



# INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL AWARD

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*September 2016*

## **British Council International School Award success for Thomas More Catholic School**

**Thomas More Catholic School in Purley has been awarded the British Council's prestigious International School Award in recognition of its work to bring the world into the classroom.**

The International School Award is a badge of honour for schools that do outstanding work in international education, such as through links with partner schools overseas. Fostering an international dimension in the curriculum is at the heart of the British Council's work with schools, so that young people gain the cultural understanding and skills they need to live and work as global citizens.

***Thomas More Catholic School's* international work includes two Erasmus+ International exchange projects with partner schools in Austria, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Portugal and Spain; an annual International Week in which students are given the chance to take part in music and dance from around the world as well as try different world cuisines in the school's Yew Tree Restaurant; an annual visit from students and staff at Lorentz Lyceum, Arnhem, The Netherlands; a trip for Year 9s to the Battlefields in Belgium; and, new for this year, fundraising for the Umoja Street Child Trust, a charity founded by our English teacher, Miss Wickings.**

On hearing the news that **Thomas More Catholic School** had received the award, **Ms M Mulchrone, Head Teacher** said: 'It is fantastic that we have once again been successful in securing the International School Award and is testament to the hard work of staff and students. The opportunities offered to our students for travel abroad and

**experiencing different cultures and making new friends create experiences and memories that will stay with them for the rest of their lives.'**

John Rolfe, from the British Council, said: 'The school's fantastic international work has rightfully earned it this prestigious award. The International School Award is a great chance for schools to demonstrate the important work they're doing to bring the world into their classrooms. Adding an international dimension to children's education ensures that they are truly global citizens and helps prepare them for successful future careers in an increasingly global economy.'

The award is now available worldwide in countries such as India, Sri Lanka, Egypt, Lebanon, Cyprus and Pakistan as part of the British Council's Connecting Classrooms programme. Around 5,000 International School Awards have been presented to successful schools in the UK since the scheme began in 1999.

The International School Award encourages and supports schools to develop:

- An international ethos embedded throughout the school
- A majority of pupils within the school impacted by and involved in international work
- Collaborative curriculum-based work with a number of partner schools
- Curriculum-based work across a range of subjects
- Year-round international activity
- Involvement of the wider community