

# THOMAS GAINSBOROUGH SCHOOL



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*Excellence: for each, for all*

# Welcome to Thomas Gainsborough School

Thank you for taking the time to express an interest in joining Thomas Gainsborough School. We are immensely proud of our school, our students, our staff and the wider community we serve. This is a school with a clear sense of purpose, strong values and an unwavering commitment to ensuring that every individual can thrive.

Our mission is “*Excellence: for each, for all*” sits at the heart of everything we do. It is more than a motto; it is a commitment to delivering an aspirational, inclusive and personalised education that unlocks potential, raises aspirations and builds character. Every student is placed at the centre of their own learning journey, with their voice heard, their strengths nurtured and their ambitions supported. At the same time, we prepare young people to understand their place in the wider world, locally, nationally and globally, so they leave us as confident, compassionate and responsible citizens.

Our work is shaped by three guiding pillars:

- **Culture** – enriching students’ lives beyond the classroom, building cultural capital and broadening horizons
- **Character** – developing self-discipline, integrity, curiosity and resilience
- **Currency** – delivering a rich, ambitious curriculum that secures strong academic outcomes and future success

These pillars are underpinned by our core values of Respect, Resilience, Honesty, Happiness, Confidence and Positivity, which define the way we learn, work and treat one another every day. Together, they create a community where each individual is known, valued and supported.

The same ethos extends to our staff. We believe that exceptional schools are built by exceptional people, and we work hard to ensure that every member of staff feels respected, listened to and supported to develop professionally. We maintain high expectations, but we also provide strong systems, collaboration and care to enable colleagues to flourish. As part of the Unity Schools Partnership, staff benefit from extensive professional development, networking and leadership opportunities, alongside the support of an active and committed governing body.

Thomas Gainsborough School is oversubscribed, our Sixth Form continues to grow, and staff turnover remains low, a reflection of the positive culture and shared sense of purpose that defines our community. We are proud of what we have achieved, but we remain ambitious, reflective and driven to improve further. Joining our team means becoming part of that ongoing journey.

We warmly encourage prospective applicants to visit the school. We are always happy to meet, answer questions and offer a tour, so you can experience first-hand the environment, energy and ambition that define Thomas Gainsborough School.

I am confident that you will be impressed.

**Craig Lewis**  
Headteacher

# Criminology Curriculum & Team

# Geography Curriculum & Team

We have a strong team ethos in our humanities team, with clear systems and a collaborative approach to curriculum development. The team is highly committed to the success of our students and to supporting each other.

Each subject within Humanities at Thomas Gainsborough School is delivered by a specialist team with discrete allocation on the timetable.

Led by a dedicated Assistant Headteacher, we have a range of experience from ECTs to 30+ years in the profession. Every teacher plays a key role in the continuing success of each subject and the team as a whole.

All staff are well supported by an excellent CPD programme throughout the school.

In September 2015 the school moved into an award-winning new building, where Geography is taught in specialist rooms all on one floor, with a dedicated teaching room in the Sixth Form building.

Geography at Thomas Gainsborough School holds a unique and crucial place in our curriculum. At Key Stage 3, students are exposed to a wide range of skills which will enable them to think critically about important current global issues such as sustainability, equality and diversity.



The curriculum follows a series of enquiry questions which are sequenced to build on prior knowledge. These develop students' knowledge and understanding of locations, places & geographical features, as well as the processes & interactions that explain geographical features, and distribution patterns. Throughout key stage 3, 4 and 5, we also develop problem solving skills through geographical enquiry and fieldwork investigation.

Our key stage 3 curriculum leads into the AQA GCSE Specification, where students study the Changing Economies unit, The Changing

Environments and Environmental Challenges units. At Key Stage 5, we offer the AQA A Level Geography course. Both courses have a fieldwork element where students undertake geographical enquiries.

Students thoroughly enjoy both courses and each year, many students, after 7 years at Thomas Gainsborough School & Sixth Form then continue to study Geography at a wide range of Universities.

As a member of Unity Schools Partnership, the department has strong links to other schools across the region. Teachers and leaders from TGS meet colleagues from other schools regularly and often have the opportunity to visit them to network and share best practice.

# History Curriculum & Team

We have a strong team ethos in our humanities team, with clear systems and a collaborative approach to curriculum development. The team is highly committed to the success of our students and to supporting each other.

Each subject within humanities at Thomas Gainsborough School is delivered by a specialist team with discrete allocation on the timetable.

Led by a dedicated Assistant Headteacher, we have a range of experience from ECTs to 30+ years in the profession. Every teacher plays a key role in the continuing success of each subject and the team as a whole.

All staff are well supported by an excellent CPD programme throughout the school.

In September 2015 the school moved into an award-winning new building, where History is taught in specialist rooms all on one floor, with a dedicated teaching room in the Sixth Form building.

History at Thomas Gainsborough School holds a unique and crucial place in our curriculum. Students thoroughly enjoy the courses and each year, many students, after 7 years at Thomas Gainsborough School & Sixth Form then continue to study History at a wide range of Universities.

As a member of Unity Schools Partnership, the department has strong links to other schools across the region. Teachers and leaders from TGS meet colleagues from other schools regularly and often have the opportunity to visit them to network and share best practice.

# Supporting You

## Professional Development

The success of our school is built on the dedication of our staff, and at Thomas Gainsborough School we are passionate about promoting professional development and training and are always looking for innovative ways to provide CPD as well as developmental and leadership opportunities for staff.

At the core of this is an extensive CPD offer which caters for the needs of our staff and students in terms of developing subject knowledge, pedagogy and the wider responsibilities that go with serving our community.

We are a leading school for a local ITT provider, and working closely with the Unity Teaching School Hub, are able to support career progression through our bespoke middle leaders' programme in addition to being able to offer the full range of NPQs.

Key Elements of our CPD offer:

- Instructional Coaching linked to developing pedagogy, supported by lead practitioners
- Members of the National College portal
- 'Praxis' - our in-house half-termly CPD magazine
- Strong links with the Unity Teaching School Hub and the Unity Research School
- Support for NPQs



## Staff Wellbeing

Staff Wellbeing is prioritised to ensure that all of our colleagues feel valued and supported in the work they do. As a school we adhere to the DfE Wellbeing Charter and are pleased to be able to offer a range of employee wellbeing benefits, which include:

- Free use of Great Cornard Leisure Centre (including gym and swimming facilities)
- Access to 'LifeWorks' mental health support
- Face to face wellbeing sessions
- Self-care resource pack
- Annual staff wellbeing survey and wellbeing group
- Clear and well-established systems to support behaviour
- Consideration of staff wellbeing and workload as a strategic priority

# Our School & Community

Thomas Gainsborough School is a consistently high performing, well resourced, and truly comprehensive school, with a firm belief in excellence for each and every student, placing students at the heart of their curriculum. Our school has remained incredibly popular with a growing Sixth Form of more than 200 students.

We are close to the vibrant and beautiful market town of Sudbury. The town has great independent shops, well preserved mediaeval town houses, a nationally significant art gallery and some of the finest scenery in Suffolk. the River Stour runs through the town, with extensive water meadows providing easy access for walking & rowing. We are close to beautiful villages and within easy reach of Bury St Edmunds, Colchester, Ipswich.

We work hard to ensure that all our students have meaningful experiences which bring them closer to their local community, while also embracing national and global opportunities.

Our school is fully inclusive, our comprehensive careers provision is award winning and our arts programme has been recognised by the Platinum arts award three times.



## Finding Out More & Joining the Team

We always welcome visitors and are happy to talk about this opportunity before you visit.

If you would like further information or to arrange a visit please contact [enquiries@tgschool.net](mailto:enquiries@tgschool.net) or call the school to speak to Mrs Mel Griss, our HR manager, on 01787 375232.

Information about the school is available at [www.tgschool.net](http://www.tgschool.net) and the application process is supported by our Multi-Academy Trust careers website [www.unitysp-careers.co.uk/](http://www.unitysp-careers.co.uk/)

