

THOMAS GAINSBOROUGH SCHOOL



Excellence: for each, for all

Year 7 Family Guide



This booklet is designed to provide you with a range of helpful information to support you and your child as they join us at Thomas Gainsborough School.

Should you have any questions or would like further information please do not hesitate to contact us and we will be happy to help.

Telephone: 01787 375232

Email: enquiries@tgschool.net

Website: www.tgschool.net

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HEADTEACHER'S WELCOME

I AM DELIGHTED that you have chosen Thomas Gainsborough School for your child. We take the responsibility that you have given us very seriously and are committed and determined to make your child's time with us as happy and successful as possible.

This guide aims to provide you with all the information you may need as we prepare to welcome your son or daughter to Thomas Gainsborough School. It marks the start of a process by which we will strive to ensure that their transfer is as smooth, seamless and as free as possible from the inevitable nerves that the children will feel at this time. We want your children to look forward to their time at Thomas Gainsborough School with excitement; excitement at the learning they will enjoy, the new friends that they will make and the experiences that they will have beyond the classroom.

So we begin the process of welcoming you to Thomas Gainsborough School. Very soon you will be contacted by our Student Support Team who will arrange a meeting with you and your child at your child's primary school. Please feel free to contact us at any time should you have any questions or concerns at any point during the transition phase.

Once again we are honoured that you have chosen our school for your child and I am very much looking forward to meeting you all very soon.



Wayne Lloyd, Headteacher

“On my first day at TGS I was worried about what it would be like to be in a school where 99% of people are bigger than me, and if they would annoy me, but it is much better than I expected.”

Teddy, Year 7, Tollemache House



“Don’t be worried, I got worried about getting lost but after the first few days it’s easy to remember and even if you can’t find your way around there’s normally a member of staff to ask..”

Lewis, Year 7, Tollemache House

Supporting You & Your Child

STARTING AT A NEW SCHOOL is a time when your child (and you) will naturally experience many emotions. From excitement to anxiety, everyone has their own perceptions of the step ahead of them in September. Our excellent Transition Programme builds on our successful integration of students to the school over a number of years.

Next Steps

YOUR CHILD'S INDIVIDUALITY is important to us. This is why we work in partnership with you from the outset to try to ensure a successful and happy experience at Thomas Gainsborough School for all involved.

Over the coming months this partnership will be at the heart of our Transition Programme in order that we can make the transition process from primary school to Thomas Gainsborough School as smooth and easy as possible.

“Transition was really fun. Everyone helped me find my way around and made me feel safe. I thought it would be massive but I got used to it in a week.”

Evelyn, Year 7, Abbas House

Ensuring a Smooth Transition

WE ARE COMMITTED to making sure that joining us at Thomas Gainsborough School is as easy as possible for everyone. Our transition process is tailored to the needs of individuals and sees us work closely with you, your child and their primary school.

Essential and helpful information will be communicated to you by letters, at meetings and on our website. This booklet will provide you with a selection of essential information which we hope will answer any questions you may have regarding the transition of your child into Year 7 in 2018/19.

Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us. All staff at Thomas Gainsborough School are here to help children learn and progress, and will be only too happy to answer the questions that you have regarding transition.

“Before I came to TGS I didn’t like the idea of being separated from my primary school friends, but now I know loads of new amazing people (but I will never forget my primary friends)”

Rhapsody, Year 7, Houghton House

Working in Partnership

PARENTAL SUPPORT is an essential element in supporting your child's successes in education. You know your child best and your support, interest and encouragement will make a significant difference to your child's motivation and their ability to cope with settling in to their new school.

Communication with your child's Tutor, Head of House and Subject Teachers will help us support your child; jot a note in their planner, send an email or call the school with any questions or concerns that you may have. Email addresses are available on the school website. Even if we are unable to talk to you immediately we will get back to you as soon as possible.



Getting to Know You & Your Child

B BEFORE YOUR CHILD joins us in Year 7, we will want to find out as much about them as we can. This will be achieved through a number of formal opportunities within our Transition Programme:

A Family Meeting in which you and your child spend time with a senior member of staff to discuss hopes, expectations and opportunities. This will take place from the week commencing 5th March and will be held at your child's primary school.

Liaison with your child's primary school, allowing our Heads of House and Student Support Team to be guided as to your child's prior learning and progress. Children with additional needs will be given extra support with making the transition through a personalised programme to best suit their needs. Your son or daughter's primary school will also be happy to support you with any concerns you may have.

Our Year 7 Transition Evening Meeting on Tuesday 3rd July at 7pm where you will be able to meet your child's Head of House and Tutor before the Transition Week. There will also be the opportunity to meet our Student Support Staff and members of the Senior Leadership Team.

The Year 6 into 7 Transition Week their surroundings before the summer holiday. During their week as a Thomas Gainsborough student they will be able to meet new teachers and find their way around the school.

As well as those opportunities outlined above, should you ever wish to visit the school, meet specific staff or have a question you need answering, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Our Five Houses

Our Houses are named after historical local manor houses.

Abbas

Chamberlain

Houghton

Peyton

Tollmache

*Neither rashly nor
timidly*

*To do good rather than
be conspicuous*

*Honour is the reward
for valour*

*I persevere,
I enjoy*

I trust and am contented



Heads of House

Mrs N Wilby

Miss J Hilson

Mrs L Hurtado

Mr W Ponsford

Mrs F Raleigh

“I was worried about making new friends but in actual fact its easy to make friends because you make friends that are in your class.”

Lily, Year 7, Abbas House

Vertical Tutoring

AS THEY START at Thomas Gainsborough School your child will join a Tutor Group and become a member of a House. There are five Houses each containing 12 Tutor Groups.

Each House is led by a Head of House who is responsible for the monitoring of students' progress in all aspects of the curriculum. They work alongside the Student Support team to ensure the academic progress of every student.





The individual Tutor Groups are organised vertically and consist of Students from Year 7 through to Year 11. This promotes a sense of smaller communities and belonging within school. The Tutor will remain with the student for their entire progress through school, from Year 7 into Yr 11, ensuring consistency in the monitoring of progress.

Tutor Groups follow a programme in registration in order to promote relationships between students of different years including mentoring, competitions and a theme of the week discussion. All contributions made by students to the life of the school, such as gaining merits and achievements in competitions, lead to the awarding each term of the Chelsworth House Cup to the House with the most points.

Choosing a Curricular Pathway

THE CURRICULUM at Thomas Gainsborough School is broad, balanced and engaging. As outlined at our Open Evening in September, our Year 7 Curriculum has four distinct pathways for you to consider. Your child will follow one of the four pathways through Year 7 and experience stretch and challenge through the subjects they study.

“I think the pathways are a great idea. I discussed it with my family a lot and I am happy with my choice”

Joseph, Year 7, Peyton House

Each pathway offers excellent progression through Year 7 and then beyond, through Key Stages 3, 4 and 5. There will be the opportunity to select a different pathway as your child moves in to Year 8 should you wish to.

Your child’s primary school will be well placed to advise you on your child’s strengths and which pathway may be most engaging. We will also advise you and discuss the opportunities that each pathway provides for personalising your child’s learning. Your child’s curricular pathway will be a key topic at the family meeting, mentioned earlier on page 9.

The choice of curricular pathway will be yours.

The four curriculum pathways are each designed to meet the needs of all ability levels.

Our **Access**, **Broad**, **Grammar** and **STEM** pathways are outlined in the following pages.

All have at their core a thorough grounding in English, Mathematics and Science.

Please be assured that the Broad Curriculum will provide everything that your child needs to make excellent progress in their learning in Year 7 should you feel it too early to specialise.

Access

Our **Access** Curriculum provides a wealth of social, emotional and literacy support. It is an experience which will develop a child's access to the wider curriculum. We will seek the advice of primary schools as to the suitability of this curriculum for specific students and will meet with parents to discuss this further.



Curricular Pathways

Our well balanced, **Broad** Curriculum provides a range of subjects and specialisms. It offers a breadth of learning and is an excellent starting point for any secondary curriculum.

The **Grammar** Curriculum pathway focuses more on the traditional (EBacc) subjects through greater allocation to Geography, History and Languages as well as the opportunity to study Classics.

The **STEM** (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) Curriculum has a greater emphasis on Science and Technology related specialisms.

Within these three pathways, children are grouped in setted classes. This setting is informed by prior attainment, expectation and progress.

Broad

English

Mathematics

Science

PE

Humanities

Modern Foreign Languages

Design & Technology

Computer Science & IT

Art

Drama

Music

Grammar

English
Mathematics
Science
PE
Geography
History
Philosophy
Classics
Modern Foreign Languages
Design & Technology
Computer Science & IT
Art
Drama
Music

STEM

English
Mathematics
Science
PE
Humanities
Modern Foreign Languages
Design & Technology
Computer Science & IT
Media Studies
Art
Drama
Music Technology

How You Can Help

THERE ARE A NUMBER of specific ways in which families can help, encourage and motivate their children through their time at Thomas Gainsborough School:

Encourage your child to be ready to learn by having the correct equipment every day, such as pens, pencils, an eraser, a ruler, a calculator and a maths set.

Help your child understand the importance of attendance and punctuality. Good attendance leads to success. Please let our Attendance Officer, Mrs Theobald, know as soon as possible if your child is unwell.

Sign your child's planner each week and so keep an eye on information regarding homework and events. Discuss their aims for the week ahead. It is a useful line of communication between us at school and you, so feel free to jot a note to us in the planner and ask your child to make sure the appropriate member of staff is shown it.

Encourage your child to discuss their school work with you. Help them find space and time to complete homework. Showing this interest in your child's learning helps underline the idea that you think it is as important as we do.

Attend your child's Academic Review Day meetings and get involved in helping your child set targets for their own improvement. Your support at this stage will be really motivating and help set your child on the road to success. The dates for these (one per term) are always published before the start of the new school year.

Make contact with your child's teachers; as well as being able to make arrangements to meet them at any stage of the year, you can make an appointment to see them at one of the termly Subject Surgeries and contact them via telephone or email.



“There are loads of clubs on offer and everyone wants you to do your best and be happy.!”

Rosie, Year 7, Chamberlain House

Uniform

What uniform will I need? Where & when can I buy it?

We expect all children to take pride in their appearance and wear the Thomas Gainsborough School uniform which is outlined on page 21.

School uniform can be purchased online from www.yourschoolwear.co.uk. To assist you, we are offering a uniform fitting and sales evening on Thursday 21st June, 5pm – 8pm.

If you have any doubts about items bought from other stockists, please contact the school before purchasing them.

Uniform is available to order online throughout the year.

If you are unable to access the online shop, or require further assistance please contact Student Services 01787 375232 (option 2).



Price List – 2018/19

	Cost
Items bought direct from the school	
TGS Tie	£3.75
TGS Blazer, up to 36" chest	£29.50
TGS Blazer, 38" chest and larger	£37.75
TGS Jumper (optional item)	£12.00 up to 36" £14.00 up to 40"
PE kit bought direct from the school	
TGS PE sweat top	£16.25 up to 36" £21.00 up to 40"
TGS PE socks	£6.00
TGS PE shirt	£11.75 up to 36" £14.25 up to 40"
TGS PE Black shorts	£8.50
TGS PE Black skort – an option for girls	£12.75 - £16.50
TGS PE Black tracksuit bottoms	£16.00
Items available from the school and other uniform stockists	
Girls & boys plain TGS style black trousers	Prices £13-17.50
Girls' plain TGS style black straight skirt	Prices £13-17.50
Items bought from other stockists	
Plain white buttoned long or short sleeved shirt	
Boys'/Girls' plain black trousers – not skinny fit	
Girls' plain, straight skirt – non-stretch material	
Plain black socks or tights	
Plain black shoes – not canvas or training shoes	

What uniform is to be worn for the Transition Week?

DURING THEIR Thomas Gainsborough School Transition Week (**Monday 16th – Friday 20th July**) all children will be provided with a Thomas Gainsborough School House T-shirt, which they wear with their primary school uniform.



“I really enjoyed transfer week as everyone was happy to help and happy to see you. “

Chloe, Year 7, Tollemache House



Transport

How can I find out about transport to school by bus?

A SIGNIFICANT PROPORTION of our students travel to school on buses. At the end of the day, staff are on duty at the bus bay to support the well-established routine for ensuring students get on the right bus!

Late buses run on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at 4.30pm. These enable children using County Transport to attend our diverse Enrichment Programme. Buses run to all village locations through this provision.

Applications for bus passes for travel to and from school are managed by Suffolk County Council or Essex County Council. Applications are made online via the following websites:

www.suffolkonboard.com

www.essex.gov.uk/Education-Schools/Travel-School

Children from out of our catchment area (such as Acton and Great Waldingfield) can access transport arranged by a parents' consortium. Families living in Essex (Great Horkesley) are also able to benefit from an alternative provision.

Should you wish to find out more about either of these schemes or have any other questions about bus routes or school transport please contact Mr Will Ponsford (wponsford@tgschool.net).



Catering

What food is available from the school during the day?

WE HAVE TWO DINING ROOMS for children to enjoy, one in the main building and one in G Block. They both serve a wide range of freshly made food at break and lunchtime. Our kitchens are run in-house by our excellent catering team.

Should your child wish to bring their own packed lunch they are welcome to eat this in a number of places from the Dining Rooms to our outdoor tables.

In the interests of hydration, we ask that any drinks brought in to school are either fruit juice based or plain water. Students are able to drink water from their bottle during lessons should they wish, however we insist that their bottles are filled at break or lunch.

“When I first arrived I was worried that I wouldn’t find my way around and I wouldn’t fit in, but everyone helped me and made me feel welcome on my very first day and still do now.”

Aaron, Year 7, Tollemache House

Helpful Information

Key Dates for Transition

Thursday 21st June 2018

Uniform fitting, 5pm – 8pm

Tuesday 3rd July 2018

Year 6 into 7 Transition Evening Meeting, 7pm

Monday 16th - Friday 20th July 2018

Year 6 into 7 Transition Week

Wednesday 5th September 2018

First day of Autumn Term for Year 7

Key Staff During Transition

Senior Leadership Team

Mrs Helen Yapp, Deputy Headteacher

Mr Emma Wilson-Downes, Assistant Headteacher

Heads of House

Mrs N Wilby, Abbas

Miss J Hilson, Chamberlain

Mrs L Hurtado, Houghton

Mr W Ponsford, Peyton

Mrs F Raleigh, Tollemache

Learning Support

Miss Tina O'Beirne, Learning Support Manager

Student Support

Miss Alison Hunt, Student Support Manager

Term Dates for 2018/19

Autumn Term

Wednesday 5th September – Friday 21st December 2018
(Half Term 22nd October – 26th October 2018)

Professional Development Days (Non-Student Days)

Monday 3rd September, Tuesday 4th September and Friday 19th October 2018

Spring Term

Monday 7th January – Friday 5th April 2019
(Half Term 18th February – 22nd February 2019)

Professional Development Days (Non-Student Days)

Thursday 3rd January and Friday 4th January 2019

Summer Term

Tuesday 23rd April – Friday 19th July 2019
(Half Term 27th May – 31st May 2019)

Timings of the School Day

8.50 – 9.10 am	Registration
9.10 – 10.50 am	Lesson 1
10.50 – 11.10 am	Break
11.10 – 12.50 am	Lesson 2
12.50 – 1.30 pm	Lunch
1.30 – 3.10 pm	Lesson 3
3.10 pm	End of day
3.10 – 4.10 pm	Enrichment activities

Key email contacts

Mrs Emma Wilson-Downes, Assistant Headteacher
ewilson-downes@tgschool.net



Excellence: for each, for all

Your Notes



Thomas Gainsborough School

Wells Hall Road, Great Cornard

Suffolk, CO10 0NH

01787 375232

www.tgschool.net