



September 2024

Year 8 Curriculum Overview - Autumn Term

Dear Families,

I hope this letter finds you well. We are delighted with the positive start that the children have made to the academic year. I would like to take this opportunity to share with you the subjects and topics your child will be studying over the coming weeks. At St Thomas More we believe that strong partnerships between home and school are key to pupil success, and we value the role you play in supporting your child's education.

Below, you will find an overview of what your child will be learning in each subject this term, along with suggestions on how you can support their progress at home.

Year 8 Term 1 Curriculum

Subject	Topics
English	Ancient Origins: Homer's Odyssey, Simon Armitage (Poetry)
Maths	Number <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prime Factors • Rounding (significant figures) • Estimation • Percentage Change Ratio & Proportion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forming and Simplifying Ratio • Splitting an Amount in Ratio Algebra <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Factorising (single bracket) • Forming Linear Equations • Linear Inequalities
Science	Biology - Photosynthesis & Interdependence
	Chemistry - Particle theory and its application
	Physics - Motion and Turning effects, Density and Pressure





Religious Education	Existential questions that lie at the heart of the human condition and reflect on both the meaning of suffering and the meaning of death
History	How far did the power of monarchy change as a result of the Civil War? 1a) To what extent was Elizabeth's reign a 'Golden Age'? 1b) What were the causes and outcomes of the English Civil War?
Geography	Coasts Development and the gap in development
French	A past trip to Paris
Music	Rhythm, Tempo & Metre Structure and Melody
Information Technology (ICT)	Media - Vector graphics Layers of computing systems
Food and Nutrition (12 week Carousel during the year)	Advanced cooking, cultural and dietary diversity
Design and Technology (12 week Carousel during the year)	Copper Tealight
Physical Education	Invasion Games Dance, Gymnastics & OAA (Outdoor Adventurous Activities)
Wider Curriculum	Pupils will study the following key concepts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Health & Wellbeing ● Sex & Relationships ● Living in the Wider World ● Keeping Safe ● Careers ● Character, Culture and Morality

[The Taught Curriculum - School Website](#)

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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General Tips for Supporting Your Child’s Progress

- Establish a Routine: Set aside regular time each day for homework and study, ensuring a quiet space free from distractions.
- Encourage Independent Learning: Ask your child questions about what they’re learning and encourage them to research topics they find interesting.
- Stay Informed: Regularly check your child’s homework diary or online learning platforms (e.g. Google Classroom) to stay up to date with assignments and deadlines.
- Praise and Encouragement: Celebrate your child’s achievements, both big and small, to build confidence and motivation.

Parents’ Evening (Online)

Year 8 Parents’ Evening - Thursday 3rd April 2025 - 4pm - 6.30pm

Assessment dates this academic year:

Key Stage 3 Assessment Module 1:
Week commencing Monday 1st December 2024

Key Stage 3 Raising Achievement Plan (Preparing for End of Year Assessment)
Monday 7th April - Friday 23rd May 2025

Key Stage 3 End of Year Assessment Module 2
Week commencing Monday 2nd June

We understand that every child is unique and that the best support will differ from family to family. If you have any questions or need further advice on how to support your child’s learning, please do not hesitate to contact us in school via the house emails addresses below.

St Bernadette	St Catherine Laboure	St John Fisher	St Therese
s_stbqueries@stthomasmore.org.uk	s_stclqueries@stthomasmore.org.uk	s_stjfqueries@stthomasmore.org.uk	s_sttqueries@stthomasmore.org.uk

Thank you for your continued support in helping us provide the best possible education for your child. We look forward to working closely with you this term.

Yours sincerely,

Stephen Tait
Assistant Head Teacher

