriculum can be seen in the Sixth Form Prospectus and on the school website.

In addition, we offer a comprehensive package of extra-curricular activities including sport, community activities incl. Reading support for younger students at STM and Charity work. In the sixth form, we regard this opportunity for students to gain wider experiences outside of their subject curriculum as an integral part of our provision at STM -we are ambitious for all of our students without exception and strongly believe in developing the 'whole person.'

### Impact

On a daily basis Teachers use formative assessment during every lesson which enables them to plan the next steps for each student. Teachers from all subjects assess against success criteria which enables them to regularly assess progress against the curriculum and to correct any misconceptions or revisit and consolidate knowledge if needed.

The impact of the curriculum is reviewed half termly -STM uses rigorous triangulated monitoring throughout the year to gauge the impact of the curriculum within all subjects. Senior Leaders link to Subject Leaders to monitor subjects half termly: using our Curriculum Conversations together we review learning through student and teacher conversations, work samples and lesson visits. Raising Achievement and Progress meetings support these Curriculum Conversations and explore Teacher assessed student data to track progress of all students and identify any cohorts where intervention is needed.

We celebrate positives and capture and share good practice across subjects and constructive feedback is given. Curriculum Action plans are made to improve the Curriculum, move practice forward, highlighting areas of development and any professional development needs – these are live documents as we know that "*Crafting a curriculum is iterative and there will never be a sense of having 'arrived'.*" ( Mary Myatt and John Tomsett - Huh)

### KS4 RESULTS 2022

There were 261 students on roll at the end of Year 11.

## Progress 8 Score

The school's indicative Progress 8 score is 0.14 (from national benchmarking by SISRA Analytics)

## Attainment Measures

Measure	St Thomas More	North Tyneside
Attainment 8 score	54.2	47.9
% English & Maths Grade 5+	58%	47%
% English & Maths Grade 4+	79%	67%
% Entered for the EBACC	53%	29%
EBACC average points score	4.8	4.1
% EBACC Grade 5+	35%	16%
% EBACC Grade 4+	46%	21%

## Pupil destinations

This measures the number of pupils who either stayed in education or training, or went into employment after Year 11. The data published in October 2021 is for pupils who finished Year 11 in 2019.

	St Thomas More	North Tyneside	England all schools
Pupils staying in education or starting employment for at least 2 terms after Year 11	98%	94%	94%

Each school has information about their performance published on the Department for Education's website. This allows parents to view their performance, characteristics, workforce, finance and Ofsted inspection outcomes.

Find the link to the Department for Education School Performance tables below:

[DfE School Performance Tables](#)

## KS5 Results 2022

There were 135 students on roll at the end of Year 13.

### KS5 Results 2022

Measure	St Thomas More
Average Point Score per Academic (A Level) Entry	40.4
% A*-A	39%
% A*-B	66%
% A*-E	99.7%
Average Point Score per Applied (Vocational) Entry	38.8
% Dist.*- Dist.	78%
% Dist.*- Merit	97%
% Dist.*- Pass	100%

### Retention

The last official figures are from 2019 where our retention rates from the start of Year 12 through to the end of A Level is 97.4% compared to 87.9% in North Tyneside, and 83.0% for Applied courses compared to 82.9%. Our attendance rates are also excellent at over 95%.

### Destinations

From 2019 figures 91% of students progressed and stayed in education or training compared to 87% in North Tyneside and 81% nationally.

Each school has information about their performance published on the Department for Education's website. This allows parents to view their performance, characteristics, workforce, finance and Ofsted inspection outcomes.

Find the link to the Department for Education School Performance tables below:

[DfE School Performance Tables](#)