



Welcome to our Catholic Sixth Form College

I am delighted that you are considering joining St Thomas More Sixth Form for your sixth form studies and fully understand the importance of the decision you have to make. If you do join us in September, you can be assured that every member of staff here will be totally committed to both supporting your academic, personal and spiritual development and ensuring that you are well prepared for your future life. At St Thomas More Sixth Form, students are part of a faith community where the Gospel values inform all that we do. We warmly welcome students and staff who are not Catholic but we expect everyone, without exception, to support our prayer life and respect our religious events and celebrations.

We view our Sixth Form students as outstanding role models in terms of attitude to learning, behaviour and faith. Throughout their time in the Sixth Form, students are given opportunities to develop and demonstrate their leadership skills, both within their peer group and beyond.

St Thomas More Sixth Form is a very exciting place to be with its state of the art specialist accommodation. The £6 million stand-alone sixth form college offers both students and staff the best possible facilities in which to work and study and the sixth form has its own distinct identity as part of the wider school community.

This is a great time to join our Sixth Form! Our A Level results speak for themselves and demonstrate the high expectations we have of all students and commitment we show as a staff to ensuring all students achieve their potential.

We welcome applications to the sixth form from all students who want to achieve amazing things both academically and personally. If you choose to study at St Thomas More Sixth Form, you will be part of a group of students who will do much to shape the identity and spirit of the sixth form. Most importantly we believe you will have been well prepared for the academic and personal challenges that face you in the future.

We very much look forward to you joining us for the next part of your educational journey.

Leearna Thomas
Principal





A message from the Head of Sixth Form

I am delighted that you are considering joining St Thomas More Sixth Form College next September to embark on post-16 studies. The pace of change in education continues unabated and, as we welcomed our current Year 12 students a few weeks ago, it seems appropriate that we are preparing to welcome another group of students in a few months time.

The Christian ethos here is one of community, respect and care. As a college we are proud of the level of support we offer students as they meet the demands placed on them by A-Level study. In addition, we deliver outstanding teaching and learning with magnificent facilities provided by a superbly equipped building. In combination, this is ensuring an excellent environment in which students can study, be supported and enjoy the atmosphere of a friendly, caring college.

At St Thomas More there are ample opportunities for students to enrich their educational experience. Students can opt for the Extended Project Qualification and various leadership and sporting opportunities. Students can also participate in team building activities, theatre visits and trips abroad. In developing careers, students are given opportunities to speak to professionals at our careers fair and can access regular careers advice. Our department links with universities provide exciting master classes in a range of subjects to stimulate wider knowledge, to stretch the imagination and to develop a love of learning. Senior leadership team roles and the pro-active Sixth Form council are developing responsibility and ownership in our student community.

When considering a Sixth Form College you will want an experience that delivers first class learning, outstanding support and has the highest expectations of all staff and students. You will also desire a college that has excellent facilities and an ethos that promotes an exciting and relevant learning experience. Added to this you will want a college that assists your development socially and morally to ensure that you are ready to contribute positively to society and the world. At St Thomas More Sixth Form College we will help you succeed in all of these aspects and more.

Amita Patel
Head of Sixth Form



Admission Arrangements

There is capacity for 150 students in year 12 in September, provided they meet the course and general entry requirements. Applications are welcome both from students currently in year 11 at the school and also from students currently studying in other schools. In the event of the number of applications exceeding the number of places available, places will be allocated in accordance with the criteria outlined below.

Admission Criteria for Year 12

All student applicants to St Thomas More Sixth Form will be expected to support the Catholic ethos and values of the school. Students will be admitted according to the following criteria

1. Students who apply with an educational statement of needs or who are looked after.
2. Existing Year 11 students from St Thomas More Catholic Academy who have satisfied the entry requirements for their chosen courses.
3. Catholic students not currently at St Thomas More Catholic Academy who have satisfied the entry requirements for their chosen courses.
4. Non-Catholic students who have siblings who have attended St Thomas More Catholic Academy in previous years.
5. Non-Catholic students not currently at St Thomas More Catholic Academy who have satisfied the entry requirements for their chosen courses. In the event of there being more applicants than places in this category priority will be given in order of distance from the applicant's home to the school (shortest distance – highest priority).

General Entry Requirements to gain a place in the Sixth Form

- *A minimum of 5 GCSEs graded at 4 or above which must include English Language **or** Maths.*
- *An average GCSE points score of 40 points gleaned from all **GCSE** examinations undertaken by the pupil.*
- *Requirements specific to individual courses chosen.*

The Sixth Form Admissions Calendar

November 2021 Publication of Sixth Form Prospectus

17th November 2021 Sixth Form Open Evening

November -January

After students have taken as much advice as possible about their future options we hope they would submit an application. The final date for applications is 31st January 2022 and these should be completed using the application form on our website:- www.st-thomas-more.net Applications can be completed and sent electronically to admin6th@st-thomas-more.net or completed by hand and posted to the college- Greenmoor Road, Nuneaton, CV10 7EX.

Feb-March 2022

Every young person applying to our Sixth Form will be invited to an interview. This may be by telephone or remotely via a platform such as Zoom. The purpose for the interview is to discuss students' subject choices, their current year 11 performance and if they are on track to achieve the entry requirements for the courses chosen as well as to discover more about any plans or ideas they may have for future careers. Following this interview, a conditional offer may be made.

August 2022

Enrolment to the Sixth Form for students who meet the entry requirements. External students should bring their GCSE results slips to the school to complete enrolment.

Care, Guidance & Support

Extracts from the schools' 2018 Ofsted report observe that

"Students in the sixth form are particularly positive about the way in which they are supported, cared for and given plenty of opportunities to be an active part of the school community. Their progress has been consistently strong over time because they are well motivated, teaching in the sixth form is highly effective and leaders have created a culture of scholarly excellence."

"The experience of students in the sixth form is having a very strong impact on their progress. Retention is very high because staff make sure that students are on courses that are appropriate for them and that they are well supported throughout their time in the sixth form. All students have interviews before they apply for a place and again after they gain their GCSEs to make sure that courses are suitable. This is followed by assessments after four weeks and regular checking of their understanding throughout their courses. As a result of this, their progress is consistently strong and has been so since the sixth form was opened."

"The range of non-qualification experiences available to post-16 students is impressive and all students take part. They spoke animatedly with inspectors about the ways in which college visits and community activities enthused them, contributed strongly to their subject understanding and made them think deeply about their future career plans. They are committed to the college and value highly the work that leaders do to support them in their studies."

This caring attitude and strive for academic excellence is at the heart of the school's ethos and is integral to the system of pastoral care that operates in our sixth form. The Head of Sixth Form and Heads of Year 12 and 13 will oversee academic progress and pastoral care in the sixth form working very closely with personal tutors, subject teachers and outside agencies as appropriate. Each student will be assigned to a personal tutor group and will remain in that group during their time in the sixth form. The tutor group will meet daily for registration and the personal tutor will be the first point of contact for students for any issues relating to academic and personal

development. The personal tutor will also help and advise students on their work, their progress targets and their future careers. In addition, the personal tutor will monitor students academic progress through regular personal tutorials and act as someone to whom the student can turn to in order to discuss more personal matters if they so wish. We also have access to a trained social worker and counsellors for students who are experiencing particular difficulties.

Within the sixth form students have increased independence and additional privileges. A student sixth form committee is established and this will meet regularly with the of Sixth Form to discuss matters relating to sixth form life and to organise events. A student services office has also been established within the sixth form centre to offer support to students and parents and we have a designated Learning Mentor – Mr Wheeler– who works with students on study and organisational skills as well as time management and careers guidance. Mr Wheeler is also the co-ordinator of the work experience placement that happens in the summer term of year 12.

As part of this increased independence, students are expected to act as positive role models to the younger pupils in the school as well as to take responsibility for their own learning and to play a full and active part in sixth form life. All students take part in a sixth form induction day at the start of term in September to give guidance to students in making the transition from GCSE to post-16 studies. This guidance will include areas such as time management, research skills and study skills aimed at encouraging students to be independent learners. The induction day is also an ideal opportunity to welcome new students to the sixth form and to develop community spirit.

Holy Spirit MAC Experience

The Holy Spirit MAC Experience sets out our commitment to providing outstanding opportunities, above and beyond the national curriculum, for every child in The Holy Spirit MAC from the age of 3 to 18. It focuses on five key areas of school life such as Catholic life, Charities and Social Action, the Residential Experience, Sporting Opportunities and Cultural and Creative Experiences. The booklet is available on our school website for you to have a look at.

Communication with parents and carers

One of the key factors behind the success of St Thomas More Sixth Form College is a strong reputation for the effective communication between home and school. We are determined that these good links will continue in the sixth form and be a hallmark of our provision. All students will be issued with a sixth form planner which can also be used for messages between home and school and parents are always welcome to contact the school to discuss any aspect of their son/daughters education. Parents

and carers are invited to a welcome evening as part of the induction period in September and parents will also receive regular updates and formal reports on student progress. In addition, two formal parent evenings will be held in year 12 to discuss student progress and there will also be a UCAS (university application) and Student Finance Evening for parents towards the end of year 12.

We very much value Parental feedback and regularly consult with parents regarding their feeling about the Sixth Form. Below is a selection of parental feedback following Year 12 Parent's Evening in October:

"This is a fantastic Sixth Form College!"

"We really appreciate the efforts made by the college to ensure that our son meets his targets. The open communication we have with the college is excellent."

"I could not be happier with how my daughter has settled in. Our experience of St Thomas More so far has been brilliant."

"We are really pleased with how our daughter has settled – she has found the college to be a very friendly welcoming environment; she is very happy here."

"Our son has settled in well and feels he is being pushed to his full potential. A great start to the future."

"This is an excellent learning environment."

Personal Development

Students undertake a rich and varied Personal Development programme at St Thomas More Sixth Form College. This is taught through work with tutors as well as visiting speakers. Topic areas in the programme include: -drugs and alcohol awareness, sexual health, healthy living and eating, harmful sexual behaviour, conflict resolution, money management, adult first aid, safe driving, positive mental health and coping with stress. The programme also prepares students for university life, gap years and careers.

Careers and Higher Education Guidance

Throughout their time in the sixth form, students will receive advice and guidance on careers and higher education options. This advice will be provided during Personal Development lessons by a variety of people including the Head of Sixth Form, Careers Lead, Careers Officers, personal and subject tutors and outside speakers as appropriate. Individual interviews will be part of this process and opportunities will exist to visit universities on open days. All students in year 12 undertake a work experience placement which is targeted towards their career choice or university ambitions. In year 13, all students applying to universities will be provided with support and guidance to complete their UCAS applications and to prepare for university life (e.g. information on finance and living away from home).

A resource base for careers information, university prospectuses and reference information exists in the sixth form learning and resource centre, where students have access to web-based information on a wide range of occupations and employment opportunities.

Choosing the Right Courses

This involves thinking very carefully about the following three questions;

How good am I at this subject and can I expect to achieve the entry requirement at GCSE level? It would be useful to talk to your teachers in year 11 and the Careers Adviser from Prospects to have their opinions about your suitability for your chosen course.

Will I enjoy this subject? You are far more likely to do well if you do.

Will this subject help me in my future career? If you already have a clear idea about which university course you wish to take or which career you intend to follow, it is important to ensure that the subjects you study in the sixth form enable you to proceed to the next stage of your chosen career path. On the other hand, if you are unsure about what you wish to do when you leave the sixth form, the general advice is to study a range of subjects that suit your aptitudes and abilities and also keeps open your options for the future. Your interview, following your application, will be a good time to discuss the appropriateness of courses that support future pathways.

Types of Courses

- A levels
- Applied Learning courses – Level 3 BTECs
- GCSE courses in English and Maths (re-sits)
- All students will take part in a Level 3 wider key skills course and an enhancement and enrichment programme of activities

A Levels

A Level qualifications are now stand alone in the sense that in most cases they are not part of the full A Level. Most students choose 3 A Levels at the start of year 12 and will continue with them. Each A Level course has 9 hours of teaching per fortnight. It is possible and, in some cases encouraged, for students to combine A level and Applied Learning courses.

Applied Learning Courses

For September 2022, we will be offering Level 3 BTEC/Diploma courses in:

Criminology

Health & Social Care

Information Technology

Sport

Forensic Science

All of our level 3 BTEC/Diploma courses are equivalent to 1 A-level. Teaching time for these subjects is the same as A level courses. A full list of all A level and BTEC courses available for September 2022 can be found in the prospectus folder.

GCSE Courses

GCSE re-sit courses in English and Maths must be taken by students who failed to achieve a grade 4 or above at GCSE. Lessons will be provided to support students prior to the re-sit. This will be undertaken alongside their year 12 programme.

ASDAN Wider Key Skills and Enrichment Activities

As part of the school's Catholic Ethos, all students will follow a core Level 3 Wider Key Skills programme to explore and develop their study skills and earn valuable UCAS points. In addition, all students will have the opportunity to opt for one or more of a range of enrichment activities which we believe will form an important part of the Sixth Form Experience. Enrichment activities enhance student CVs and contribute to the more rounded education that is viewed favourably by both universities and employers. Students will play a part in determining what activities will be on offer. The range of activities is expected to include;

Critical Thinking, Sport and Recreational Activities, Community Service, Mentoring of Younger Pupils, Learning Support within different Department, Criminology, Current Affairs, Chess, Additional Learning Support, Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award, Extended Project Qualification, Charity Work, Visits to Universities, Music, Art or Dance Workshops for Pleasure, Work Experience, Leadership Development Opportunities, Young Enterprise.

Students will be given a chance to join and lead on societies, which run in the sixth form. Some examples include Debating Society, Law and Human Justice Society, Psychology and Human Behavioural Society and the Dream Big Society. We also have outstanding leadership opportunities and you will have the opportunity to apply for coveted roles such as Head Student, Ethics and Environmental Officer, Equality and Diversity Officer and Health and Well Being Officer to name but a few.

Financial Assistance & Costs

A national system of Bursary allowances is available to support post-16 study for those students who are within the advised defined vulnerable groups. These students are guaranteed an award of £1,200 per year. The college can award discretionary bursaries for any students facing financial difficulties. Further details can be obtained on enrolment with us. Student examination fees will be paid by the school although the cost of any re-taken exams or modules will be the students' responsibility.

Final message from the Head of Sixth Form

In the remainder of this brochure is the outline for each course on offer at the college for September. I really do hope that you will find it informative and that, coupled with attending the open evening, you are excited about the prospect of pursuing your studies at St Thomas More.

I look forward to receiving your application and meeting you during the interview stage. I also wish you all the very best wishes for the remainder of your GCSE studies and hope you achieve the grades you are working so hard for in the summer.

If you have any further questions at all about studying at St Thomas More, please do not hesitate to contact me on: 02476642400 Extension 2 or via email at patel.a@st-thomas-more.net

I will end with an overview of last year's A level results, which the whole school community is incredibly proud of:

2021 A-Level Headline Figures

A*/A = 38.4%

A*-B = 72%

A*-C = 94%

100% Pass

94% of our students progressed on to University this summer, almost 40% of which went to a Russell Group University.

A great achievement for all involved!!