



St Thomas More
Catholic High School

PROSPECTUS



*“We strive to follow the example of Jesus Christ in our Work, Worship and Relationships.”
- School Mission Statement*



WE ARE A COMMUNITY BASED ON CHRISTIAN VALUES

01

The challenge of encouraging children to develop to their full potential goes far beyond examination results, which only measure one aspect of the individual.

At St Thomas More we also seek to promote their spiritual, social and emotional growth, providing them with many opportunities for their personal development, preparing our students to be fulfilled in their lives and to make a positive contribution to their communities.

The school's mission is to provide a welcoming community based on the Christian values of love, justice, peace, truth and tolerance.

This is achieved through the spiritual and religious values we promote, the emphasis on positive relationships and by encouraging involvement and participation, both in lessons and in the very wide extra-curricular programme offered by the school.

This work is supported by all staff and students at the school, and through the work of our dedicated School Chaplain, who provides a living faith presence for all students. There are regular prayer opportunities for staff and students, year group assemblies and faith-based encounters including retreats.

The interpretation of Christian values is explored through music, art, drama, dance and language, keeping faith alive within the school, encouraging daily witness and acknowledgement of God's presence in our lives.

The school is also blessed with support and leadership from our Partnership Priests, who visit school regularly to celebrate Mass with students and staff.

As part of the Bishop Bewick Catholic Education Trust, we collaborate with other Catholic schools and are able to provide students with the chance to work beyond the confines of our school, to develop as young people in the wider community.



***“Chaplaincy provision is exceptional and inspires students to take leading roles in shaping the Catholic life and mission of the school.”
- Diocesan Inspection 2023***



*“There is warmth and friendliness at St Thomas More Catholic High School.”
- Ofsted 2023*



“Pastoral care is the bedrock of the school. Students are known by name and cared for deeply. The most vulnerable students are prioritised in a community where all feel valued.” - Diocesan Inspection 2023



WE ARE A SECURE AND WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

02

We aim to ensure that everyone feels welcome in our school. Children joining us in Year 7 have the opportunity of visiting us at least once during the year before transfer, including two days of sample lessons.

We are very aware of the importance of strong parental support and of close partnership between home and school. As such, we have worked hard over the years to create a climate which is open and welcoming. We encourage parents to contact us with any information, questions or concerns about their children’s education.

While all teachers have an important role to play in the pastoral care and welfare of children, particular responsibility lies with the form tutor, who will see your child every day and will get to know each student individually. As well as dealing with important routine matters such as notices, uniform, absences, punctuality and homework, the form tutor will also encourage children to discuss any problems they might have, and will meet regularly with the Head of Year.

The Head of Year has overall responsibility for all students in a particular year group. They co-ordinate the work of the form tutors, and are the first point of contact for parents and carers. Each year group also has an Assistant Head of Year.

The Head of Year will remain with the year group for five years, which provides continuity and allows them to get to know the children really well.

These roles are supported by an Assistant Headteacher, a Senior Assistant Headteacher and a Deputy Headteacher who have responsibility for pastoral care, and are complemented by our extended Pastoral Support Team which includes Learning Mentors, an Attendance/Family Support Worker, Special Needs staff, a School Counsellor and the School Chaplain.

Children with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities are welcomed into our school community in the same way as any other child, and will be given support and assistance where required to help them achieve their potential. Teachers work closely with primary schools at transition, attend annual review meetings and plan support accordingly.

A philosophy of inclusion underpins all that we do at St Thomas More, and we work closely as a school team and with outside agencies to provide flexible and appropriate support for all students.



“Subject specialists have excellent subject knowledge, which allows pupils to make outstanding progress.”
- Diocesan Inspection 2023



WE ENCOURAGE STUDENTS TO STRIVE FOR THEIR BEST

03

We are committed to ongoing improvement and have an excellent track record in raising achievement at all levels. Our examination results at the end of KS4 and KS5 are consistently among the strongest in North Tyneside, enabling our students to progress to the next stage of their education.

The quality of our teaching and learning is something we pride ourselves on; teachers constantly strive to improve their practice to provide the best possible variety of lessons and to inspire our students to excel.

We provide a broad and balanced education tailored to meet the needs of all our children. This is supported by a full range of modern facilities and accommodation which cater for all aspects of the curriculum.

A programme of careers education is provided across all year groups. Children are encouraged to explore all avenues for their future, they learn to make informed choices, and our hope is that they move on to a future that is both fulfilling and enjoyable.

Students are guided through their curriculum choices at the end of Years 9 and 11, with an emphasis on them following a curriculum that keeps their options open.

Throughout their time at school, they have regular input from external speakers and one-to-one sessions with Connexions careers advisors, alongside experienced staff from the school. At the end of KS4 most of our students remain with us for Sixth Form, while others take up Apprenticeships or vocational courses at other colleges.

Our Sixth Form is very strong, with around 300 students on roll each year. We offer A Level and vocational qualifications in a wide range of subjects.

The percentage of our students that progress to Higher Education after they leave Sixth Form is very high, with many going on to study at Oxbridge and Russell Group universities. Those students who choose not to pursue Higher Education instead progress to employment or higher level Apprenticeships.

Full details of our post-16 provision is available in a separate Sixth Form Prospectus, which can be accessed on our website.



**ST THOMAS MORE
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL**



“The curriculum is ambitious for all pupils, who are well prepared for their future and are supported by a strong careers programme.”
- Ofsted 2023



WE PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR EVERYONE TO REACH THEIR POTENTIAL 04

The school provides an extensive range of extra-curricular activities for children, as well as many trips within the UK and abroad.

These are invaluable in providing students with opportunities to develop their talents and abilities, to gain self-confidence and to deepen their understanding of the world. They are particularly important in creating a sense of belonging to the school and strengthening good relationships with others, often building upon work covered through their academic studies.



“Students utilise the various opportunities provided to become positive role models for each other.”
- Diocesan Inspection 2023



“Students speak confidently about why they challenge injustice, care for the environment, and support the poorest and most vulnerable.”
- Diocesan Inspection 2023



WE FOSTER CONFIDENT AND RESPONSIBLE YOUNG PEOPLE

05

We want all our students to enjoy their time in school, to develop a sense of belonging, to be known and valued as individuals and to achieve highly. We also want them to develop a sense of respect for themselves, for other people, and for their society.

Our students are provided with numerous opportunities throughout their time at St Thomas More to engage with the wider community, including our annual St Thomas More Feast Day on June 22nd that is hosted within our Partnership parishes.

Our active School Council fosters leadership development in students of all ages and plays a key role in the planning and implementation of school events. As part of the school community all students are also encouraged to contribute articles to our quarterly newsletter 'More Life'.

We hope to develop young people's love of education, but also of service.

A range of charitable works is undertaken each year, including fundraising campaigns during Advent and Lent, charity days in school, as well as our annual Lourdes pilgrimage where Year 12 students are called to serve by supporting children with disabilities.

Upon leaving us, we hope they will go on to become positive citizens, equipped to face the challenges of our rapidly-changing world, sharing and promoting the Catholic values that we have instilled in them, and showing appreciation and respect for people of all faiths and traditions.

“The school encourages pupils to become responsible individuals who have an active part in society. A strength is how well pupils are taught about inclusivity and tolerance.” - Ofsted 2023



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