



Thursday 20th April, 2023

## Ofsted Report Publication

Dear Families,

I am delighted to let you know that our Ofsted report has now been published. Before going into the details I would like to extend a sincere thank you to my staff who are a constant source of support and demonstrate a commitment to the St Thomas More community every day. Their hard work and dedication is to be admired and applauded. As always, our pupils portrayed themselves in their best light - they truly are a credit to the school.

A full copy of the report can be found using the link below, however I can confirm that the school was deemed to be **'Good'** in all areas with many areas of excellence reported. This is particularly pleasing as the new Ofsted inspection framework is extremely demanding and has raised the bar in terms of what is expected of schools.

I will provide a brief summary below of the key findings; however, if you have time I would strongly encourage you to read it in full and share with your child.

The report opens by stating that **'leaders have created a climate of high ambition at the school .... [which] ... pupils aspire to meet'**. I hope this indicates to you that we have a commitment to providing the best possible education to all of our pupils through the high standards we have and a commitment to collaboration.

The inspectors were impressed with the high level of parental engagement. The very vast majority of you said you would recommend St Thomas More to parents moving into the area. I am exceptionally grateful for this. Not only am I thankful for the specific purpose of inspection, but also for your continued support as a community of families and pupils.

St Thomas More has a strong heritage and a history of excellence in many areas; the report acknowledges that **'well considered changes'** have built on these traditions and that **'leaders have high standards and want the very best for all pupils.'** I can assure you that as Head Teacher I will continue to strive to do right by the school, ensuring that providing a high quality education for all children in my care is my priority.

As Head Teacher, I see every day what a calm, civilised and welcoming school St Thomas More is and I am pleased to say that this was picked up as a strength by inspectors. The team commented on the fact that the school is **'calm and orderly'** where **'pupils behave well in lessons and social times'** and are **'polite and well mannered'**. I could not be more proud of our pupils and their ongoing commitment to presenting themselves in their best light.

ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC SCHOOL,  
CROFTDALE ROAD,  
BLAYDON,  
TYNE & WEAR,  
NE21 4BQ

0191 499 0111  
info@stthomasmore.org.uk  
www.stthomasmore.org.uk



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It was fantastic to hear that our work on personal development is a strength of the school. Inspectors state that our work in this area **'allows pupils to live the school motto that translates to all members of the school doing the right thing for the right reason'**. I am thrilled that this was acknowledged as we pride ourselves on this motto and always hold this principle at the forefront of all the work we do.

Similarly, our commitment to pastoral care and pupils' welfare was recognised by the inspection team. They confirmed **'pastoral support is a strength'** and that **'strong relationships exist between staff and pupils'**.

The inspectors confirmed that our work on quality of education is a strength of the school. They stated that **'pupils follow a well thought-out curriculum'** which is **'aspirational for all'**. They acknowledged that **'pupils with SEND are supported well in the school'**. This provides clear confirmation that curriculum leaders are ensuring the school curriculum is of high quality and meets the needs of all pupils. I am delighted that this is the case.

There was similar positivity linked to Sixth Form provision with inspectors noting that **'students achieve well'** and our Horizons programme being mentioned as a strength of provision. I am exceptionally proud of this as our Sixth Form students always support the school in an exemplary manner.

As with all inspections there are areas that have been recommended for further development, which can be found on page 4 of the report. These areas for development were not a surprise to us and were indeed shared openly with the inspection team who noted that **'leaders are focused on further improving the school'**.

Finally, I appreciate that although an Ofsted inspection can represent a dreaded day for anyone working in a school, I am grateful for the sharpness and professionalism of the inspection team who took the time to understand our wonderful school community.

I feel overwhelmingly proud to lead such an amazing school that is filled with so many fantastic staff and pupils. Thank you to all for your continued support and loyalty to the St Thomas More community.

Yours sincerely

Mrs J Turner  
Head Teacher

[Ofsted Report - St Thomas More Catholic School](#)