



16th October 2026

Dear parents, carers and students,

Culture and Diversity Day — Friday 23rd October 2026

We are delighted to announce that St Thomas Becket Catholic School will be celebrating Culture and Diversity Day on Friday 23rd October. Organised by our student Youth SVP team, this annual event is an opportunity to celebrate the cultures, traditions and backgrounds represented within our school community.

As a Catholic school, we recognise the dignity of every person and the importance of ensuring that everyone feels valued and included. Through this celebration, we hope to deepen our understanding of one another and strengthen the sense of belonging we share.

Cultural dress and voluntary donation

We invite all students to wear something that represents their identity or culture. This could include:

- Traditional cultural dress.
- The colours of their national flag.
- A uniform or outfit representing a hobby or pastime associated with their culture.

Whether it is a sari, a national football shirt or the colours of a country's flag, the day is about sharing our heritage and learning from one another. There is no expectation to purchase anything new, and students are welcome to wear their usual school uniform.

We kindly ask for a **voluntary donation of £1** to support the charitable work of the St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP). Donations can be made **via MyChildAtSchool (MCAS)** or **given to form tutors on the morning of the event**.

Lunchtime Cultural Disco

Students can also attend our Cultural Disco in the **large Sports Hall from 1:40–2:05pm**, where they will have the opportunity to dance to music from around the world.

Tickets cost £2 and must be purchased in advance through MCAS by Thursday 22nd October. There will be no ticket sales on the day. The disco ticket is separate from the voluntary £1 donation.



RESPECT



TRUTH



COMPASSION



JUSTICE



FAITH



ST THOMAS BECKET CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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HEADTEACHER Mr Paul McCahill BSc (Hons) NPQH MA SLE
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Celebrations throughout the week

During the week beginning Monday 19th October, tutor-time reflections will explore culture, diversity and belonging. Teachers will also be encouraged, where possible, to include related themes in lessons.

Our canteen will be serving a themed world-food menu throughout the week, featuring Indian, Italian, African and Caribbean, Mexican, and British dishes.

On Friday, every year group will attend a celebration assembly featuring the STBCS Choir, dance performances and student reflections celebrating our cultures. Years 7–10 will also take part in a Culture Day Quiz.

Non-Uniform Day Expectations

Please discuss the day with your child and help them choose clothing that celebrates their identity respectfully and is suitable for school. Our usual non-uniform expectations apply:

- Open-toed footwear is prohibited.
- Clothing considered too revealing, such as vest tops or tops that expose the midriff, is not allowed.
- Shorts must be of a reasonable length and should not have cut-out holes that expose excessive skin.

The school reserves the right to determine what is acceptable, acknowledging that fashion trends are continually evolving.

Thank you for supporting our Youth SVP team and helping us celebrate the many cultures that make our school community so special. We look forward to a colourful and joyful celebration on **Friday 23rd October**.

Mr P McCahill
Headteacher



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WEBSITE

www.olicatschools.org

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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