

St Thomas Comets- *Meet our Inspiring Leaders*

Music Teacher and Band Director- Mr. Philip Holt

Educational Background: I attended Rhydypennau Primary School and Cardiff High School in Wales, UK. I then attended the University of Sheffield in England to study and complete my undergraduate degree in Music. After graduating from there I returned to Wales and studied for a Masters in Music Education at the University of Wales, Cardiff.

Why I teach in a Catholic School: I think it is an incredible privilege to be able to openly share my Christian faith with students and the wider school community. I see my teaching role here as more than nurturing academic development but one that also helps guide young people in their spiritual growth and walk. Even in a Catholic environment, students are not exempt from the pressures and influences of the world in which they live, and I pray that as Christian educators, we are able to show them the greater value and purpose in pursuing a way of living that honors God and brings them true contentment, identity and joy.

Who inspires you: My wife is a huge inspiration to me especially in how passionately she lives out her faith and the quiet strength she takes through depending on God in all circumstances. I love hearing the stories of athletes who work with focus and dedication, overcoming disappointment and using failure to drive themselves to further success. And there are students I have taught throughout my career who can stop me in my tracks by having a positivity and drive to succeed in the face of significant adversities which I can only begin to appreciate. That can be both inspiring and humbling.

Hobbies/Interests: I am a huge sports fan and follow a number of teams and sports, but most close to my heart is Manchester United (although at the moment this is a thoroughly miserable experience!). I enjoy the outdoors, especially biking and hiking, or simply taking the dog for a walk! I have also developed a love of reading, and there are few things I enjoy more than sitting quietly with a quality book, especially historical fiction.



My favorite teacher was: Probably a high school teacher called Mr. Froome. He taught Geography but had become a teacher later in life after working in environmental conservation. He also loved rock climbing and caving, and his enthusiasm for a subject that he was so obviously passionate about was infectious. Along with his real-life examples and stories, he kept us all engaged and wanting to learn more.

Dream meal: To return to a small restaurant my wife and I visited in Rome many years ago! I love all things Italian, and it was the perfect meal using simple, fresh, local ingredients cooked to perfection, with some pretty special wine as well!

Outside of school: My family is super important to me and I enjoy hanging out with my wife, Livey, and three girls (Elsie, 12, Cora, 10, and Alys, 7) whenever possible. We are also active members of our church, Summit Point