



August 2026

Dear student, parent/ guardian, and carers,

I hope this letter finds you well and filled with the joy and peace of Christ. I hope that you had a wonderful summer break however you chose to spend it. I wanted to start the year by sharing some big successes for St Thomas Becket Catholic school that the whole community can be proud of.

First and foremost, it was wonderful to celebrate both the GCSE and A-Level exam results with the students and see so many happy faces after a year of very hard work. When I started at St Thomas Becket Catholic School, I promised that every year, each examination year group would surpass the previous cohort. This summer, we celebrated the best GCSE results the school has ever achieved! If you have a moment, do look at the good news articles recently shared over the summer holidays:

[A Levels 2026: A-level success opens doors for St Thomas Becket Sixth Form students](#)

[GCSE Results 2026: St Thomas Becket Catholic School celebrates 'best ever' GCSE results](#)

I am incredibly proud of how hard the students and staff have worked and it was great to celebrate the incredible results that have led to our students continuing their studies at their chosen destinations.

As we prepare for the new academic year, I would like to remind you of some important information about the start of term, the school day, uniform, pastoral support and our revised mobile phone arrangements.

Start of the academic year

Tuesday 1st September: Training Day – school closed to all pupils.

Wednesday 2nd September: Year 7 and Year 12 return to school.

Thursday 3rd September: Years 7, 10, 11 and 12 in school.

Friday 4th September: All year groups return to school.

Timings of the school day

Students should arrive at school from 8.30am so that they are ready for morning line-up at 8.35am. Students arriving before 8.30am may use the school canteen, where a free breakfast bagel is available and the area is supervised by our pastoral and inclusion team. Students should not enter the school building before 8.30am unless weather conditions require otherwise.

**RESPECT****TRUTH****COMPASSION****JUSTICE****FAITH**



ST THOMAS BECKET CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Becket Way, Kettering Road North, Northampton, NN3 6HT

HEADTEACHER Mr Paul McCahill BSc (Hons) NPOH MA SLE

WEBSITE www.st-thomasbecket.org.uk

PHONE 01604 493211

EMAIL office@tbcs.nor.olicatschools.org



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Pastoral staff and support

Our Raising Standards Leaders (RSLs) from 1 September 2026 are:

- Year 7 – Miss Steven – MSteven@tbcs.nor.olicatschools.org
- Year 8 – Miss Shocklidge – AShocklidge@tbcs.nor.olicatschools.org
- Year 9 – Mrs Lloyd – SLloyd@tbcs.nor.olicatschools.org
- Year 10 – Mrs Budulean – DBudulean@tbcs.nor.olicatschools.org
- Year 11 – Ms Bizimana – AGipki@tbcs.nor.olicatschools.org
- Sixth Form – Miss Donovan – VDonovan@tbcs.nor.olicatschools.org

Communication

General enquiries: Office@thomasbecket.org.uk

Attendance / absence notifications: AMcMahon@tbcs.nor.olicatschools.org

Family Support Worker: GBeaney@tbcs.nor.olicatschools.org

SENDCo: SKean@tbcs.nor.olicatschools.org

MCAS / admissions enquiries: SCrawford@tbcs.nor.olicatschools.org

Sixth Form: VDonovan@tbcs.nor.olicatschools.org

Uniform

We are very proud of the smart appearance of our pupils, which is often commented upon by visitors to the school. Please ensure that all students return in correct, full school uniform. Students who are not in the correct uniform will be placed into Learning Recovery until this is rectified. Thank you for your continued support in maintaining the high standards we expect.

Mobile phones – important September change

As already communicated, from September 2026, we are introducing a new [mobile phone policy](#) based around lockable phone pouches. This follows statutory DfE guidance that schools should be mobile-phone-free environments by default and is part of our work to provide a calm, focused, distraction-free and safe learning environment.



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WEBSITE
www.olicatschools.org

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Mrs Catherine Burnham

Registered Office: Our Lady Immaculate Catholic Academies Trust, c/o St Thomas More Catholic Secondary School, Tyne Crescent, Bedford, MK41 7UL
Company Number: 09436283





As a reminder, there are two options: [Whole School Mobile Phone Pouch – Fill in form](#)

Option 1 – phone pouch system. Students place their phone into a secure pouch on arrival; the pouch remains locked throughout the school day and the phone can only be accessed once the student leaves the school site. The pouch costs £16 and is available through MCAS under Products > Uniform. The pouches have a five-year lifespan and warranty. **All students will be provided with their pouch on their first day back to school.**

Option 2 – no phone in school. Parents may choose for their child not to bring a phone into school. If a student who has opted out is found with a phone in school, this will be treated as a serious breach of the school behaviour policy.

Please note that sanctions for breaches will be more stringent. Any phone found will be confiscated immediately and may need to be collected by a parent or be retained by the school for a minimum of five school days. Repeated breaches may lead to escalated consequences, including suspension, and persistent refusal to comply could ultimately lead to permanent exclusion.

Sixth Form students are expected to model exemplary behaviour. They may use mobile phones only within the Sixth Form Study Café or where a teacher has explicitly authorised their educational use during a lesson. Outside these circumstances, they are expected to follow the same gate-to-gate expectations as all other students.

Our intention is not to punish students or create unnecessary barriers for families. The revised approach is designed to protect learning time, reduce distraction and conflict, support student wellbeing, reassure families that phones remain available before and after school, and meet statutory DfE guidance.

Key dates for your calendar

Thursday 24th September: Year 6 Open Evening (early close)

Thursday 1st October: Meet the Tutor Evening (all year groups)

Thursday 8th October: Year 11 Steps to Success Evening & Sixth Form Open Evening

Keeping up to date

Please continue to follow our social media channels for school updates: Facebook: www.facebook.com/ThomasBecketCatholicSchool | Instagram: @thomasbecketcatholicschool



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On behalf of everyone at St Thomas Becket Catholic School, thank you for your continued commitment to Catholic education. We look forward to supporting your children this academic year as they grow into the young person God is calling them to be.

I hope that you have a restful and relaxing weekend.

Here is to a fantastic year ahead! **#MissiontoExcellence**

Yours faithfully in Christ,

God bless.

Paul McCahill
Headteacher



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