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FURTHER DETAILS OF OUR ACADEMY

Aspire to be More

St Thomas More Catholic Academy is an 11-18 mixed Catholic comprehensive, which has an excellent reputation throughout the area. Since 1 November 2013 St Thomas More together with the following primary academies – St Gregory's, St Maria Goretti, Our Lady's and St Augustine's formed the All Saints' Catholic Collegiate. This provides us with an exciting opportunity to work collaboratively with our four main feeder schools.

At St Thomas More Catholic Academy there are 1148 students on roll including an open Sixth Form of 140 students. The academic ethos of the school is based upon the development of excellence in the individual student.

Our Motto is "*Aspire to be More*" which encompasses our aspirations for all our students within our school and recognises our patron St Thomas More. As a Catholic school, we offer an education firmly based upon our Gospel values and our Mission statement puts 'our community' at the heart of all we do.

The entire school community is very proud of the Ofsted inspection outcome in October 2022. The report states that "pupils are happy and safe because staff provide them with excellent care and staff make time for pupils' welfare... no problem is too great" which encapsulates the mission and ethos of our school community. The Academy was again judged to be GOOD following the last inspection in 2017.

All students rise to meet the school's expectations every day and this has been recognised by Ofsted; "Pupils maintain very positive attitudes and behaviour in school. They participate in high quality opportunities that develop their character, and equip them with life skills and a sense of responsibility, pupils with SEND thrive in the school's inclusive provision".

Key Stage 5 students were recognised for their impact as role models on younger students and their admission into Russell Group Universities including Oxbridge; "Sixth-form students achieve well and contribute with enthusiasm to school life. They help younger pupils and people in the local community."

The Diocesan inspection in November 2016 judged the school as a good with outstanding features. The Section 48 stated that "Leadership of Catholic life and collective worship is outstanding".

This is a very exciting time in our history; improving examination success at both GCSE and A Level, a full program of extra-curricular and enrichment activities, excellent facilities

including sports facilities and an aspiration to improve further.

We fervently believe that a major strength of our school is the positive relationships that exist within it and within our local and Catholic community. We work very closely with all our partner primary schools to ensure the smooth transition to high school for all our students. Furthermore, we consider it important to get to know the families of our pupils, so that we can work together for the benefit of every child placed in our care. The school values the excellent support it receives from parents and carers.

We have a team of conscientious and professional staff who consistently encourage their students to be the best they can be. We aim for the highest standard in all that we do and we can only achieve success with the co-operation of our students and parents. Working together in partnership we believe that anything and everything is possible. In our most recent Ofsted report in October 2022, it highlights the wellbeing of our staff, "Staff praise senior leaders' support for their work and well-being. School leaders listen to, and act upon, staff feedback and views. In addition, staff have immediate access to an independent counselling service, should they need it. Staff say that leaders' actions and the supportive workplace culture reduce stress and make the school a happy place to work."

OUR CATHOLIC ETHOS

The school exists to educate students in the Catholic faith in the widest sense and is committed to represent Christian family values. Its primary aim recognises that it is a faith community, believing that each individual is on a pilgrimage of growth. As a Christian community, the Academy tries to embody Gospel values of love, justice, forgiveness and reconciliation

Our school is guided in its Catholic life by our enthusiastic and dedicated Chaplaincy team; made up of priest Chaplain, Fr David Newall and Lay Chaplain, Mrs Megan McNicholl.

The young people at St Thomas More Catholic Academy have a variety of opportunities to practice and learn about our faith. We celebrate a small group mass with every Year 7 class at the start of the year, have a mass for every year group throughout the year and celebrate feasts such as Christmas and Easter. Just as all pupils begin their time in Year 7 with Holy Mass then leaving ceremonies are celebrated in the same way too.

Many of our students enjoy the chance to go away on a retreat – with every year group offered a retreat experience. This allows our students time to think about and explore their faith, while playing games, doing outdoor activities and getting to know each other, and themselves, better.

We take a group away on pilgrimage to Lourdes in France, where our students join with hundreds of pilgrims across the Diocese of Birmingham to spend time with and assist the sick who go in hope of being healed, as well as to grow in faith and confidence themselves.

The Catholic Life of our school is one that is vibrant and growing. It is also one which is all-inclusive, no matter what faith or beliefs a young person has. We are constantly looking at ways to continue to grow the Catholic Life of our school to best serve the young people who belong to our school community, and to ensure that they fully realise how amazing, how special and how loved each one of them is.

At St Thomas More we are committed to supporting people in situations worse than our own. Therefore, we support a number of local, national and international charities. Each year the students make donations of money, clothing and food to numerous charities, and each year group has their own designated charity.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Christ is at the heart of our community, where everyone is known and loved. In fulfilling our mission, we are a school of prayer. We live as a community of love, peace and reconciliation, valuing everyone's dignity as a child of God to promote and celebrate the growth and achievement of the whole person.

CURRICULUM

All pupils follow a common KS3 curriculum in Years 7, 8 and 9. The school has a core curriculum of RE, English, Maths, Science and a Humanity, with the majority of students also taking a Modern Foreign Language and a Humanity

In the Sixth Form we are part of The Trinity Sixth Form Partnership. There is a wide range of A-Level subjects on offer. Most students study three or four AS subjects in the Lower Sixth leading to three A2 subjects in the Upper Sixth. All students study General RE.

PASTORAL ORGANISATION

The pastoral system is led by the Deputy Headteacher, there are designated Heads of Year for each year and a Student Support Officer for each year group. Every member of staff is expected to promote the Christian ethos which is the 'raison d'être' of the school. A pastoral curriculum runs throughout the school with regular events every term.

LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE

The Senior Leadership team consists of the Headteacher, one Deputy Head, seven Assistant Heads and three Associate Assistant Headteacher's. The Headteacher's philosophy strongly supports distributed leadership thus allowing individuals to take ownership and fully develop areas of responsibility. Staff development and support are at the heart of our work. There are a huge variety of staff development opportunities. Staff are encouraged to lead in many areas of the school and take the opportunities on offer to them.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Your application should be on the Catholic Education Service application form which can be downloaded from our website (www.stmca.org.uk). Your supporting statement should include any relevant experience and personal qualities you would bring to the role. The names and addresses of two professional referees are required. Completed applications should be returned to the Headteacher, at the school, by **9:00 am on Monday 13th February 2023** via email to **swalker@stmca.org.uk**.

This post is exempt under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 and as such appointment will be conditional upon the satisfactory response to a check of criminal records via the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) before the appointment is confirmed. This will include details of cautions reprimands or final warnings as well as convictions. The appointment is also subject to satisfactory references, medical clearance and right to work in the UK.

St Thomas More Catholic Academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff to share this commitment in line with Keeping Children Safe in Education and the Prevent Duty.

Interviews are scheduled to be held 15th February 2023. If you have not been requested to attend for interview by then please assume that on this occasion your application has been unsuccessful.