

St. Thomas More Catholic Voluntary Academy, Palace Fields, Buxton, Derbyshire, SK17 6AF Headteacher: Mr D Redfern

3rd July 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am absolutely delighted to share the wonderful news that following our recent Ofsted inspection in June, St Thomas More has been judged **'Good' in all areas**. This outcome is a tremendous endorsement of the significant work that has been taking place at St Thomas More.

The report celebrates our school's calm and positive environment, the dedication of our staff, and the exemplary behaviour of our pupils. It recognises the improvements we've made in teaching, leadership, curriculum development, and support for all learners – particularly those with additional needs. It also highlights our commitment to personal development, literacy, and character education, all underpinned by our Catholic ethos and our mission to *Be More*.

This marks a **'doubly good' year for STM** – following our *'Good'* judgement across all areas in the Catholic Schools Inspection (CSI) in November 2024, this latest recognition from Ofsted reflects the sustained and focused efforts of our whole school community.

Since returning to the role in January 2024, it has been my sole focus to ensure that St Thomas More is back on top form – and indeed it is. I could not be prouder of our pupils and staff who have worked so hard and with such commitment to make this possible. Their efforts, alongside your ongoing support, have been crucial in achieving this outcome.

This is not just a judgement – it is a celebration of resilience, belief and sheer hard work. I am incredibly proud of every pupil, every member of staff, and every family who has stood with us. Together, we have brought STM back to life – stronger, prouder, and more united than ever.

Ofsted captured so much of what makes our school special. They recognised that "staff show incredible commitment to the school and to the community. They recognise how much the school has improved and are extremely proud." They described "a lovely learning atmosphere" where "learning disruptions are rare", and they celebrated how "everyone understands the school's mission, and pupils take pride in their aspiration: 'not to have more, but to be more'." These words reflect exactly what we see and feel in our school every day.

And while we take a moment to celebrate this milestone, our journey is far from over. We will continue to live our mission to *BeMore* and to *ASPIRE* – for our young people, for our community, and for all that lies ahead.

With warmest regards and heartfelt pride,

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Mr D Redfern Headteacher



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