Dear Colleague,

**Letter to applicants**

Thank you for your interest in the post of Head of Humanities at St Thomas Aquinas Catholic School & Sixth Form.

**BACKGROUND**

St Thomas Aquinas Catholic School has a proud history; it opened in 1963 as the last grammar school to be built in England and has only had five headteachers in its history. The school has established its reputation as a very good school based largely on considerable internal stability in a context of constant external change. The present staff is a good mixture of youth and experience with about six or seven new teachers joining each year most of whom are newly qualified.

St Thomas Aquinas Catholic School became part of Lumen Christi Multi-Academy on 1st April 2015. The trust consists of one secondary school and eight primary schools. Structures are now very well established, and the academy is growing from strength to strength.

The school has pursued a distinct approach to school improvement and developed a vision around becoming a knowledge-rich school. Following significant changes to whole school routines, behaviour systems and the adoption of a new curriculum, behaviour is excellent and teaching highly effective. The school was judged to be ‘Good’ by OFSTED in November 2018 and again in May 2024. GCSE examination results in summer 2024 were outstanding (the Progress 8 score was in the top 10% of all schools and colleges nationally). A level results this summer were outstanding (school is currently estimating a significantly positive value-added figure when results are formally published which would place the school in the top 25% in the country). Furthermore, the Catholic Schools Inspectorate judged the school to be ‘Outstanding’ in all areas – one of the first secondary schools in the country to do so.

The school is now oversubscribed and becoming more and more popular with families.

**AMBITION**

St Thomas Aquinas Catholic School serves a community in the highest quintile of disadvantage nationally. We are therefore unapologetically ambitious for the children we serve. Current leaders do not feel for a moment that our work is done. In reality, we feel we have only just begun our school improvement journey. The next phase of development is to become a truly great Catholic school. There is much to do to raise standards in all key stages, develop a real love of learning amongst our students and provide an even wider range of extra-curricular opportunities for all.

**EXPECTATIONS**

Any colleague seeking appointment at St Thomas Aquinas Catholic School should be under no illusion that they will be expected to work very hard**.** Heads of Faculty operate within the highest professional standards and there is no room for complacency. We have a dedicated, talented and committed team of middle leaders, who will quite rightly expect an analytical and robust strategic approach to school improvement allied with strong interpersonal skills from a new colleague. The new Head of Humanities will have to be prepared to ‘hit the ground running’ and arrive ready to make an impact in our post-pandemic world. In return, you can expect to work in a successful school with students who are ready to learn, enthusiastic and full of life and laughter!

**ROLE**

The person appointed would have overall responsibility for History and Geography outcomes at GCSE and A level as well as Social Sciences. They would be ably supported by other post holders in the faculty and a group of experienced teachers who have responsibility in other areas of the school. We are looking for outstanding leadership qualities so would appoint either a Geography or History specialist.

**CAREER PROGRESSION**

Within the wider context of Lumen Christi, we are supported by responsive and knowledgeable governance. Every possible opportunity will be taken to support the successful candidate in their professional development as they prepare to progress to senior leadership in the not too distant future.

**AND FINALLY**

The person appointed to the post of Head of Humanities will be committed to continuing the tradition of hard work and dedication to the students of our school, the majority of whom come from disadvantaged backgrounds.

St Thomas Aquinas Catholic School genuinely is a vibrant learning community, full of committed learners and exceptional people. This is a wonderful opportunity to make a huge difference in the lives of children and contribute to the journey of a great Catholic school. It will be one of the most fulfilling and worthwhile roles any professional could have.

If you are committed to working in a faith school and have the drive to make a difference in an improving school, I urge you to find out more about us on our website: <http://www.stacs.org> and I look forward to hearing from you.

With best wishes

Chris Martin

Principal

September 2025