



St. Thomas a Becket Catholic Secondary School

Part of the Bishop Konstant Catholic Academy Trust

Recruitment pack

Thank you for your interest in St. Thomas a Becket Catholic Secondary School – part of the Bishop Konstant Catholic Academy Trust.

We hope this pack will give you an insight into what it is like to work at our school, the type of person we are looking for and how we are preparing for our new school build!

About our school

Our school welcomes young people from across the Deanery, the District and beyond. We are a Catholic school for our whole community and offer each young person, whatever their background and starting point, the chance to grow and flourish spiritually, academically, physically and emotionally.

Our goal is to support their families in enabling our pupils to be fully awake, fully human and fully alive to the possibilities of living a fruitful and fulfilled life, realising their God-given individuality, importance and potential in all that they do and become.

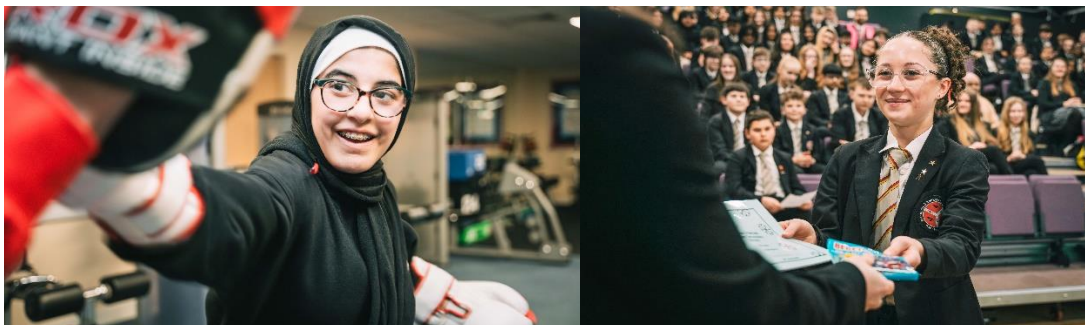
We insist on respect, kindness and excellence from all members of our community, and guide and support them in the search for, and development of Faith.

Our pupils spend their days in an orderly, purposeful environment where achievement is celebrated, and individuality is valued.

We take enormous joy and pride in being a very happy school, where pupils feel safe and cared for.

We are proud of our excellent reputation, which is built upon the wealth of opportunities we offer our pupils, our excellent exam results and outstanding pastoral care in which each child is valued and supported throughout their school journey.

The relatively small size of the school, as well as the way we structure learning, allows us to genuinely get to know each child as an individual, enabling a more personalised approach that helps them to thrive and flourish.



Our outstanding facilities includes one of the only cycle circuits in the North of England built to British Cycling standards, a sports hall in line with Sports England's specifications, a bespoke theatre, and various dedicated teaching and leisure spaces. Despite these impressive amenities, our school is proudly 'human-sized'. This means we are big enough to offer a wealth of opportunities — including a wide array of local, national, and international trips, and participation in sports, arts, and other events at various levels — yet small enough to maintain a nurturing, personal, and warm educational environment for every student.



This balance between offering state-of-the-art facilities and maintaining a close-knit, supportive community is reflected in the achievements of our students. Last year, our Year 11 cohort achieved the highest ever GCSE progress score in the school's history, a clear indication of their hard work and our unwavering commitment to excellence in education.

Our school embodies the unique and distinctive character of Catholic education, yet we believe it stands out even more in its ethos and approach. We are dedicated not only to academic success but also to the holistic development of each student.

It is this commitment that truly sets us apart, ensuring that our students are well-prepared for both academic achievements and personal growth, in alignment with our core values and community spirit.

If you are interested in joining the team at St. Thomas a Becket, we look forward to receiving your application.

Other reasons you should choose our school

- On Site Professional cycle Track that staff can utilise
- A well-equipped gym for staff to use
- Great local amenities - Shops, restaurants, cafes, gyms- you name it- Plus our school is only 10 minutes from Wakefield Town Centre
- Fantastic transport links - It is on a main bus route for Wakefield and Leeds and located directly next to Agbrigg Train Station
- Treat yourself to some new wheels - We are a part of the cycle to work initiative!
- We have a buddy system for new members of staff, but we also have continued mentoring for new senior and middle leaders. We are keen to ensure effective support throughout your journey with us.
- Comprehensive ECT programme to support teachers in their first two years in post.
- Staff well-being is at the core of our culture. Well looked after staff leads to happy pupils which enables to a thriving school environment. We hold frequent staff meetings as a forum for feedback, social interaction and to celebrate achievements.
- Supportive leadership - In keeping with our values, the SLT team believe in supporting staff growth and development through opportunities which ultimately results in the staff members career growth. The SLT are warm, open and accessible to staff as their feedback drives and shapes school improvement.



About the BKCAT Trust

St. Thomas a Becket is a part of the Bishop Konstant Catholic Academy Trust which comprises of three Secondary Schools and twelve Primary Schools. The Trust vision goes beyond individual academies and changes perception from “my academy” to “our academy.” Working collaboratively, each academy benefits from others’ strengths and expertise within the Trust, and practically from the services provided and procured centrally.

Further benefits from the Trust:

- **Induction:** We offer an annual welcome event for all new employees and provide local induction programmes, online learning packages and regular team meetings.
- **Pensions:** Fantastic pension schemes with competitive employer contributions.
- **Continuous Development:** Access to professional and personal development to support you with your role.
- **Events and Networking:** Opportunities to attend events throughout the year; Celebrations, expert seminars/talks, well-being days and more.
- **Employee help and support:** We are committed to our staff and pupil wellbeing. You will have access to a 24/7 confidential Employee Assistance Programme to support a range of issues including physiotherapy, physical and mental health support, access to specialist counselling and much more.
- **Opportunities for collaboration** As mentioned about with colleagues across our Trust, but also collaboration with peers across the schools in the Leeds Diocese.
- **Other benefits include** generous family friendly policies.

Who are we looking for?

For any role within our school, be it senior leadership, management, teachers, support staff, estates, catering, administration, finance - you name it, we are looking for a passionate, engaged, ambitious and personable individual to join our team at St. Thomas a Becket. We have worked hard to cultivate an aspirational culture and we need someone who will add to our fantastic team.

We are also interested in a number of personal qualities, which we believe will help you thrive in our school, and deliver the best results for our children and the school.

They are:

- Willingness to support the Catholic ethos of the school
- Excellent interpersonal skills
- Excellent communication skills
- A team player with the ability to work autonomously
- Ability to contribute to the wider effectiveness of the whole school
- Effective time management
- Flexibility
- Ability to work under pressure

- A sense of humour

What is it like to work here?

We are a small community school, and proud of the fact that this allows us to deliver excellent pastoral care to all of our team, helped by the fact we are united by our underlying Catholic values of kindness, love and respect.

Our staff are open and welcoming, happy to share their experiences but also receptive to new ideas and ways of working, which can benefit them, and more importantly, the children.

Below, three of our teachers outline their experience of working at St. Thomas a Becket.

Rebecca Ross, Deputy Headteacher, RE

“St Thomas a Becket is different to any school that I have worked in, the size of the school enables you to form relationships with all of the staff, pupils and their families, there is a real community feel here, where everyone is valued, feels equally important and safe.

I have briefly worked at non-Catholic schools before, and I craved to work in a Catholic school again as the distinct nature that they provide and the feel is ineffable.

I love everything about my role and the fact that every day is different and I can see the benefit that I provide in front of my eyes daily.

My most valued achievement so far has been year 11 students telling me that I have made a difference in their lives since joining the school. I would 100% recommend this school to anyone considering joining. Even during our current RAAC challenges, we may not have a fancy new build with air conditioning, but we have something that you can't buy. I would choose Becket's every day, even with or without the current challenges.”



Linda Wright, Curriculum Leader, Religious Education.

"I see my role as an honour and a privilege. Most schools do not have time for RE in the curriculum, but in this school, it is seen as a priority and a necessity. The learners value the subject and understand the meritocracy of studying it from Year 7 to GCSE.

St. Thomas a Becket school is a Catholic family with Christ at the centre. All children are loved and cherished as unique creations of God. This is evident in all aspects of school life from the curriculum to the behaviour policy, to the pastoral support offered. I believe that there is always hope at this school for every child. We truly desire every member of our community, adult and child alike, to reach their full potential, and if the individual is willing to work with us, the sky is the limit.

I have worked at the school for more than 26 years. I feel that as a school we become invested in the family of the child, in their history, their community, their stories and their futures. There is nothing more pleasing than seeing past pupils bringing their children through the gates, years down the line.

We all have different strengths and areas that we need to develop. St. Thomas a Becket school is very good at allowing staff to share things that they are good at in order to support those who need help with things that they struggle with.

The pupils in my care give me an enormous amount of joy. I love to hear about those who go on to study RE at A-Level and especially those who become RE teachers. It fills me with great satisfaction.

I firmly believe there is nowhere better to teach, we are a small school, but perfectly formed."



Jude Roberts, Curriculum Leader, History

"I began working at St. Thomas a Becket, partly by accident but I wanted to teach in a Catholic school, having experienced a Catholic school education myself. I also like the fact it was and still is a relatively small school.

Staff support one another and work collaboratively together – we are a community. On the whole pupils want to learn and are enthusiastic. Having taught here for almost 30 years – a testimony in itself to the kind of school this is – I have taught entire families of children, which allows you to build positive long-term relationships with parents.

When I first started, more experienced staff would help and support me. Now I'm a curriculum leader I still get supported by members of SLT. They help me to make mine an improving department and to ensure the pupils do what they are asked to do.

I like working in a small school. A school where all pupils are known and where they know you. We have good relationships with most pupils and parents which is a real strength. Of course, everything we do is underpinned by our Catholic Christian faith. This faith underpins my life, so I feel privileged to work in such a place. It is my vocation and there are many others here who feel the same. "

What do the pupils say about us?

Larissa year 9

"I love being at student at St Thomas a Becket because the education and teachers are great and help us along our own journeys. We are motivated and feel protected, our school is filled with love and compassion. Our school is a place where everyone is accepted and equally challenged towards their goals. My Favourite subjects are art, maths, Italian and Dt- I enjoy subjects which help you be creative, are interactive and teach you things which will be useful in later life. I would say please, come join our school! It is amazing as it helps lots of children's lives improve for the better"

Sahleha, year 7

"I love being a student at St Thomas a Becket since the teachers and the lessons are really enjoyable. My favourite subjects are maths and English as Mrs Finch and Mr Martin are really funny, they're the best teachers in my eyes. I feel proud to have achieved my bronze and silver badge and I am happy to say I get a lot of merits in lessons too! I would recommend anyone to join our school because it is so wonderful and that is because of the fabulous teachers!"



Igor, year 8

"My favourite subject is information Technology with Mr Perkins because it has lots of different activities, both in and out of your seats which makes it fun! Learning information technology at St Thomas a Becket has made me realise my goal to become an IT manager for a school when I am older, I would also love to be involved in software development."

Hannah, year 7

"I love being a student at St Thomas a Beckett as it is an opportunity to be with my friends and I have won quite a lot of rewards so far. My most stand out moment was when I received my first silver star badge! I would certainly recommend for anyone to come join our school because everyone is nice and kind!!!"



Exciting times ahead

As you may be aware our school, like many others across the country, has been impacted by the discovery of Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) in our school buildings.

We started our school year in 2024 in a brand new purpose built Portakabin school with state of the art facilities in DT workshops, Food rooms, Dining room, kitchens and IT suites.

We are now part of the DfE School Rebuilding Programme and have the exciting task of being able to plan and build our new school to truly meet the needs of all of our young people.

Thank you for reading

We look forward to receiving your application. If you have any questions about the role that you are applying for, please contact the individual listed in the job advert. Please feel free to visit our website and the Trust website for any further reading about our school/Trust.

<https://www.st-thomasabecket.bkcat.co.uk/>

<https://www.bkcat.co.uk/>