



January 2026

Year 8 Curriculum Overview - Spring Term

Dear Families,

I hope this letter finds you well. As we begin the spring term, we would like to congratulate all our pupils on the fantastic effort and progress they made during the first term. It has been wonderful to see their hard work and enthusiasm for learning.

With the new term underway, I would like to share an overview of the subjects and topics your child will be studying over the coming weeks. At St Thomas More, we firmly believe that strong partnerships between home and school are key to pupil success, and we deeply value the role you play in supporting your child's education.

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

Year 8 Term 2 Curriculum

Subject	Topics
English	War Writing: <i>Journey's End</i>
Maths	<p>Geometry & Measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Area and Circumference of Circles• Volume and Surface Area of Prisms• Transformations• Angles and Parallel Lines• Angles in Polygons <p>Algebra</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Drawing Straight Line Graphs• Sequences and “nth” term
Science	<p>Biology - Respiration</p> <p>Chemistry - Chemical changes</p> <p>Physics - Scale and Size of the solar system and other bodies in space. Measuring electricity</p>
Religious Education	The ministry of Jesus, including the miracles of Jesus and how Christians are inspired today. The problem of evil and suffering,



	and the meaning of human suffering and how we can grow and support others.
History	Was the British Empire a 'force for good'? 2a) What impact did the British Empire have on India? 2b) Was the impact of the British Empire the same everywhere?
Geography	Environmental Geography
French	<p>Communication and Comprehension</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Understanding information about a tourist attraction• Saying where you went and how• Talking about music• Clothes you will wear to events• Talking about your passions <p>Phonics</p> <p>- s (z when followed by a vowel) magasin visité Eu/œu – ennuyeux/fabuleux/sœur/cœur/jeune/neuf/erreur silent h – histoire heure/hôtel/horreur Em/am followed by consonant –temps/camp Èê après Eil/eill œil/Meilleur/soleil Ouil/ouill débrouillard Aill/ail taille Om nom/comprendre/tomber Open o d'accord/porte/école/poste Y -style/système/rythme Oy moyenne Euil/euill fauteuil</p> <p>Grammar and Language Structure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Perfect tense with irregular verbs• C'était• Perfect tense with etre• Asking questions in the perfect tense• Agreeing and disagreeing• Near future• Past, present and future tenses <p>Cultural awareness</p>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Paris● Music in France
Music	Texture, Sonority and Dynamics Harmony & Tonality
Information Technology (ICT)	Developing for the Web Representation - from clay to silicon
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/Nightlight
Art	Man made part 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Observational study skills.● Exploring artists or movements● Skills & Techniques in a range
Physical Education	Individual Games Health Related Exercise
Wider Curriculum	Pupils will study the following key concepts over the year: <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](#)

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 - Tuesday 31st March 2026

Assessment dates this academic year:

Key Stage 3 Raising Achievement Plan (Preparing for End of Year Assessment)

Monday 20th April 2026

Key Stage 3 End of Year Assessment Module 2

Week commencing Monday 1st June 2026

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
STM-StBQueries@stm.bwcet.com	STM-StCLQueries@stm.bwcet.com	STM-stifqueries@stm.bwcet.com	STM-sttqueries@stm.bwcet.com

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

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



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

Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust is an exempt charity. It is a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales under company registration number 07890590. The registered office address is Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education HQ, Barmston Court, Turbine Business Park, Nissan Way, Washington, SR5 3NY.