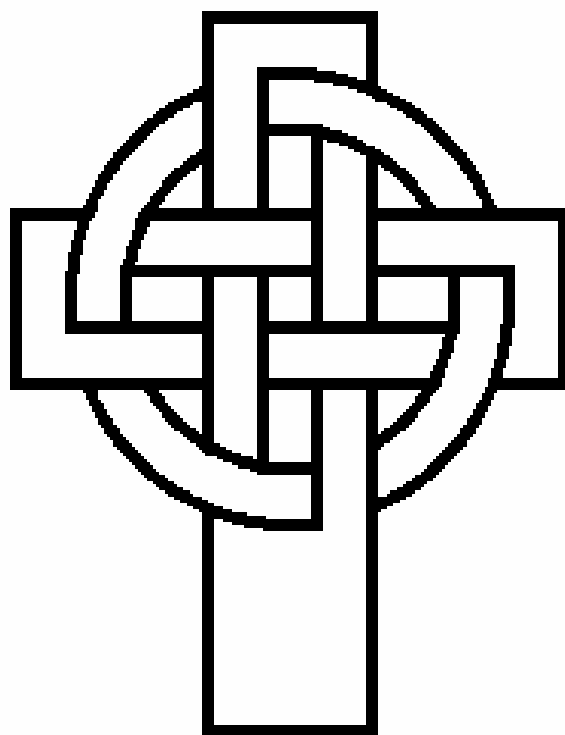


St Thomas More RC Sixth Form College



Prospectus 2010

*Students receive excellent support, guidance and advice.
OFSTED September 2007*

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North Shields
NE29 8LF
Website:
www.stmschool.org.uk**

Our Sixth Form

St. Thomas More Sixth Form aims to deliver high quality education in a supportive and welcoming environment, based on Christian values. We have high expectations of all students, placing great emphasis on individual achievement and on helping you to gain the best qualifications possible. We offer a broad and balanced curriculum, allowing you to develop academically, socially, personally and spiritually.

We are very much a community, providing help and support for each other in all ways. We strive for excellent relationships throughout the college, built on mutual trust, honesty and respect. With these adult relationships also come responsibilities and a strong work ethic.

We realise that Sixth Form is an important stage in a student's life and will strive to provide many opportunities for you to develop through a range of varied extra-curricular activities and pursuits.

We hope that all students enjoy their time here and also find it profitable and worthwhile. Our hope is that students leave us, well equipped in every way to make the best of their own lives but also the lives of others.

The new Post-16 Curriculum

We plan to offer courses in the subjects listed below, subject to viability. Most students will study 4 AS levels in year 12 and continue with 3 of their subjects in year 13, at A2 level. Some students may continue with all 4 subjects in year 13. Students passing AS and A2 in a particular subject will be awarded the full A level.

<i>'AS' level and 'A2' courses</i>	
Art & Design	Geography
Biology	Product Design
Business Studies	History
Chemistry	Information Technology
Ethics and Philosophy	Mathematics
English Language	Further Mathematics
English Literature	Psychology
English Lang/Lit	Physical Education
French	Physics
Food Technology	German
Textiles	Music

Applied A Levels *and Level 2 Qualifications*

These are nationally recognised qualifications which we also offer. The ICT level 2 course is equivalent to 4 GCSEs. The *Advanced* level is equivalent to two 'A' level passes if taken as a Full Award, and one 'A' level if taken as a Single Award.

Features of the Advanced Level/Intermediate approach are:

- ◆ modules of work
- ◆ emphasis on coursework and assignments
- ◆ related to particular vocational areas
- ◆ some work experience as part of the course

An example of Courses we have offered;

<i>Vocational Courses</i>	
Level 2	Level3 (Double Award)
Information Technology	Art & Design
	Business
	Health & Social Care
	BTEC Sports Development

GCSE re-sits

These will be available in English and Maths, taken in addition to full time courses.

What our Sixth Form Offers

- ◆ Excellent relationships, guidance and support, in a welcoming, Christian environment.
- ◆ Teaching and learning of the highest quality, confirmed by our impressive OFSTED inspection and strong academic performance
- ◆ Excellent results and course completion rates.
- ◆ Wide choice of courses to meet students' needs.
- ◆ Well-qualified, experienced, committed teachers of proven quality.
- ◆ Many opportunities to develop personal qualities, interpersonal skills and interests.
- ◆ Wide range of sports, social and cultural activities including residential trips in the UK and overseas.
- ◆ Excellent Higher Education support service and Careers guidance.
- ◆ Honest objective advice, always given in the best interests of the individual student.

The Student Week

<i>Main Course(s)</i>	Between 12 and 16 hours of lessons for most students.
<i>Personal , Social and Moral Education</i>	1 hour per week. The course prepares students for life beyond the Sixth Form by exploring a wide-range of moral and social issues with particular focus on human rights and global affairs.
<i>Enrichment</i>	2 hours per week. Examples of options we may offer/provide include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Photography• Culture Club• Sports Leadership Award• Community Service• Outdoor Pursuits• Spanish• Media• Racquet Sports• Enterprise
<i>General Studies</i>	1 hour per week. All year 12 students will study the AS level General Studies course. Student progress will be monitored with a series of assessments throughout the year. Most students will sit an AS General Studies exam in June.

Guidance and Support

Personal Tutors

- Support you in your academic studies
- Offer guidance and advice on a range of issues
- Help you prepare for Higher Education/Work
- Keep you well informed of what's going on
- Liase closely with your subject teachers

Head of Year/Head of Sixth Form

- Support and guide you throughout Sixth Form
- Support and lead the team of Personal Tutors
- Support committees, organise new initiatives
- Organise a range of extra-curricular activities
- Monitor progress, organise Parents' Evenings

Subject Teachers

- Experienced, approachable subject teachers provide ongoing support
- They keep in regular contact with your Personal Tutor
- They provide written Reviews giving detailed analysis of your progress in each subject

Opportunities and Activities

Employers and universities are seeking to recruit people not only with good academic qualifications, but also well developed personal qualities and interpersonal skills, including the ability to communicate well, show initiative, teamwork ability, leadership qualities, flexibility and reliability.

We offer a wide range of extra curricular activities which will provide you with opportunities to broaden your interests and develop some of these skills and attributes. In trying out new experiences you will learn a great deal about yourself and your abilities.

Enrichment

See activities offered on previous page.

Sport

There are several sporting activities for male and female students, with under-19 teams for football, netball, basketball, ultimate frisbee and badminton. Sixth Form sports tournaments are also organised and are an enjoyable way to meet new students and get to know staff who often participate.

Music and Drama

St Thomas More has a very good reputation for Music and Sixth Formers are encouraged to continue their musical interests in Orchestras, Bands, Choirs etc. Sixth Form students are playing influential roles in this year's school musical production.

Residential Trips and Cultural Activities

Residential experiences are invaluable in improving relationships, promoting self-awareness and learning how to live as a community. There are many residential experiences organised for Sixth Form students including Youth Hostelling and Field Work trips here and abroad. Visits to the theatre, art galleries, museums, science exhibitions and university lectures are frequent and popular with students. All students in Year 12 will have the opportunity to take part in the summer retreat to Ampleforth College in North Yorkshire.

Social Events

The student Social Committee arranges regular social events throughout the year. Many of these are organised as charitable fund-raising events, in collaboration with the Charities Committee. Among the social highlights are the Christmas Party and, in particular, the Leavers Ball for year 13 students at the Assembly Rooms in Newcastle.

Work Experience

All students are encouraged to undertake a week's work experience in year 12, organised either through Connexions, Tyneside Careers Service or by themselves. We also organise Student Shadowing days at local universities and students attend university Open days and Summer Schools.

Committees

We believe that students should contribute to the running of the College. We have several committees which offer students the opportunity to become involved in worthwhile activities.

The *Charities Committee* co-ordinates many charitable activities in which students become involved, supporting a wide range of good causes in the UK and overseas, including CAFOD, Oxfam, Amnesty International, the Shoe Box Appeal, Lepira and Barnardos.

The *Student Leadership Team* is an excellent forum for sharing ideas and allowing the student body a say in how the Sixth Form is run. Student members are elected to the Team annually and represent the views of their Tutor Group. Last Year the Team were instrumental in designing a new student Common room and work space.

In-class support

As evidence of their commitment to the wider community within St Thomas More, every year large numbers of students give up some of their free time to support younger

pupils and teachers in lessons throughout the main school and at Reading Club for Years 7 & 8.

Key Stages in Induction

September-December	Post - 16 routes are covered in Year 11 PSME sessions. A meeting is held in October for parents and students to outline courses, activities and experiences which St Thomas More can offer. Students are issued with written guidance about Sixth Form and interviewed.
January/February	Individual student interviews are held with senior staff, to discuss student options and choices.
February	Open Evening for prospective students and their parents to visit the Sixth Form block, talk to Sixth Form tutors and subject teachers about courses, resources, facilities.
April	A provisional choice of courses is made by students continuing at St Thomas More.
July	Year 12 Induction Day for year 11 students joining Sixth Form.

August	Staff available in school, offering a results service which gives advice to students in the light of their GCSE results.
September	Year 12 Registration Day.

Connexions Careers Service

Connexions works in partnership with St Thomas More Sixth Form College to offer high quality, impartial advice and information to help young people make the right decision. Last year we ran Employability workshops to help students prepare for the world of work. Young people can access guidance and information in the following ways.

- ◆ Individual careers guidance interviews.
- ◆ Group work and drop - in sessions.
- ◆ Access to computerised careers database.
- ◆ Exam results information/advice service.

Parents are encouraged to be involved in the careers guidance process and Careers Advisors are happy to discuss issues raised, or any other problems, at Parents' Evenings.

Specialist advice is also available to young people who have special needs.

Higher Education Support

The majority of our students progress to Higher Education. Last year almost every student who applied was successful in progressing to Higher Education.

With about 50,000 courses available at over 200 institutions, the task of choosing the right course and university can be a daunting one. We provide a comprehensive student support service, offering guidance and detailed advice to students, throughout years 12 and 13.

In PSME sessions, students are given help with their course research, completing their application form and practising interview techniques. Personal Tutors and Head of Year keep a close check on student progress at each stage of the admission cycle and help students with their Personal Statements.

In the third term of Year 12 students attend Open Days at local universities and a visit is arranged further afield to give our students experience of the different types of institutions which offer courses.

Higher Education Support (continued)

The Higher Education Fair takes place in May where students can talk to admissions staff from all over the country. Admissions officers and visiting speakers come into school at this time to offer first hand information and advice. A Higher Education Evening for parents and students is organised towards the end of Year 12.

The College has an excellent Careers Library housing all the necessary guides and prospectuses relating to Higher Education as well as the UCAS Database on CD ROM. Students also have access to the UCAS website and all university prospectuses published on the Internet are available to students.

Students can apply to university using the official on-line application service which is available in the college.

In August, on 'A' level Results Day and afterwards, staff are available in the College to offer help and advice to students.