



ST. THOMAS MORE HIGH SCHOOL

CURRICULUM POLICY

DATE	ACCEPTED/UPDATED/ REVIEWED	BY WHOM
September 2022	Accepted	SLT

Mr Dan Cauchi
Chair of the Governing Body

The School's 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 truly be God's servant first.

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St. Thomas More High School Aims

As a Catholic school, St Thomas More High School we aim to provide a curriculum which inspires and challenges all our pupils, and enables them to become:

- ★ **successful learners** who enjoy learning, are well informed, make progress and achieve;
- ★ **confident young adults** who are able to live safe, healthy and fulfilling lives founded on their Catholic Christian faith;
- ★ **responsible citizens** who make a socially and economically positive contribution to wider British society.

The school's curriculum plan relates directly to our key school aims. We aim to develop the school's community to provide a disciplined, caring and stable environment in which pupils can achieve their best and develop as confident young people, well prepared and fully equipped to make a positive contribution to the wider world as responsible citizens.

As a Catholic school we respect each pupil as a unique person with God given gifts, qualities and particular needs.

The curriculum at St Thomas More High School:

- ★ ensures that the Good News of Jesus Christ inspires and underpins all the learning activities that pupils experience
- ★ promotes the Mission Statement and the declared aims of the school; enabling pupils to have respect for themselves and others and be aware of their own spiritual development;
- ★ recognises that the curriculum is present in every minute of every day of school life;
- ★ recognises the pivotal nature of the experience of the Catholic Christian faith in the school, ensuring that our pupils both learn and live their faith;
- ★ promotes the religious, spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of the pupils, both through CPSHE lessons and the curriculum as a whole;
- ★ enables all pupils to learn, and develop their skills, to the best of their ability;
- ★ promotes an understanding of the influences on learning, so that pupils enjoy coming to school so that they can increasingly take control of their own learning experience and thus acquire a solid basis for lifelong learning;
- ★ enables pupils to become thoughtful, reflective and resilient learners;
- ★ teaches pupils the key skills of literacy, numeracy and communications technology;
- ★ enables pupils to be creative and to develop their own thinking;
- ★ makes pupils aware of the importance of their own positive contribution to British society and their responsibilities as members of a local and wider community.

ST THOMAS MORE HIGH SCHOOL CURRICULUM

INTENT

The intent of the curriculum at St Thomas More:

- ★ To provide a broad and balanced curriculum that is accessible to all pupils.
- ★ To provide opportunities for all pupils to develop a high level of literacy and numeracy required for success in adult life.
- ★ To broaden pupils' horizons through a range of spiritual, moral, social and cultural opportunities.
- ★ To ensure that all pupils can thrive and develop as healthy individuals.
- ★ To ensure that all pupils understand how to stay safe.
- ★ To develop resilience that will help pupils to overcome the challenges they are likely to encounter in adult life.
- ★ To provide an appropriate range of opportunities and experiences to allow pupils to succeed in the next stage in their education, training or employment.

Key features of the St Thomas More Curriculum design:

- ★ A broad and balanced KS3 curriculum designed to develop competencies to prepare pupils for KS4.
- ★ A broad and ambitious KS4 curriculum that provides **all** pupils with the opportunity to achieve the EBacc.
- ★ An extended KS4 programme to allow pupils to develop a deeper understanding of subject specific knowledge and skills.
- ★ A thorough CPSHE and Enrichment curriculum, designed to develop pupils' character, confidence, resilience, independence, leadership skills, preparation for life, and provide access to a wide and rich set of experiences.

ST THOMAS MORE HIGH SCHOOL CURRICULUM IMPLEMENTATION

Organisation of the School Day

St. Thomas More operates a two week timetable of:

- ✓ 10 x 25min registration/form/assembly time
- ✓ 50 hours of curriculum teaching periods. 5 hours per day including some 'double' two hour lessons for years 10-13.
- ✓ School day – 8.45am – 3.30pm
- ✓ Total school hours per week = 33hr45mins

The school day is arranged in the following way:

Timings of the Day 2022 - 2023

Bell	Period	Timings
8.40 8.45 late	Registration	8.45 – 9.10
9.10 9.15 late	P1	9.10 – 10.10
10.10 10.15 late	P2	10.10 – 11.10
11.25 11.30 late	BREAK	11.10 - 11.30
	P3	11.30 – 12.30
12.30 12.35 late	P4	12.30 – 1.30 Angelus before dismissal
2.25 2.30 late	LUNCH	1.30 – 2.30
	P5	2.30 – 3.30

Form Time and Assemblies

Registration occurs during the daily 25 minute form time that runs from 8.45 – 9.10am.

The programme of weekly form time activities can be found here:

Day	Key Activities/Focus	Additional Information
MONDAY	★ D.E.A.R (Drop Everything And Read) ★ Personal Administration	Students and staff should all read uninterrupted during DEAR time. Planners should be checked for recording of key information by students and parent/guardian signature and any additional home/school communication.
TUESDAY	★ Guided Reading	Guided reading slide * please see link below
WEDNESDAY	★ Form/House/Enrichment/Celebration/ Pastoral Assemblies ★ If no assembly - Vocations (week 1) Form Quiz (week 2)	Multiple venues
THURSDAY	★ Form/House Mass	Led by one/two forms each week. Rest of school joins by video link.
FRIDAY	★ Headteachers Assembly as per plan	Two year groups attend in assembly hall, one year group on concourse and rest of school joins by video link.

* <http://www.st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk/uploads/documents/curriculum/policy/guidedreadingslide.pdf>

A full plan of assemblies for this academic year can be found here:

[Assemblies plan](#) –

<http://www.st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk/uploads/documents/curriculum/policy/assemblies.pdf>

Additional SEND support is also provided during form time. The support has included;

- ★ Reading & spelling
- ★ Maths
- ★ Handwriting
- ★ Social skills (how to manage difficult situations)
- ★ Communication and interaction skills (both receptive and expressive)
- ★ Subject support where necessary

Key Stage 3 Curriculum Model

The table below summarises how many periods and the number of minutes each fortnight that are allocated to each subject.

	Maths	English	Computing	Science	Religious Education	Music, Art, Technology (inc Food), STEM (inc Geology)	Physical Education	Geography	History	Spanish	CPSHE	Library
Periods	6	6	2	5	5	6	4	4	4	6	1	1
Minutes	360	360	120	300	300	360	240	240	240	360	60	60

- ★ We ensure good preparation for KS4 by ensuring Maths and English have the most curriculum time, followed by RE, Science and Spanish.
- ★ All Curriculum plans for years 7 & 8 are mapped to the National Curriculum for individual subjects to ensure a full and balanced coverage across the two years.

Key Stage 4 Curriculum Model

Year 9

	Maths	English	Science	Religious Education	Games	Options Subjects	Duke of Edinburgh Award	CPSHE
No. of periods	8	10	9	5	4	4	1	1
Total no. of mins	480	600	540	300	240	240	60	60

Year 10

	Maths	English	Science	Religious Education	Games	Options Subjects	CPSHE
No. of periods	8	10	9	5	4	4	2
Total no. of mins	480	600	540	300	240	240	120

Year 11

	Maths	English	Science	Religious Education	Games	Options Subjects	CPSHE
No. of periods	7	9	8	5	4	5	2
Total no. of mins	420	540	480	300	240	300	120

KEY STAGE 4 OPTIONS

All students studying the following subjects:

- ★ English (Language & Literature)
- ★ Mathematics
- ★ Science (students choose between Trilogy or Separate Science qualifications)
- ★ Religious Education
- ★ CPSHE (non-qualification programme of study)
- ★ Games (non-qualification programme of study)

Students are then able to opt for three further subjects from the list below, which should include, but is not limited to one EBACC subject choice.

Free choice is offered to all students to maximise engagement and provide bespoke pathways that meet the needs of the individual student.

EBACC	Success Subjects
Students choose ONE from the subjects below	Students choose ANY TWO from the subjects below
Computer Science	Art
Geography	Business Studies
History	BTEC Business (Enterprise) (yr10&11 only)
Separate Science	BTEC Digital IT
Spanish	Computer Science
	D&T (Resistant Materials)
	Food and Nutrition
	Geography
	History
	Media Studies & Film Studies **
	Music
	P.E.
	BTEC Sport
	Separate Science
	Spanish

Please see our Year 8 Options page and links to all of this year's up to date options information here:

[A link to our Year 8 Options page can be found here from March 2023.](#)

Key Stage 5 Curriculum Model

Year 12

- ★ Each subject has 10 learning hours (20 hours for BTEC Diploma courses).
- ★ Students doing 3 A-Levels/equivalent have 10 hours per fortnight 'Directed Study' for supervised independent learning in school.
- ★ In addition to their core curriculum students are also involved in the following programmes:
 - ✓ General RE – 2 hours per fortnight along with additional whole day curriculum opportunities – see full programme below.
 - ✓ Enrichment – 1 hour per fortnight
 - ✓ Maths and English GCSE resit – 2 hours per fortnight where appropriate.

Provisional Year 12 Options Blocks

BLOCK A	BLOCK B	BLOCK C	BLOCK D
Computer Science	Biology	Chemistry	Business Studies
English Literature	Politics	Product Design	Geology
Film Studies	History	English Language	Media Studies
Maths	BTEC ICT Extended Certificate	Geography	PE
Psychology	Core Maths	Maths	Physics
Sociology	Psychology	BTEC Sport Diploma (C&D)	RE
Art	Business Studies	Sociology	BTEC Sport Diploma (C&D)
BTEC Business Extended Certificate		History	BTEC Sport Extended Certificate
Core Maths		Business Studies	Spanish
Geography			Politics
			Psychology
			Sociology

Year 13

- ★ Each subject has 10 learning hours (20 hours for BTEC Diploma courses).
- ★ Students doing 3 A-Levels/equivalent have 10 hours per fortnight 'Directed Study' for supervised independent learning in school.
- ★ In addition to their core curriculum students are also involved in the following programmes:
 - ✓ General RE – 2 hours per fortnight along with additional whole day curriculum opportunities – see full programme below.
 - ✓ Enrichment – 1 hour per fortnight
 - ✓ Extended Project Qualification – 2 hours per fortnight for students opting to take this additional qualification.
 - ✓ Maths and English GCSE resit – 2 hours per fortnight where appropriate

Year 13 Options Blocks			
BLOCK A	BLOCK B	BLOCK C	BLOCK D
Art	Biology	BTEC Business Diploma (C&D)	BTEC Business Diploma (C&D)
Business Studies	Product Design	Computer Science	Geography
Chemistry	History	Politics	English Language
Film Studies	Media Studies	PE	Physics
Geology	Spanish	Geography	Psychology
BTEC ICT Extended Certificate	Psychology	Business Studies	Sociology
Maths	English Literature	Maths	History
Core Maths	BTEC Sport Diploma (B&D)	Core Maths	BTEC Sport Diploma (B&D)
RE	Business Studies		BTEC Sport Extended Certificate
Sociology	Politics		
Psychology			

6th Form Enrichment Programme

The details of our enrichment programme for year 12 and year 13 can be found on the CPSHE curriculum page via the link below.

[Yr12/13 Enrichment Plan Overview 2022-23 –](#)

www.st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk/uploads/documents/curriculum/plans/cpshe.pdf

Core RE Programme

The details of our Core RE programme for year 12 and year 13 can be found via the links below.

[Core RE Curriculum Plan Overview - http://www.st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk/uploads/documents/curriculum/policy/corere2223.pdf](http://www.st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk/uploads/documents/curriculum/policy/corere2223.pdf)

[Year 12 Core RE Overview - http://www.st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk/uploads/documents/curriculum/policy/yr12corere.pdf](http://www.st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk/uploads/documents/curriculum/policy/yr12corere.pdf)

[Year 13 Core RE overview - http://www.st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk/uploads/documents/curriculum/policy/yr13corere.pdf](http://www.st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk/uploads/documents/curriculum/policy/yr13corere.pdf)

KEY STAGE 5 OPTIONS

All internal and external 6th form applicants are able to opt for three/four level 3 subjects from the list below.

Free choice is offered to all students to maximise engagement and provide bespoke pathways that meet the needs of the individual student.

A-LEVEL SUBJECTS			BTEC (LEVEL 3) SUBJECTS
Art	Film Studies	Physical Education	BTEC Business Extended Certificate (Equivalent to ONE A-LEVEL = ONE CHOICE)
Biology	Geography	Physics	BTEC IT Extended Certificate (Equivalent to ONE A-LEVEL = ONE CHOICE)
Business Studies	Geology	Product Design	BTEC Sport Extended Certificate (Equivalent to ONE A-LEVEL = ONE CHOICE)
Chemistry	Politics	Psychology	BTEC Sport Diploma (Equivalent to TWO A-LEVELS = TWO CHOICES)
Computer Science	History	Religious Studies	
English Language	Maths	Sociology	LEVEL 3 CERTIFICATE SUBJECTS
English Literature	Media Studies	Spanish	Core Maths

Please see our Sixth form admissions page and links to all of this year's up to date course information here:

Curriculum Delivery

Subject Leaders plan learning programmes that aim to deliver a broad, balanced and challenging curriculum to prepare our pupils for transfer to their next key stage and beyond.

The curriculum is organised and delivered in such a way as to provide value for money, ensuring sensible and economic use of the financial resources of the school.

The Curriculum responds to the needs and aspirations of the pupils:

- it promotes differentiation of teaching and learning in the learning programmes and through setting of pupils according to ability (where appropriate), supporting the least able and challenging the most able;
- it facilitates the development of the talents and interests of the pupils within the constraints imposed by staffing resources and the timetable structure. To this end, it will seek to provide as broad a choice of options as is possible at KS4 and KS5, ensuring progression to career opportunities and further and higher education.

The curriculum ensures equal opportunity for all:

- all pupils will have equal access to all courses and facilities and to guidance;
- all pupils will have an equal right to fair and unbiased assessment.

Full details of individual curriculum planning can be found in the subject specific curriculum maps and year group specific Curriculum Guides below:

CURRICULUM PLANS:

If you would like more information about any of the subjects we offer please contact the relevant subject leaders listed here:

[Subject Contacts list 2022-23](http://www.st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk/uploads/documents/curriculum/policy/subjectleaders.pdf) - <http://www.st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk/uploads/documents/curriculum/policy/subjectleaders.pdf>

Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance

Pupils and students will be given impartial advice and guidance on the most appropriate curriculum choices at Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5.

[Careers Programme of Study yr7-13](http://www.st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk/uploads/documents/curriculum/policy/careerspos.pdf) - <http://www.st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk/uploads/documents/curriculum/policy/careerspos.pdf>

[Careers & Work Experience](https://www.st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk/index.php/curriculum/careers) - <https://www.st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk/index.php/curriculum/careers>

The Key Stage 3-4 transfer is overseen by the Curriculum Development Leader. Key Stage 4-5 transfer is overseen by the Director of Learning i/c of the Sixth Form. In both instances there is liaison with other staff as appropriate, to ensure pupils make informed and relevant curriculum choices.

Additional information and resources can be found at:

[Careers & Work Experience](https://www.st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk/index.php/curriculum/careers) - <https://www.st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk/index.php/curriculum/careers>

Teaching and Learning

Teaching and Learning Policy Link – currently being updated

Marking, Feedback and Assessment

St Thomas More Marking and Assessment Policy ensures the schools rigorous assessment procedures are carefully linked to ensure that teaching, learning, assessment and the curriculum are responsive to pupils' needs, with a focus on raising achievement.

We ensure that regular assessment opportunities are included within the departmental curriculum planning and the school's assessment calendar.

[Marking and Assessment Policy](#) –

www.st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk/uploads/documents/curriculum/policy/markingandassessmentpolicy.pdf

[Progress Reporting Timeline - 2022-23](#) –

www.st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk/uploads/documents/curriculum/policy/progresstimeline2223.pdf

Extended Learning

Extended Learning is a key part of our curriculum and is used to extend or consolidate learning that has been encountered during the school day. A number of curriculum areas provide students with extended learning tasks, which are structured to complement the learning of a particular topic. In addition to tasks subjects may set Extended Learning Challenges which may lead to a project, which is then assessed. Full details can be found in individual subject Curriculum Guides on the school website and on subject MICROSOFT TEAMS pages.

[Extended Learning Overview](#) - www.st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk/uploads/documents/curriculum/policy/extlearnguide2223.pdf

CPSHE

CPSHE encompasses Citizenship, Personal, Social, Health, and Economics education. It enables our pupils to become healthy, independent and responsible members of society. It furthers aims to help them understand how they are developing personally, socially, and morally. CPSHE tackles many of the societal and cultural issues that are part of British life. Our pupils are encouraged to develop their sense of self-value by playing a positive role in contributing to life at St. Thomas More and in their wider communities.

Pupils are further encouraged to develop their general understanding, literacy and oracy throughout CPSHE. Where appropriate external agencies and speakers are invited into St. Thomas More to support with content. For example, issues like knife crime and e-safety are covered in a sensitive and impactful manner.

[CPSHE curriculum information](#)- www.st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk/uploads/documents/curriculum/plans/cpshe.pdf

RSE

[RSE curriculum information](#) –

[http://www.st-](http://www.st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk/uploads/documents/curriculum/policy/rsecurriculum.pdf)

[thomasmore.southend.sch.uk/uploads/documents/curriculum/policy/rsecurriculum.pdf](http://www.st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk/uploads/documents/curriculum/policy/rsecurriculum.pdf)

SMSC and British Values

SMSC/British values link – currently being updated

Collective Worship

As a worshipping community, St Thomas More lives its mission, through its witness, care and expectation of excellence. All members are valued and encouraged to grow together. Love of God and the example Christ are at the forefront of our policies and practice.

[Calendar of weekly Masses - 2022-23](#) - [http://www.st-](http://www.st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk/uploads/documents/curriculum/policy/calendarweeklymasses2223.pdf)

[thomasmore.southend.sch.uk/uploads/documents/curriculum/policy/calendarweeklymasses2223.pdf](http://www.st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk/uploads/documents/curriculum/policy/calendarweeklymasses2223.pdf)

[Assemblies plan](#) - [http://www.st-](http://www.st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk/uploads/documents/curriculum/policy/assemblies.pdf)

[thomasmore.southend.sch.uk/uploads/documents/curriculum/policy/assemblies.pdf](http://www.st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk/uploads/documents/curriculum/policy/assemblies.pdf)

Partnership with Parents

Parents are the prime educators of their children. The curriculum facilitates the parental involvement of parents in the learning process, ensuring at all times effective communication and reporting about the progress of their children.

[Progress Reporting Timeline - 2022-23](#) –

[www.st-](http://www.st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk/uploads/documents/curriculum/policy/progresstimeline2223.pdf)

[thomasmore.southend.sch.uk/uploads/documents/curriculum/policy/progresstimeline2223.pdf](http://www.st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk/uploads/documents/curriculum/policy/progresstimeline2223.pdf)

[Study Skills Evenings - 2022-23](#) - [www.st-](http://www.st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk/uploads/documents/curriculum/policy/studyskills2223.pdf)

[thomasmore.southend.sch.uk/uploads/documents/curriculum/policy/studyskills2223.pdf](http://www.st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk/uploads/documents/curriculum/policy/studyskills2223.pdf)

[Cream Calendar for Parents](#) - [www.st-](http://www.st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk/uploads/documents/calendars/whole-school-calendar.pdf)

[thomasmore.southend.sch.uk/uploads/documents/calendars/whole-school-calendar.pdf](http://www.st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk/uploads/documents/calendars/whole-school-calendar.pdf)

Curriculum Pages - www.st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk/index.php/curriculum/information

Remote Curriculum Delivery

Remote learning is delivered via **MICROSOFT TEAMS**.

A summary of how and when remote learning will be delivered via this platform can be found in the school Remote Learning Policy.

[Remote Learning](#) - [www.st-](http://www.st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk/uploads/documents/curriculum/policy/remotelearningpol.pdf)

[thomasmore.southend.sch.uk/uploads/documents/curriculum/policy/remotelearningpol.pdf](http://www.st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk/uploads/documents/curriculum/policy/remotelearningpol.pdf)

Extracurricular Programme of Activities

At St. Thomas More we believe that extra-curricular activities have the power to boost young people's confidence to interact socially with others; extend their social networks; and provide them with new skills and abilities. They also offer an important opportunity to have fun and relax away from the pressures of school work. Our staff offer a programme of activities that enrich our students school experience and help to develop their character, confidence, resilience and provide them with access to a wide and rich set of experiences.

[Extracurricular Timetable](#)

www.st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk/uploads/documents/curriculum/policy/extracurric.pdf