

Thomas Becket Catholic School

VI Form Prospectus

Northamptonshire's
only Catholic VI Form

*Christ's Love
is our Foundation*

Rated
'GOOD'

by the Diocese
of Northampton



Students are well supported in their move to the next stages of education, training and employment. In 2018, all students who applied to higher education institutions gained places at their first choice of university.

Ofsted, March 2019



Welcome to Welcome to Thomas Becket Catholic School's VI Form, a Catholic, listening and learning community.

As leaders of Northamptonshire's only Catholic VI Form we are proud to welcome you to Thomas Becket Catholic School.

It is an exciting time to join Thomas Becket's VI Form; we are changing, growing and quickly becoming one of the most vibrant parts of our school community. We are incredibly ambitious and fully intend to make all our students' experiences the very best.

Thomas Becket VI Form will offer you the familiarity and close levels of support and mentoring that only a school VI Form can; while providing new opportunities both academically and in terms of enrichment.

At Thomas Becket we love and value every student as an individual and motivate and encourage them to pursue academic excellence, whilst also acknowledging that VI Form

is not just about academia but about developing the whole person, mentally, spiritually and as role models and citizens within modern society.

We provide our students with opportunities to participate and engage in fundraising activities, community initiatives and as mentors in key subjects for our lower school students.

Through these enrichment opportunities we enable them to develop leadership skills, explore and discover new talents whilst positively impacting on the lives of others.

Our VI Form aligns itself with the wider school ethos in that the students are at the heart of everything we do and this is epitomised by the pastoral support they receive.

Our students are guided and advised about their Post 18 options, coached through the application processes for University, apprenticeships and the world of work and mentored based upon specific areas of need. This is also the foundation for enabling students who have varied prior attainment to find feasible routes into becoming a member of our VI Form.

We are incredibly proud of all our students and endeavour to ensure that every young person who leaves our community has achieved their ambitions and is fully prepared for whatever their next steps in life may be.

Molly Harrison
Director of Sixth Form

Victoria Donovan
Assistant Head of Sixth Form

Building new horizons through love, faith and excellence

As part of the Catholic Church, our mission is to serve the needs of all students in such a way that they may reach their spiritual, moral and academic potential.

Our Vision

- To provide every student with a caring and supportive environment.
- To equip every student with the Christian principles of self-worth, responsibility and respect.
- To create an environment where all members of the community are recognised, valued and celebrated.
- To equip every student with the skills and knowledge required for their future education, employment and adult life.
- To enrich the lives of all of our students through supporting the development of their interests and facilitating the discovery of new experiences.

Studying with Us

Our school values form the foundations of a student's experience within our VI Form.

Thomas Becket VI Form students will study a minimum of three A Levels or equivalent BTEC qualifications. Our aim is to offer a balanced range of facilitating and creative subjects to satisfy the broad range of talent and interests our students have.

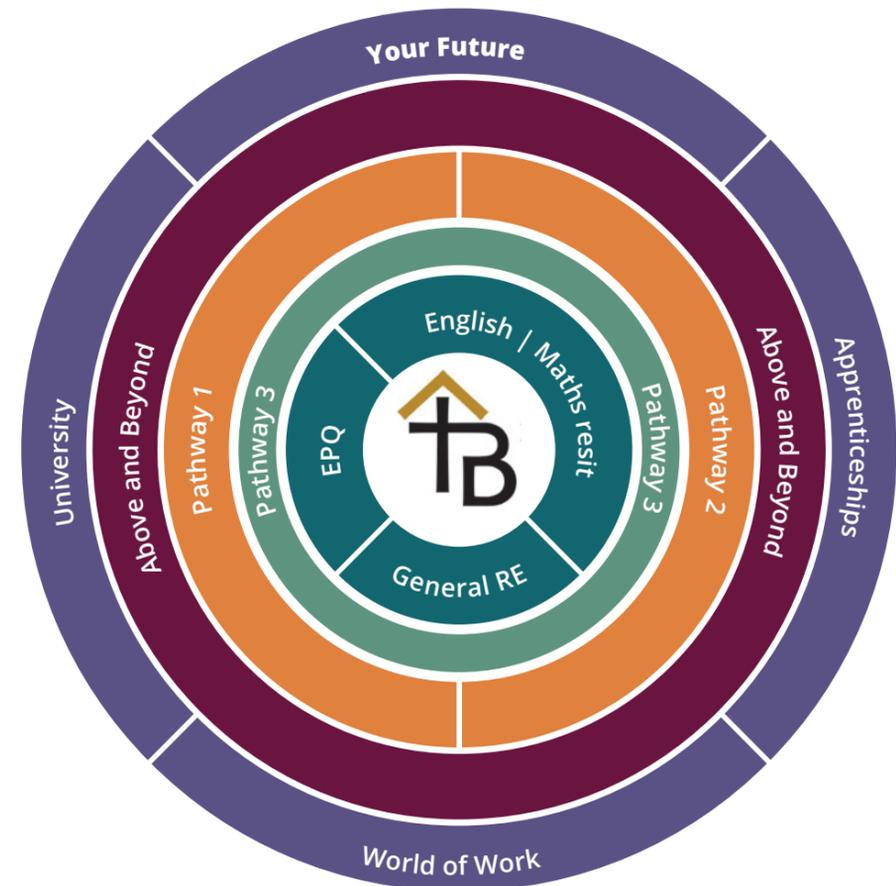
We offer both A Level and BTEC qualifications; whilst neither course is more valuable than the other in terms of UCAS points and level of qualification, it is important to consider specific course outlines and the methods of assessment.

A Levels are assessed by end of year external examinations, whereas BTECs track a student's progress via modular assessments in the form of external examinations and coursework units. Therefore it is really important to consider what type of qualification will best suit you.

Our commitment to quality learning is reflected in the contact time students have with their teachers. Each A Level or BTEC equivalent receives 10 hours per fortnight. Alongside this, students benefit from supported, structured study time with resources and staff on-hand.

PATHWAY 1 A LEVELS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Religious Studies Art Biology Business Studies Chemistry English Language 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> English Literature Geography History Law Maths Media Studies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Photography Physics Politics Psychology Sociology Spanish
PATHWAY 2 BTEC LEVEL 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applied Science Business Studies Food and Nutrition Graphics Health and Social Care Information Technology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Media Studies Performing Arts Sport Travel and Tourism Uniformed Public Services 	
PATHWAY 3 LEVEL 2 QUALIFICATIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BTEC Applied Science BTEC Health and Social Care BTEC Information Technology BTEC Media Studies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GCSE Maths GCSE English Language GCSE Psychology GCSE Sociology 	

Our curriculum is inclusive, providing opportunities for students from all backgrounds and levels of entry.



Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

All students will be offered the opportunity to complete the Extended Project Qualification.

The EPQ is a skills-based qualification recognised by universities. It is a valuable tool for students wishing to demonstrate their knowledge and interest in a specific area outside of their subjects.

Core RE for All Students

Aside from the chosen academic study, Core RE encourages students to be responsible for themselves and others, develop an awareness of the world in which they live and adopt a positive attitude towards life. Lessons are delivered by subject specialists and take place

Pathway 1

Students will study predominantly A Level qualifications.

Average GCSE Point Score 5.5+ with additional subject specific requirements

(Detailed on subject information sheets)

Pathway 2

Students will study predominantly Level 3 BTECs

Average GCSE Point Score 4.0+ with additional subject specific requirements

(Detailed on subject information sheets)

Level 2 BTEC/ GCSE Pathway

(3 year VI Form Provision)

Average GCSE Point Score 2.5-4.5

Preparing You for the Future



“Pupils benefit from the high standard of pastoral care that seeks to support them when they experience significant pressures. For example, one student was able to achieve his goal of going to university for which he was academically qualified because the school provided timely personal support.”

Diocese of Northampton, Section 48 Inspection, June 2019

Work Experience

We give all of our Year 12 students the opportunity to complete a week of work experience in the Summer Term to enrich their education.

This opportunity will give you a greater understanding of the 'world of work' and help you to develop employability skills such as teamwork, problem solving and communication. It also provides you with valuable skills and experiences that can be referred to as part of your University and other Post 18 applications.

How we provide help and guidance for our students:

- Tutors will help students to construct applications and personal statements
- Our knowledge and relationships allow us to write bespoke and personalised references
- We help students to prepare for interviews
- We arrange for guest speakers and careers talks
- We organise University trips and attendance at UCAS conventions
- We provide contact with employers
- We hold apprenticeship and employment days within school

Above and Beyond

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Sixth formers are taking the lead and setting an example of service for the common good in a wide variety of ways.”

Diocese of Northampton, Section 48 Inspection, June 2019

[Sixth formers] have led collective worship in local Catholic Primary schools, other initiatives include fundraising for a local hospice and supporting a local foodbank, which made a great impression on those involved.

Diocese of Northampton, Section 48 Inspection, June 2019

Charity events and links with the local community add to pupils' experiences and learning.

Ofsted, March 2019

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Our VI Form students are actively encouraged to participate and contribute to all aspects of school and community life.

Every student opts for enrichment activities that support them to go above and beyond their academic studies in order to help others and develop a range of skills for the wider world.



Student-led Reflections

Groups of students throughout the year also prepare and lead VI Form assemblies which are tied to the liturgical calendar and key events. Students are challenged with reflecting on each week's gospel, interpreting it for their peers and forming links to their own lives and world.

Community Day

All of our VI Form students participate in our Community Day where they pledge to spend a day helping the local community. This event gives students an opportunity to experience a world outside of school and to reach out to people beyond their own lives.

Regardless of the environment students find themselves in, they whole-heartedly engage with and contribute to the community in an overwhelmingly positive way. From supporting primary schools to helping community organisations, not only does the Community Day enrich the institutions we support, it also equips our students with important life skills including resilience, working collaboratively and using their initiative, to name but a few.



Charity Week

Our students are encouraged to demonstrate what selfless, committed and resourceful people they are when they fundraise for our nominated charity, Cynthia Spencer Hospice. Through planning, organising and running a plethora of events and activities, ranging from car washing and raffles to hair-braiding our VI Form students have raised over £1,200 in the past two years.



In-school Mentoring

Every VI Former also commits to one hour a fortnight of supporting and mentoring students in the lower years. This largely takes the form of in-class support where they provide help, offer feedback and lead small group activities.

Subject Trips

Many of our VI Form subjects organise subject-specific trips. Some highlights in the last year have been an A Level Literature trip to London to watch the critically-acclaimed 'Death of a Salesman' and an A Level Art trip where students visited the Tate Gallery.

Coming soon... Longtown 2020

Our current Year 13s are in the midst of fundraising to help finance their much-anticipated trip to Longtown. This is designed to provide our students with the opportunity to regroup and recharge before the onslaught of external exams. We also see this as a perfect opportunity to recognise and reward the contributions our students make to the school community and celebrate achievements.

What our Students Say

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Kajetan – Head Boy

“Advancing from secondary school to VI Form was at first, a seemingly daunting and difficult task.

“However, the amount of help and support that I have received has been incredible: the positive and reassuring attitudes of the staff help to create a positive and ever-growing community as well as a sense of family and camaraderie that encompasses both students and teachers.

“It’s a comfortable and supportive environment which allows students to excel academically and as individuals, enabling us to grow into young, successful adults.”

Former Student, Studying History at the University of Sussex

“Thomas Becket Catholic School gave me the opportunity to go to my dream university and my teachers pushed me to work to my best ability, even though I found it hard at times. The VI Form staff really helped with any worries and also with my UCAS to make sure it was a very good experience.

“I would 100% recommend the VI Form to others.”

Former Student

“A Levels were a big challenge for me because I was not initially accustomed to the rigour, but I always felt supported and guided by my teachers and tutors.

“I can’t count the number of times my teachers went the extra mile for me to ensure I achieved my end goal.”

Former Student

“As a student, currently in my second year of university, I can confidently say that A Levels were the most challenging academic experience I have encountered.

“If it had not been for my teachers and their constant support I would have found it really difficult to succeed.”

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University Destinations

- De Montfort University
- University of Northampton
- Coventry University
- Ethihad Football Academy, Manchester
- Birmingham City University
- University of Brighton
- Nottingham Trent University
- Sheffield Hallam University
- University of Wolverhampton
- University of Bedfordshire
- University of Plymouth
- University of the West of England
- University of Sussex
- University of Liverpool
- University of Leeds
- University of Arts London
- Aston University



FREE Student iPads

In response to universities’ desire for students to be more IT literate and experienced in using IT as a learning platform for research and reference, all VI Form students will be offered the personal use of a school iPad* for the entirety of their studies with us.

*These will be subject to meeting the terms and conditions of use and the commitment of a refundable deposit.

If you would like to find out more about our school community please contact us:

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We look forward to welcoming you!

