



Dear Colleague,

LAY CHAPLAIN – LETTER TO APPLICANTS

Thank you for your interest in the post of Lay Chaplain St Thomas Aquinas Catholic School & Sixth Form.

SCHOOL BACKGROUND

St Thomas Aquinas Catholic School has a proud history; it opened in 1963 as the last grammar school to be built in England and has only had five headteachers in its history. The school has an established reputation as a good school based largely on considerable internal stability in a context of constant external change. The present staff is a good mixture of youth and experience with about six or seven new teachers joining each year most of whom are newly qualified.

St Thomas Aquinas Catholic School became an Academy on 1st April 2015 as part of the Lumen Christi Multi-Academy Company. The MAC is now very well established and growing from strength to strength. It consists of one secondary school and seven primary schools and will expand further in the not-too-distant future.

Since September 2017 the school has pursued a distinct approach to school improvement and developed a vision around becoming a knowledge-rich school. Following significant changes to whole school routines, behaviour systems and the adoption of a new curriculum, behaviour is now very good and teaching sufficiently challenging. The school was judged to be 'Good' by OFSTED in April 2024. While pleased with the report, we do not feel for a moment that our work is done. In reality, we have only just begun our school improvement journey.

Examination results in the summer were excellent. The DfE performance tables indicates progress was in the top group of schools nationally. There is now an extended waiting list for pupils to get into the school. This is a school on the up!

EXPECTATIONS

St Thomas Aquinas Catholic School is unapologetically ambitious for the children we serve. Undoubtably, the next phase of development is to become a truly great Catholic school.

Any colleague seeking appointment at the school should be under no illusion that they will be expected to work very hard. Leaders operate within the highest professional standards and there is no room for complacency. We have a dedicated, talented and committed team of middle leaders and colleagues, who will quite rightly expect an analytical and robust strategic approach to departmental improvement allied with strong interpersonal skills from a peer.



SUPPORT & PROGRESSION

In return, you can expect to work in a successful school with students who are ready to learn, enthusiastic and full of life and laughter!

Within the wider context of Lumen Christi, we are supported by responsive and knowledgeable governance. Every possible opportunity will be taken to support the successful candidate in their professional development as they prepare to lead their own school in the not-too-distant future. The job will be the best preparation for progression into more senior middle leadership roles and senior leadership in due course.

AND FINALLY

The person appointed to the post of Teaching Assistant you will be committed to continuing the tradition of hard work and dedication to the students of our school, the majority of whom come from disadvantaged backgrounds.

St Thomas Aquinas Catholic School genuinely is a vibrant learning community; full of committed learners and exceptional people. This is a wonderful opportunity to make a huge difference in the lives of children and contribute to the journey of a great Catholic school. It will be one of the most fulfilling and worthwhile roles any professional could have.

If you have the drive to make a difference in an improving school, I urge you to find out more about us on our website <http://www.stacs.org> please also see the link to our safeguarding policy for your information [https://www.stacs.org/docs/policies/Safeguarding_Policy - September 2023.pdf](https://www.stacs.org/docs/policies/Safeguarding_Policy_-_September_2023.pdf) and I look forward to hearing from you.

With best wishes

Chris Martin
Principal
September 2024