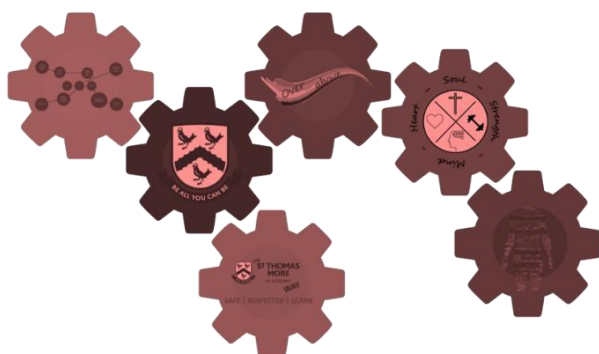




# ST THOMAS MORE

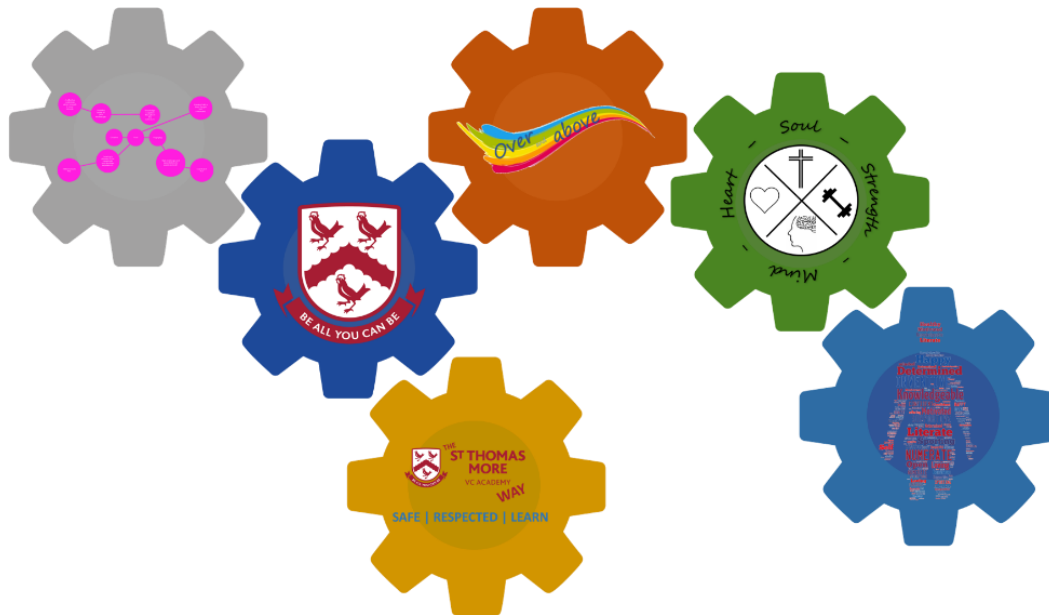
## VC ACADEMY



# Our Curriculum

# Welcome to our School – This is The St Thomas More Way!

At St Thomas More we believe that every pupil within our school community has the chance to succeed and in turn we have designed a curriculum which intends to inspire, encourage and challenge all our pupils to '**Be All You Can Be**'.



## St Thomas More VC Academy Curriculum Rationale

At St Thomas More VC Academy, we believe that every pupil in our care has the right and the potential to succeed. Our curriculum has been designed to inspire, encourage and challenge every learner to “Be all they can be”—academically, spiritually and personally.

Our curriculum is ambitious, inclusive and purposeful. It ensures that **no learning is left to chance**, and that every child is given the knowledge, skills and character they need to flourish now and in the future. It is built with *the St Thomas More Leaver* in mind — a pupil who is confident, articulate, compassionate and equipped with the understanding and curiosity to make a positive difference in the world.

### Our Curriculum Principles

Our curriculum is rooted in four core principles that shape all aspects of teaching and learning:

#### 1. **Leaves Nothing to Chance**

Learning is intentional, carefully sequenced and underpinned by clear progression in knowledge and skills. Through *Highly Intentional Teaching*, teachers build learning step by step, ensuring secure understanding and fluency before introducing new concepts. High expectations are consistent across all subjects, and our assessment model provides ongoing checks for understanding, deliberate opportunities for independent application, and formal points for reflection and refinement.

#### 2. **Truly Ambitious for All Pupils**

Every pupil is challenged to achieve their best. The curriculum secures strong foundations in reading, writing and mathematics, enabling pupils to access the full breadth of learning and develop the cultural capital they need to thrive. Our ambition is for every child — regardless of background, need or starting point — to achieve excellence through effort, opportunity and belief.

### 3. **Prioritises Language and Vocabulary**

Language development sits at the heart of our curriculum. We recognise that vocabulary is a key driver of understanding, attainment and confidence. Across all subjects, teachers explicitly teach and revisit key vocabulary, enabling pupils to articulate their thinking, reason effectively and deepen comprehension. From Early Years onwards, rich talk, reading and writing opportunities ensure pupils become skilled communicators and critical thinkers.

### 4. **Responsive to Context and Need**

Our curriculum reflects the community we serve — diverse, resilient and full of potential. It responds to pupils' lived experiences, providing meaningful connections to the world around them. Teachers adapt teaching to address misconceptions, build on interests and close gaps swiftly, ensuring every learner has the support they need to succeed. Through faith, belonging and aspiration, our pupils are empowered to see themselves as capable learners and future leaders.

## **Securing the Fundamentals**

Our curriculum ensures that the **core subjects provide secure and fluent foundations** for all future learning. Staff have undertaken **purposeful and impactful professional development** in reading, writing and mathematics, strengthening the quality and consistency of teaching.

## **The St Thomas More Way – Highly Intentional Teaching**

Teaching at St Thomas More is highly intentional and underpinned by shared professional language and routines. Our model ensures consistency, clarity and excellence across all classrooms. It is built on seven principles that define how learning happens best:

1. Consistent Routines and Shared Language
2. Structured Explanations and Instructions
3. Explicit Vocabulary Instruction
4. Visual Supports to Deepen Understanding
5. Modelling as Scaffolding
6. Accountable Questioning and Systematic Checking
7. Deliberate Planning for Retrieval and Application

Through these principles, teaching across the school is systematic, responsive and deeply rooted in cognitive science — ensuring that every pupil knows more, remembers more and can do more over time.

## **A Connected and Purposeful Curriculum**

We want pupils to understand the value of what they learn and how it connects to the wider world. Our *Connected Curriculum* approach provides opportunities for pupils to apply knowledge across subjects, see real-world relevance and recognise their place in the community. Learning is creative, real and engaging — it encourages curiosity, resilience and a sense of moral purpose.

Our curriculum develops pupils **spiritually, morally, socially, physically and academically**. It promotes creativity, problem-solving, and collaboration, preparing pupils to navigate an ever-changing world with confidence and compassion.

## Conclusion

The curriculum at St Thomas More VC Academy is intentionally designed to be **ambitious, inclusive and precise**. It is driven by faith, informed by research, and shaped by the belief that every child can and will succeed.

**It leaves nothing to chance, prioritises language and vocabulary,** and remains **responsive to the needs of our pupils and community.** Through a relentless focus on securing the fundamentals and providing rich, connected learning experiences, our pupils are well prepared not only for the next stage of their education, but for a life of purpose, contribution and faith.

## The St Thomas More Leaver



