



St Ralph
Sherwin
Catholic Multi Academy Trust



St Thomas More
Catholic Voluntary Academy



"The mission statement, 'Aspire not to have more, but to be more', has transformed the school. All stakeholders live out the school's mission on a daily basis and use it as a tool of inspiration to better themselves," CSI 2024.

The St Thomas More Mission:

We the St Thomas More family, 'Aspire not to have more, but to be more'.

We aspire not to have the world but be more for the world.

#BeMore

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| We are A uthentic | we seek to find our true vocation and who we really are |
| We are S acred | we are loved and made in the image of God |
| We are P assionate | we strive to grow and be our best selves |
| We are I nspirational | what we do here can help us change the world |
| We are R esilient | for our greatest learning comes when we make mistakes |
| We are E mpathetic | we are called to care for all in our community and the world |

Welcome

At St Thomas More, we believe that every child is unique and deserves to be valued as an individual. Our nurturing environment is designed to bring out the gifts and talents of every pupil. Our motto, '**Aspire not to have more, but to be more**', reflects our commitment to helping your child become the very best version of themselves, guided by our mission to #BeMore.

Our Mission Statement encourages each pupil to embrace our **ASPIRE values**: being **Authentic, Sacred, Passionate, Inspirational, Resilient, and Empathetic**. These values are woven into every aspect of school life, helping your child grow both academically and personally, with a strong focus on character development.

At STM, we strive to offer the highest quality education, ensuring that your child receives a well-rounded experience. We carefully craft a curriculum that meets the needs of every pupil, balancing academic challenges with opportunities for personal growth. Alongside this, our rich offering of extra-curricular activities and trips ensures that pupils enjoy a broad and enriching education, filled with opportunities to explore new interests and develop lifelong skills.

We understand the importance of feeling secure and supported at school. **Our pastoral care is truly exemplary**, with a strong focus on ensuring that every child feels safe, valued, and nurtured. We place great emphasis on well-being and personal growth, creating an environment where respect, kindness, and mutual support are at the heart of everything we do. At St Thomas More, your child will be encouraged to thrive, not just academically, but also emotionally and spiritually.



By choosing St Thomas More, you are joining a supportive and faith-filled community dedicated to excellence in every way. Our commitment to high academic standards, respectful behaviour, and fostering a love of learning ensures that your child will be well-prepared for the future. We are also passionate about promoting healthy living and helping pupils develop into well-rounded individuals.

We warmly invite you to become part of the St Thomas More family, where we work together to inspire your child to #BeMore in every aspect of life.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Redfern'.

Mr D Redfern
Headteacher

Our Trust Family



**St Ralph
Sherwin**
Catholic Multi Academy Trust

Our trust exists to serve all 25 Catholic schools within our family, ensuring that every child benefits from an outstanding Catholic education. Our mission statement, 'growing in faith, serving in love, transforming our world, together in Christ' permeates all that we do and this can be witnessed each and every day in our schools.



As a family of Catholic schools, we see every child as being created in the likeness of God with a mission to make the world a better place. We are committed to offering every child the very best education possible, but also, we know that an outstanding Catholic education is about instilling in every one of our pupils a deep sense of love and service to others. As parents and carers, you can be assured that we will care for your children as if they were our own, and that we will shape and challenge them to go out and transform the world.

Our Catholic mission is to serve all families in our communities; of course, we have a deep familial connection with our Catholic families but we also welcome, with warm hearts and open arms, children from

different faiths and children of no faith. We believe in the gift and dignity of every life and it would be an honour to serve all children in our communities. At the heart of Catholic education is a deep Christ-like love for each and every person, child or adult, who learns or works in our schools. This is the foundation of all that we do.

In contrast to some other education trusts, we do not 'brand' our schools. We believe in the leadership of our Headteachers and empower them to create outstanding Catholic schools that best meet the needs of their communities. As a result, our schools are deeply rooted in their communities to ensure that you, as parents and carers, feel a deep connection to your child's school.

Our virtues are, 'trust, togetherness and kindness.' I hope that you will see and experience this when you visit St Thomas More.

Lisa Walton
Chief Executive Officer

Sarah Noon
Chair of the Board of
Directors



"Leaders are driving a genuinely authentic Catholic school which is truly appreciated by students and staff, as well as the wider community. There is an extremely strong family feel to St Thomas More; this is an inclusive and welcoming community," CSI 2024.



Admissions

We welcome children from different faiths or those with no faith, ensuring that every child feels fully included in our community.

As a Catholic Academy our first priority in considering new pupils is those who are Catholic, but everyone is welcome in our community.

Further information about our admissions policy and other relevant information can be found on our website.

Curriculum

At Thomas More Catholic Voluntary Academy, we offer a rich and balanced curriculum tailored to meet the interests and abilities of every pupil. By combining traditional academic subjects with the Arts, we provide a broad education that leads to both GCSE and BTEC qualifications, helping every child thrive in a happy, supportive environment.

A key part of our approach is the Character Curriculum, which includes Relationships and Sex Education, PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education), and Careers Education. These areas are essential in developing life skills such as emotional intelligence, resilience, and informed decision-making about future careers. We aim to ensure that your child grows into a well-rounded, confident individual.

While academic subjects like maths, science, and

English develop critical thinking, the Arts nurture creativity and personal growth. These subjects build confidence and encourage self-expression, enriching your child's overall education.

Our two-week timetable, consisting of 25 one-hour lessons per week, allows pupils to explore a wide range of subjects in depth, ensuring a varied and engaging learning experience. For those needing extra support, we offer targeted intervention programmes, ranging from short-term assistance to year-long support, helping every child succeed.

At Thomas More, we focus on more than just academic success—we prepare pupils for life. By blending academic achievement with personal development, we help your child take on the future with confidence.

Key Stage 3

Years 7, 8 and 9 are termed 'Key Stage 3'. St Thomas More pupils study a wide range of subjects within KS3, including Religious Education, Maths, English, Science, Music, Art, Physical Education, Geography, History, Computer Science, Spanish, Food Technology, Design Technology and Drama.

In Key Stage 3 pupils are taught in both mixed and grouped ability with additional support provided for those who are identified as having special educational needs.

Key Stage 4

Years 10 and 11 are termed 'Key Stage 4'. The Academy provides a broad spectrum of subjects reflecting the wide range of personal interests, aspirations and needs of our students. However, all pupils study a common core of Religious Education, English, Maths and Combined or Triple Science, as well as participating in two hours of core PE.

In Year 9, pupils choose their GCSE/BTEC options for KS4, selecting 3 subjects to complement their core curriculum. Our wide range of courses includes GCSEs in Geography, History, Spanish, Computer Science, Art & Design, Drama, Music, Food Preparation and Nutrition and Design Technology. STM also offers a vocational BTEC course in Sport.

"A meticulously planned character curriculum encompasses the holistic approach to education, recognising the importance of educating the whole child in their own personal, moral and spiritual journey," CSI 2024.



St. Thomas More
CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY



"Leaders have prioritised the mission and vision of the school, which has become the cornerstone of rapid improvement across many areas of the school," CSI 2024.

Teaching and Learning

We're committed to creating a safe, caring, and supportive environment where pupils can thrive and reach their full potential. We want our pupils to take charge of their own learning, develop a positive 'growth' mindset, and understand that setbacks and disappointments are part of becoming a stronger learner.

Great teaching and learning are at the heart of what we do. Our dedicated team of teachers and support staff work closely together to provide exciting and high-quality learning experiences for every pupil. We're also passionate about making sure our staff are continually growing too. That's why we offer lots of ongoing training and professional development (CPD) to our staff, helping

them stay up-to-date with the latest teaching methods. This means our teachers can adapt and tailor their approaches to meet the unique needs of every child, ensuring they get the support they need to thrive.

We believe in putting children at the centre of their learning journey. We focus on developing important life skills like resourcefulness, resilience, and co-operation, which will help them not just in school, but in life.

Caring for our Pupils

At St Thomas More, we believe our school is a truly special place. We pride ourselves on knowing and caring for each of our pupils as individuals. Affectionately known as “Tommies”, our close-knit, family feel is what draws many families to our community.

As a small school, we build strong relationships with each pupil, recognising their unique strengths and helping them grow in areas where they need support. Our dedicated pastoral team works tirelessly every day to support all pupils. This team includes members of the Senior Leadership Team, Pastoral Managers, Heads of Learning, our Pupil and Family Support Worker, Inclusion Manager, Lay Chaplain, and Form Tutors.

Your child’s Form Tutor will be your main point of contact and can assist with most questions or concerns you may have. For more significant issues, our Pastoral Managers and Heads of Learning are available to offer extra support, whether it relates to academic progress or personal matters. You can reach out to them through various means, including phone, email, letter, or by writing a note in your child’s planner.

Please do keep us informed of any important changes, such as illness, absence, or changes at home, so we can ensure your child receives the appropriate care and support they need.

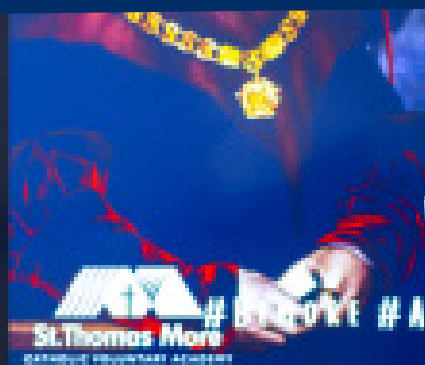
We are incredibly proud of the strong, positive relationships our staff have with pupils. Our behaviour system, centred around our ASPIRE values, encourages responsibility and mutual respect within our community. We celebrate and reward pupils in line with our ASPIRE points system, which highlights our core values of being Authentic, Sacred, Passionate, Inspirational, Resilient, and Empathetic.

At St Thomas More, we believe in the equal value of every child and their family, regardless of background, abilities, or identity. We embrace and respect diversity, fostering positive attitudes, relationships, and a sense of belonging for all members of our school community.

"At the heart of the pastoral care systems are the students; as a result, students feel they are cared for and loved," CSI 2024.



Bless our school community as we
gather together



To respond to those who need us,
To forgive those who hurt us,
and to appreciate the world in
which we live.
We make this prayer through Jesus
Christ, Our Lord
Amen
St Thomas More... Pray for us



"There is an extremely strong family feel at St Thomas More; its welcome is extended to all and the school is seen as a safe, loving place for young people. One student says that, 'it feels like home,' CSI 2024.

Working with our Parents and Carers

We believe in working closely with you – our parents and carers – to keep you fully informed about your child's progress. We'll ensure you know exactly how you can support them at every step of their journey.

You can expect regular updates on your child's progress, and we'll set ambitious goals for them, providing the guidance and support they need to achieve these.

To help you stay engaged, we'll organise events and share helpful resources during key stages of their time at school. These will assist you in making important decisions alongside your child.

We understand that transitions, such as moving from primary to secondary or from secondary to post-16 education, can be challenging. We'll be here to support

both you and your child through these important moments.

To maintain good communication between home and school, you can reach us in several ways:

- By phone: 01298 23167
- By email: enquiries@stm.srscmat.co.uk
- By contacting Form Tutors, Pastoral Support Workers, or Heads of Learning.

Additionally, we'll keep you informed through regular letters and updates on our online platforms, including our soon-to-launch Arbor App and Facebook page. Our website will also be regularly updated with useful resources to help you stay informed and supported at home.

Learning Needs

We are a strong caring team who pride ourselves on ensuring pupils are well supported, happy and achieve their potential. The aim of the department is to ensure the inclusion of all children irrespective of need, into a mainstream educational setting. It also enables all young people to access the curriculum to achieve their very best.

The department offers:

- Specialist Teaching Assistants.
- Standardised ability and attainment assessments to establish literacy and numeracy skills and to inform provision.
- Small group interventions.
- Emotional Literacy Support (ELSA).
- Accelerated Reading Scheme including sessions with readers.

- SEN Pupil Passport.
- In-house assessments by the SENCO to establish any learning needs, planning a course of intervention as necessary.
- Additional induction sessions, over and above those organised by the Transition Coordinator.
- A caring, nurturing environment at break and lunch time.
- Homework club.

We work closely with outside agencies such as Educational Psychologists, CAMHS, Youth Team, Speech and Language therapists, family resource workers etc. to ensure we have relevant expertise available to assist all our students.







THE STM EXPERIENCE

At St Thomas More, we believe education is about much more than just academic success. While achieving personal academic goals is very important, we understand that school life should be a well-rounded experience. To truly make the most of their time with us, we encourage pupils to get involved, have fun, and explore the many opportunities available.

We offer a wide range of clubs, trips, and activities to enrich the lives of our pupils. Whether it's joining a club, taking part in a trip, or developing new skills, there's something for every child to enjoy. We are especially proud of our strong focus on the performing arts, music, and sports, with many exciting extra-curricular options in these areas.

We love to celebrate our pupils' talents both inside and outside the classroom. By providing a supportive environment, we help children nurture their passions and discover new interests.

Our school also organises a variety of exciting trips, both for educational enrichment and pure enjoyment. Pupils have visited places such as The Briars, Italy, Poland, and Iceland, as well as taken part in the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze and Silver awards. There are also many opportunities to explore and appreciate our local area.

We aim to provide an experience that helps each pupil grow academically, socially, and personally.

"As a result of thoughtfully planned opportunities, students are highly motivated in their desire to make a difference to people's lives and the community," CSI 2024.



Authentic

Sacred

Passionate

#BeMore and ASPIRE

Inspirational

Resilient

Empathetic

Proud to #BeMore



St. Thomas More
CATHOLIC SCHOOL



St. Thomas More
CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

St Thomas More Catholic Voluntary Academy,
Palace Fields,
Buxton,
SK17 6AF

Tel: 01298 23167
Email: enquiries@stm.srscmat.co.uk
Web: www.stthomasmorebuxton.srscmat.uk



@stthomasmorebux



@stthomasmorebux

Photos by CODA Education