

**Information for Applicants**

I am pleased to write this brief introduction to our school and hope that it encourages you to apply to join our school family. There is a huge amount of information available to you on our school website and I would certainly encourage you to find out as much as you can about our school before submitting an application.

I have been proud to have served Blessed Thomas Holford as Headteacher for fifteen years and seen the development of a strong aspirational culture which has in turn led to a huge growth in the popularity of the school from parents, consistently outstanding examination results and our pupils fulfilling their dreams of attending top universities or the many other different choices open to them. Above all we aim to get better each day and are blessed with a team of staff who believe in our culture of aspiration and achievement for all pupils.

Blessed Thomas Holford Catholic College is an extremely popular, over-subscribed school and continues to be a first choice for most Catholic parents in South Manchester. Our school has been judged by Ofsted as an outstanding school on two consecutive occasions and has also been judged outstanding in the recent Diocesan inspection on Religious Education and Catholic life.

We are an 11-18, mixed secondary school situated in Altrincham, on the edge of Manchester and are consistently ranked very highly in local and national measures. The school is a vibrant family community, inclusive and proud of the achievements of all our pupils. We are proud of our school’s achievements and have been recognised as being consistently in the top 20% of schools nationally in terms of the progress pupils make between key stage 2 and the end of key stage 4, using the Progress 8 measure. Our average P8 score for the last 3 years is 0.3 which is significantly above average for all schools nationally.

We are very proud of our Sixth Form students who in 2019 achieved impressive results which placed us 14th in the country out of nearly 3,000 similar Sixth Forms and top in Trafford for progress. Level 3 Value Added – L3VA with a score of 0.23

We are passionate and active believers in our school motto – Inspiring People Changing Lives - which encourages us to have the highest aspirations for our children to flourish and grow. In order to continue building on these successes we are looking to appoint an outstanding people who can build on our strong academic and pastoral standards.

We have 1496 pupils on roll, including 164 students in the Sixth Form. We promise you a high achieving environment where outstanding professional standards are expected but also where the rewards are high. Many of our staff have been promoted to leadership posts, including six people to headship positions. Over the past 15 years the name of Blessed Thomas Holford has become synonymous with quality and high standards of professional development. Additionally, we are a Teaching School currently providing support to a number of schools across the North West.

Our website reflects on the fact that when visitors come to our school they regularly comment on three things – our distinctive Catholic ethos, how forward thinking we are and how well we focus on the really important aspects of our pupils’ education.

Our school motto is Inspiring People Changing Lives. We place a high priority on good examination results and are pleased to see so many of our pupils going on to great universities and successful careers but more importantly acting out the strong Catholic values that we develop across our school.

Prayer and liturgy is an important part of our school and at least six times a year we hold school masses celebrated by one of our local priests and which allows or school to get together to celebrate its Catholic identity. In addition, we have six Houses named after prominent saints and these Houses have their own liturgy and assemblies and where pupils can feel part of a smaller House family as well as a bigger school.

Our children are very kind and generous and raise funds every year for local and international charities such as Cornerstone, CAFOD and Laughter Africa. Above we impress on children the importance of looking outwards to the world around them and see their place as global citizens. To support them in their personal growth our pupils have an excellent programme which includes the Edge, PSHE and Wellbeing opportunities. As well as other innovations such as Family Dining, Ready to Read and additional languages such as Latin and Italian we have a programme of learning and support events for parents.

Every teaching post is an important one for the future of our school and the successful candidate will be somebody with a high work ethic and unstinting commitment to our children. We want somebody with a strong ambition to develop their own career but above all they want to make a significant and long lasting impression on the future lives of our pupils.

John Cornally MBE

Executive Headteacher

October 2019