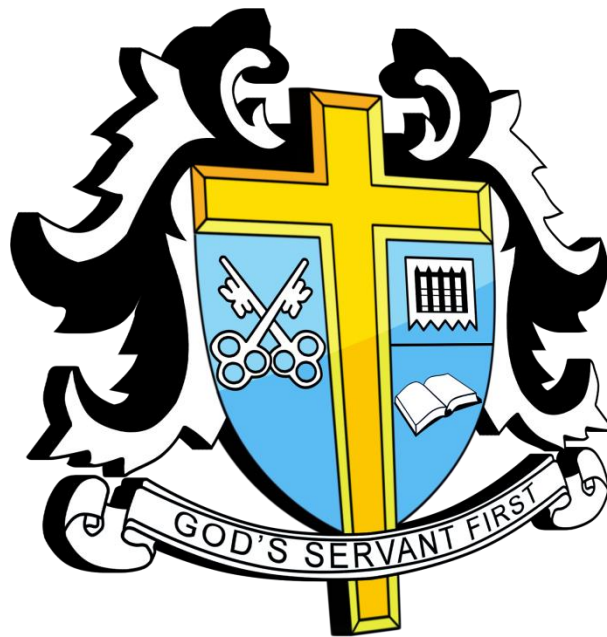


Prospectus Supplement

2017-18

Sixth Form General
Information



St Thomas More High School

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CONTACT DETAILS

St Thomas More High School

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Essex

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E-mail: office@st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk

Admissions Email: admissions@st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk

Website: www.st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk

School Hours: 8.40am-3.30pm

Headteacher:	Mrs. G. Ackred B.SC (Hons) PGCE
Deputy Headteacher:	Mr P Maxfield B.SC (Hons) PGCE M.A
Chair of Governors:	Mr. J. Foster
Director of Learning i/c Sixth Form:	Ms E. Corr B.A. (Hons)
Director of Teaching & Learning:	Mr. J. Hollingsworth B.A. (Hons) PGCE
Director of Learning i/c Behaviour and Safety:	Mr. G. Mason B.SC (Hons) PGCE
Director of Learning i/c Pupil Achievement:	Mr. M. Hardiman B.SC (Hons)
Director of Religious Life:	Mrs. C. Webb B.A. (Hons) PGCE M.A.
Director of Finance & Operations:	Mr. G. Prior

WELCOME AND AIMS OF THE SCHOOL

The Sixth Form at St Thomas More High School aims to be a continuation and development of all that is best about the school: its strong commitment to academic and vocational success and learning, its friendly caring environment based on the Christian values of service, respect and justice, its excellent relationships between students and staff, its impressive sporting tradition, the opportunities it presents for involvement in a huge range of cultural, charitable and other enrichment activities, and the unobtrusive support and guidance given to each student. Applicants wishing to be considered for a place in our Sixth Form should understand that our Sixth Form is a Christian Sixth Form based on Catholic practices and traditions. However we welcome boys and girls, from all denominations and faith positions who are sympathetic to Christian values, and the school celebrates the added richness and diversity brought to it by such students. As a Catholic school each pupil is respected as a unique person with God given gifts, qualities and particular needs. Our school creates an atmosphere of purposeful learning where good teaching leads to a confidence and love of learning and where pupils develop respect, tolerance and concern for others as they journey towards exceeding their academic potential and to becoming responsible citizens.

St Thomas More has a tradition of success; in part this is due to the dedication, experience and expertise of our teachers who will expect you to achieve or exceed your potential. If you join us in the Sixth Form you will benefit from the atmosphere of hard work, enthusiasm and success that exists amongst the current Sixth Form students. Each year a large number of our students progress successfully to higher or further education, including Oxford and Cambridge.

We offer a wide range of courses which are outlined in this prospectus and all areas of the curriculum provide opportunities for developing independence, growing as leaders and taking ownership of your learning. Some of this will occur through research and enquiry, and some through collaborative learning. We aim for you to develop a high self-esteem and gain a respect for your culture and traditions, underpinned by an understanding and tolerance of others, that will help your transition into the next stage of adulthood.

St Thomas More High School is committed to safeguarding both pupils and staff. All adults who have unsupervised contact with pupils are subject to an enhanced DBS check.

We hope that you find this prospectus informative and helpful. Should you require further information or would like to visit the School, please do not hesitate to contact us.

THE SIXTH FORM DAY

St Thomas More High School is a Christian Sixth Form. That means we, the staff, will try to offer you care and support based on Gospel principles of love and justice. It means too, that you will be offered encouragement to grow in your own faith by our shared worship and religious education. In return we expect you to uphold and develop the ethos and the traditions of the school.

- Students are expected to attend regularly and to be punctual.
- All students are full time members of the Sixth Form and are expected to be in school every day.
- The learning day runs from 8.40am to 3.30pm.
- Lessons are one hour long and there are 5 lesson periods in the day. Regardless of the courses you choose to follow, study of one sort or another will consume most of your time.
- However, there will be times when you are not timetabled for taught lessons. During this time we would expect that you undertake research, complete extended learning assignments and follow up on class notes independently.

Dress Code

All students have to adhere to our uniform code. Boys wear a dark suit, shirt and a Sixth Form House tie. The girls can choose to wear either a dark trouser suit or the school skirt from Paul's Discount Clothing with a suit jacket. Girls wear a shirt or blouse with a Sixth Form House tie.

Independent Learning Facilities

Students have the facilities to support their independent learning with numerous quiet study areas resourced with a wide range of reading material, desk top computers, available in the Learning Resource Centre (LRC) and Sixth form study area, with Wi-Fi access to improve study. Throughout the day access to the cafeteria is available for those wanting a more informal study area. The Sixth form study area is open after school well into the evening to enable students to continue studying at school if they wish to.

SPORT AND ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

Sport

We have an extensive sports-provision, both in lesson time and as part of the timetable of extra-curricular activities. Many pupils from all year groups attend sports clubs before and after school and lunchtimes are open to anyone to attend as they wish.

There are teams or clubs in football, basketball, netball, hockey, cross country, athletics, swimming, badminton, cricket, tennis and table tennis. Our pupils are involved in many other sports as well. The School enjoys a formidable reputation for sporting achievement. The school runs a Sports Academy in the Sixth form; enabling students to study for A levels whilst at the same time receiving top quality coaching and taking part in regional and national tournaments

Sports Day is held each year where as many pupils as possible from each form are encouraged to compete for their School House – the rest of the School makes up an enthusiastic crowd. We organise House Tournaments in most of the sports listed earlier which are very popular and keenly contested.

Enrichment

All students have dedicated lessons in enrichment; this ensures students can take part in activities to increase their personal development.

The School provides an extensive range of extra-curricular activities. These are invaluable in providing the pupils with opportunities to develop their talents and to excel and to find new interests. They also give great enjoyment.

We also provide the opportunity for students to take part in volunteering, where students work with those less fortunate in our community. Students can also volunteer to help children in local Primary schools.

Our new Food Technology suite is available to all students who are given the opportunity to attend sessions preparing them for university life.

These activities take place mainly after school and occasionally at weekends. They are important in helping to build a sense of School community and a sense of belonging. They also strengthen good relationships between the pupils and staff and give the students self-confidence. Some of these many opportunities are as follows, although we are always open to new ideas from both pupils and parents to help the programme grow even further.

Music

The Music Department enjoys a reputation for a sound academic and work ethos and as an important adjunct to the Liturgical life of the school.

All this is augmented by a group of peripatetic staff tutoring boys in clarinet, guitar (electric/acoustic/bass/classical), drums, flute, piano, saxophone, trumpet, trombone and violin.

There are lunchtime activities open to all students who have an interest in taking part.

The Department maintains good links with the Enrichment initiatives of the school; and pupils are encouraged to take part fully in the annual liturgical celebrations in Advent and Lent, as well as on numerous other occasions throughout the year. Pupils have performed at local events such as the Mayor's concert and the Maritime Festival.

Drama

Thanks to the dedication and commitment of the staff, the school has developed a strong tradition in drama. The annual school play draws from all year groups and continues to be of a very high quality. We have also collaborated with other schools and arts organisations as part of the St Thomas More Shakespeare Festival. The school has been a Hub School in the prestigious Royal Shakespeare Company's Learning and Performance Network and still maintains strong links with the organisation.

Trips and Educational visits

The School enjoys a wealth of trips, both at home and abroad, throughout the academic year. Many are linked to specific subject departments; others are linked to cultural, sporting or religious activities. These trips enhance the achievement and enjoyment of our pupils and help to build the School's strong sense of community. The school has a very successful Duke of Edinburgh award scheme with many students achieving the Bronze and Silver award in Years 10 & 11. We have a group completing their expedition for the Gold award this year in the sixth form.

Overseas Visits

Visits to different parts of the world are run by many departments. In previous years these have included a ski trip and a football tour to Holland. Visits to Paris and Barcelona have provided pupils with the opportunity to enjoy linguistic and cultural stays in these European cities. The History department has provided our students with the opportunity to visit Ypres and Berlin and the Business Studies department to Disneyland Paris.

Most Able

We offer our most able a range of experiences which will challenge and inspire, providing them with those skills and qualifications that can really make the difference when applying for top institutions. Our aim is to make our students stand out from the crowd.

The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) allows students to gain a head start on those skills vital for university by giving them an opportunity to pursue their own academic interests. As well as providing half an A level, it provides excellent preparation for Oxbridge interviews, as well as appealing to the top universities.

“It has given me the chance to explore further into topics that I already love.”

Grace Hall

The Oxbridge Conference allows students to attend workshop sessions delivered by current Oxford and Cambridge professors and provides valuable insight to the application and admissions process; university fee structure and how to access bursaries/funding available; and personal statement writing. Students are also provided with a range of useful materials and knowledge including videos on interview techniques and a ‘student’s eye’ view from pupils currently attending each of the Universities. Throughout the day professors from both Universities are on hand to answer any Cambridge or Oxford specific questions and overall students gain valuable knowledge and understanding into studying at an Oxbridge University.

LIFE BEYOND SIXTH FORM

Connecting you...

The academy mission statement, 'To keep our Catholic ethos at the centre of our lives,' was clearly evident throughout the inspection...in the mentoring which takes place between sixth form students and others in the academy.

Ofsted Report February 2015

...to higher education



Map of University Destinations 2016 from St Thomas More

St Thomas More is proud to send most of its students onto higher education – 85% in 2016, 24 students being placed at prestigious Russell and 1994 Group universities. At our sixth form we support our students with their personal statements, help them to complete on the online UCAS form and we have a fantastic university selection tool in the Unifrog platform.

“Unifrog has been an amazing tool to us all as it takes away the stress of sifting through university prospectuses. Unifrog suggest the best universities for you based on your preferences and predicted grades, with the ability to look at league tables, fees, lecture hours, accommodation costs and many more features needed to consider before selecting your final 5 places”.

Maddie and Chris

“Visiting universities on open days is not just about looking at the courses it is about deciding if the university is for you. It’s impossible to tell by looking at prospectuses if that’s the right place. By spending a couple of hours looking around you will know if that’s the university to spend the next 3 years of your life at. “

Rachael Hurley

...to opportunity

When starting sixth form at St Thomas More, I didn't have a clue what I wanted to do. I took subjects that I enjoyed taking through GCSE level, such as Geography, P.E and I.T. Taking subjects that I enjoyed was very important as revising was never my strong point, however, with the help of fellow students and teachers I managed to push through and gain some reasonable grades. This is all said and done, particularly in my second year, university wasn't appealing to me.

However, during 2011 I took some time to look for potential opportunities across the pond in the United States. A company called First Point USA, got in touch and gave me a huge opportunity. I was given the chance to play football for the University of West Alabama and study the degree of Sports Management. After taking a gap year, I grasped this opportunity and with the help of my sixth form grades I was eligible for a place! The rest is history. So, from the team bus heading to Memphis Tennessee, here’s the bottom line, work hard regardless of your situation and you will get your opportunity, just like I did. Good luck!

Alex Brown Alumni student.

...to your future career

All students also have the opportunity to take part in Enterprise activities. St Thomas More has developed a programme that prepares students for the world of work by following a model that focuses on linking students to employers through masterclasses and mentoring. We are proud to offer our students the opportunity to help prepare them for life beyond school or Higher education.

89% of students in 2015 said their choice of subjects suited their ability and career plans

The academy provides effective support for students when they are making decisions about the next stage in their life. They speak highly of the careers support and guidance they receive...Students speak highly of the support and help they get in making decisions about the next steps in their lives.

Ofsted Report February 2015

During our students time in Sixth Form we aim to provide as much support with their next steps as possible. If we are unable to support directly we will ensure you know the right person to see to ensure you are receiving the most up to date and impartial information advice and guidance. We have an independent Careers Adviser in school once a week and we are happy to make appointments for any student to see them.

... Our Alumni

The Alumni is a large group of past pupils who meet for social events and produce the MOREANA quarterly magazine. The Alumni work in a range of jobs, from a well-known barrister, a politician, literary and script editor, magician, fireman, an expert in marketing in the theatrical industry and many more. The members really have a lot to offer the leavers of St Thomas More, whether it be career networking or advice, or simple continuing to hold true the values and traditions of our school so that it is maintained for future generations.

The Alumni can help financially too with their hardship fund, which members pay into to help the young people in our care who may need support. Visit <http://www.stmalumni.co.uk/> for more information.

ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS - 2017

Prospective Sixth form students are encouraged to visit the school in the autumn term. Application details, including a prospectus, can be obtained via the school. The date for applications is the end of the autumn term. However late applicants can be considered. Prospective Sixth Formers will be invited to a meeting in the spring term. Students should complete the appropriate application form and return it to the school.

Up to 170 students can be accepted into Year 12 of the Sixth form providing they achieve the entry requirements detailed below and in the prospectus, subject to available places on the courses.

Places on A level and other courses can, subject to availability, normally be offered to applicants who meet the minimum course requirements. Our Sixth Form entry requirement is usually based on a minimum of 6 GCSEs at grades A* to C, including a 5 in English and Maths, with the minimum subject requirements that are specified in the sixth form options booklet. This minimum subject requirement is usually a grade A*, A or B in the chosen or related subject. However, the sixth form options booklet should be consulted for specific details for each course.

Should there be more candidates of the required level than places available, selection will be based on rank ordering the GCSE grades. 'Looked-After' children are to be given the highest priority in the oversubscription criteria.

Progression onto the second year of the course is dependent on several factors, including:

- Whether the student has performed well enough in three of their chosen Level 3 courses, not including General Studies or any other enrichment courses.
- Whether your attendance, punctuality and commitment in Year 12 have been good.

Supporting students through the transition from GCSE to A level

Whilst teaching staff will be the main aid to student's transition, we have a Sixth Form team to offer further support and mentoring. The tutorial and enrichment team run a programme to support students with A level study and monitoring of students' progress throughout the year with student specific flight paths. In addition to the tutors we also have an academic team to focus on individual student performance.

We feel that learning is best supported by having an effective partnership with parents and guardians. We have an arranged consultation evening with parents and students to discuss progress and reports, but the Sixth Form Leadership Team and the tutorial staff can be approached to arrange other meetings for individuals to discuss more specific support if our monitoring suggests it is required.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

All pupils in the School are encouraged to work hard to reach their full potential. To this end, each pupil in the Sixth Form is given a challenging, yet realistic target grade in each of his or her subjects.

When surveyed in 2015 90% of students stated they enjoyed being in our Sixth Form.

Pupils are encouraged to take a pleasure in their learning and their achievements. Teachers use a variety of skills and strategies to meet the needs of each and every learner and to allow each pupil to get the most out of each lesson.

96% of students surveyed in 2015 stated that their teachers had good subject knowledge

It is our aim to produce knowledgeable, skilled, independent learners who are capable of thriving in the workplace and world of the 21st century.

The academic progress of each pupil is monitored on a regular basis to identify pupils who are not making progress. These pupils are supported by a team of mentors who work closely with the pupil and his or her parents.

Through a programme of objectives setting and regular reviews we aim to improve the attainment of such pupils so that they might do their abilities justice.

85% of students when surveyed in 2015 felt confident they would achieve

English as an Additional Language (EAL)

Many of our pupils speak another language or languages in addition to English at home and with their extended families. The School encourages pupils to maintain and develop this wonderful ability, and many belong to the Able, Gifted and Talented programme.

Learning Support

We have a strong Special Educational Needs Department and pupils with special learning needs are encouraged through a combination of approaches depending upon the needs of the individual child.

For example:

- there will be differentiated teaching and support in all lessons,
- at times, and after discussion with parents, pupils may be temporary withdrawn from the usual curriculum for special lessons,
- we run a computerised study-programme called, “Success Maker” and use Lexia
- a corrective reading-programme is also run by the Special Educational Needs Department.

Individual learning programmes are reviewed regularly and information is disseminated to teaching staff to ensure the educational needs of all our pupils are met.

Extended Learning

The aim of extended learning is students, parents and teachers working together to develop independent and enquiring learners.

What is our expectation?

Our Expectation is that students, parents and teachers will all work together to extend students’ learning and challenge their interests, by encouraging them to think beyond the four walls of St Thomas More’s classroom.

We anticipate this working in the following ways:-

- Teachers will offer pupils opportunities to extend their learning in a variety of ways
- Parents/Carers will take time to support, encourage and inspire students to develop their knowledge and understanding at every opportunity
- Pupils will take these opportunities provided to them and even work on their own initiative to develop their learning and their interests through the help, support and encouragement of both their parents and their subject teachers.

A Partnership with Pupils and Parents

For your child to achieve great success it is important that we work together in partnership. The School has many informal ways of encouraging this. There are also many formal methods, for instance:

- specialised Study Skills Evenings for each year group,
- the weekly newsletter, 'Contact',
- assessment reports based on the pupil's attainment and effort,
- Parents' Evenings,
- formal written reports.

We are keen for parents to play a full part in the formal and informal opportunities for communication and working together.

SUPPORT, CARE AND ENJOYMENT

We want our students to be safe and happy in our School. We want them to develop into confident young men and women who know the difference between right and wrong and have the confidence to express themselves and their beliefs.

We therefore have a strong pastoral system to ensure that pupils understand proper behaviour, are self-disciplined, respect one another and receive all appropriate support.

All teachers and support staff at the School have a pastoral responsibility, but the School also has a team of dedicated pastoral specialists, these include the Director of Learning i/c of Sixth Form, the Pupil Progress Mentors and the Pupil Support Mentor.

For everyday pastoral matters the relevant Form Teacher or Pupil Support Mentor should be contacted, in the first instance.

External Agencies

Sometimes a pupil requires additional specialist-support and when this is needed, we are able to draw upon a wide range of external agencies. Some of these agencies are:

- Brentwood Catholic Children's Society Counsellor,
- Behaviour Support Services,
- the Child and Family Consultation Services,
- Educational Psychology Services.

Form Groups

The form groups are organised according to the age of the pupils into 5 houses. Each pupil's form teacher will meet your son or daughter at the start of each day. The form teacher is there to ensure that the day starts well and, over the course of the year, he or she will get to know your son or daughter well.

Registration takes place in the form room in the morning and in the final lesson of the day. Attendance is monitored by the School's own Attendance Manager and by the Local Authority's Attendance Officer, who liaises with the Pastoral Co-ordinator.

Pupil Voice

The voice of our pupils is immensely important to us and the Key Stage Councils and the full School Council are two important and well respected ways in which the School is able to hear and benefit from the views of our pupils.

Behaviour

The School expects high standards of behaviour. A Code of Conduct regulates all aspects of our life at School. Every pupil is expected to be sensible and courteous in his or her behaviour at all times and to obey any reasonable request made by a member of staff. There are general school rules to ensure the smooth running of the School community and the safety, happiness and academic success of all. Copies of our Code of Conduct found in the student planners and on the school website.

Discipline at our School is firm, friendly and caring. Misdemeanours are dealt with in a variety of ways, ranging from reprimands to Conduct Cards. More serious offences are punished by, for instance, after-school detentions or internal seclusion. These will be accompanied, if necessary, by interviews with parents. Very serious offences may result in the pupil being excluded from the School.

The School has a rich and diverse system of rewards to encourage and reward good behaviour. It also provides many opportunities for pupils to undertake roles of responsibility throughout the School. In Year 11, we have a Prefect system.

Policies

The School has policies that are concerned with the health, safety, welfare and achievement of all of the pupils. One such policy is the Child Protection Policy, which makes clear that we have responsibilities to inform the relevant authorities of child protection concerns.

Some of our other policies are the, Accessibility Policy, Anti-Bullying Policy, Anti Drugs Policy, Behaviour Policy, Disability Equality Scheme, Equal Opportunities Policy and Race Equality Policy. The School also has a Complaints Procedure.

Partnership

At our School we aim to make a reality of the idea of partnership with parents and we will contact you readily if the need arises. Please contact us, to discuss any questions you may have about your child's welfare and progress.

Sex Education

The Church recognises that it is the privilege and responsibility of the family to inform and educate their children in all matters pertaining to human growth and development, particularly in the sensitive area of sexual development. However, it also recognises that parents often need a major commitment from schools to support them in this role.

The School has a Sex Education programme delivered through the Religious Education Department, the Citizenship and Personal, Social and Health Education Department and the Science Department. This programme spans all year groups of the School and covers both the physical details of human reproduction and moral teaching on sexuality in accordance with the teaching of the Church.

(Parents have a statutory right to withdraw their sons and daughters from sex education classes, except for those aspects of human reproduction which form part of the curriculum)

THE HEART OF THE SCHOOL

Our faith lies at the heart of all we do at St Thomas More High School. Religious Education at our School might be understood as consisting of three dimensions:

- religious worship and spirituality,
- Christian living and
- academic education.

Religious worship and spirituality

Our staff and students are encouraged to develop themselves spiritually whilst with us. There are many opportunities for both public and private worship. For example, formal prayers are said at the start and end of the school day at registration times. The Angelus is said at lunchtimes. There are two main assemblies each week where the school gathers to listen to the Word of God and to join together in prayer. Voluntary Mass is offered every week at lunchtime in the Chapel and whole-school Masses are celebrated on Holy Days and on other special occasions.

Christian living

Jesus taught that we should love God with all our heart, mind, soul and with all our strength, and our neighbour as ourselves. It is our aim to follow this teaching in all of our relationships and actions. The School has a strong tradition of charitable fundraising, helping those in need both at home and abroad.

Religious education

Year 12 & 13 students have General Religious Education lessons. In these lessons the pupils study the traditions, practices and teachings of the Catholic Church, other Christian Churches and some of the other world faiths.

HOUSE SYSTEM

The School is organised in a House System: St Andrew, St David, St George, St Patrick and St Sebastian. Every pupil of the School is allocated a House and many of the sporting and enrichment activities are run through these Houses. Each House is organised by a Head of House from the staff and by a House Captain from the Sixth Form. Merit Marks are also allocated to pupils through their Houses. The House system encourages involvement, friendship and a healthy sense of competition.

How to Apply

Once you have decided to join us at St Thomas More Sixth Form, the application process is simple.....

Thursday 24th November 2016 6pm – 9pm
Sixth Form Open Evening

Application Forms

Returned to
Admission Secretary
St. Thomas More High School
Westcliff on sea

Application Forms emailed to:

[admissions@st-
thomasmore.southend.sch.uk](mailto:admissions@st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk)

Friday 9th December 2016

Deadline for applications.
Applications received after this date will be considered individually but subject combinations cannot be guaranteed

January - April

Opportunity to meet the Sixth Form Leadership Team to discuss your subject choices, specific entry requirements and individual learning needs.

Accept offer of a place

21st and 22nd June 2017

'Taster Days' meet subject teachers and discuss specific subject queries.

Enrolment

Thursday 24th August 2017 at school after examination results are collected.

Application forms are available at the back of this prospectus, from the Admissions Secretary 01702 344933 and can be downloaded via the School's website:-

www.st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk.

SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

To inspire,

To learn,

To achieve,

To keep our Catholic ethos at the centre of

our lives,

To fulfil our educational potential,

Welcoming all and reaching out to the wider

world,

To be truly God's servant first.