



St Thomas Becket

Catholic Primary School

Birchanger Road
London SE25 5BN

Headteacher

Noel Campbell

Tel: (020) 8654 3006

Application for a place at a Secondary School in September 2021

Dear Yr 6 parents

With schools still working in line with covid restrictions, it is very likely that many opportunities to visit schools, offered to prospective parents last year, will not be available this year.

With that in mind it is important that you have access to all the available online materials in order to be informed about schools' characteristics as well as the process for applying for a secondary place.

With that in mind we have attached links to key documents in this text and the attachments will also be available on our school website for you to view under the link- **Secondary School Admissions 2021**.

Please do take the time to read all the documentation provided.

Priest's Reference:

Catholic schools will require parents to provide a priest's reference. This is a busy time for your parish priest so give him notice and time to set up a meeting if required.

Our Lady of the Annunciation (Fr Keith) asks parents to register for an appointment (download form from website) and return by 27 September. Appointments will be available from Monday 21 September to Friday 9 October.

Please check other parishes for the arrangements with regard to obtaining references if you attend another parish.

Mass Attendance:

IMPORTANT INFORMATION: On the advice of the Education Commission of the Archdiocese of Southwark, please note the following statement in relation to mass attendance.

The suspension of the obligation to attend Sunday Mass was announced on 18th March 2020 by Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. If a parent/carer attended Mass at particular parish (or parishes) prior to 18th March 2020 then they will be considered to have attended Mass in that parish (or parishes) regularly since that time. This will remain the case until the Sunday obligation is reintroduced by the Bishops.

E-mail: admin@thomasbecket.croydon.sch.uk

Fax: (020) 8656 6282

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Open Days:

Although dates and times of open days for Croydon secondary schools are published on Page 21 of the booklet- **Admission to Secondary schools 2020/2021**- due to Covid restrictions, it is likely that many schools will choose to do virtual, online tours and talks. Do check the schools' websites to check when / how these will be held and don't just rely on the published dates in this booklet still going ahead.

Application Forms:

Most schools are now making their Admissions Policy, Supplementary Information Form (SIF) and Parish Priest Reference for applications for 2021 available to download from their websites.

Note: Catholic schools still require a **supplementary information form** to be completed and returned in order for applicants to be ranked according to their admissions criteria. Do ensure this is returned by the school's deadline date which may be different to the LA deadline for applications.

Don't wait until the last moment to submit your application!! We recommend you submit your application at least a week in advance of deadline.

Making the decision:

- Look at as many schools as possible and involve your child in the process
- Listen to your child and discuss your choices with them but you are the adults and the final choices must be yours.
- Remember they will be subject to pressures you are not such as peer pressure to apply to same schools as friends (They do make new friends anyway)
- READ THE ADMISSION CRITERIA CAREFULLY- How does it apply to you ???

I recognise that the process of choosing and applying for a secondary school can be stressful for parents and especially this year in light of the challenging circumstances we find ourselves facing regarding covid-19.

If you require help making your application, please email school.admissions@croydon.gov.uk and someone will contact you to talk you through the application process.

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Answers to many common questions are available at:

<https://www.croydon.gov.uk/education/schools-new/school-admissions/how-to-apply/faqs/starting-secondary-school-frequently-asked-questions>

If you have any additional queries please contact School Admissions at school.admissions@croydon.gov.uk or by telephone on 020 8726 6400.

Please feel free also to contact me at school, by phone or email, if you want some advice.

Yours sincerely

Mr Campbell

Head teacher

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