

2024 Year 9 Options

Spring 2024, find out more at
www.tgschool.net/ks4-options

Our Curriculum



The Thomas Gainsborough School curriculum provides a ***broad choice*** of ***ambitious*** and ***balanced*** choices at every stage to best equip young people for safe and successful lives as responsible citizens, confident workers and inspiring leaders.

Each student is placed at the heart of their curriculum, with personalised choices to reflect the full range of opportunities and aspirations in our community.

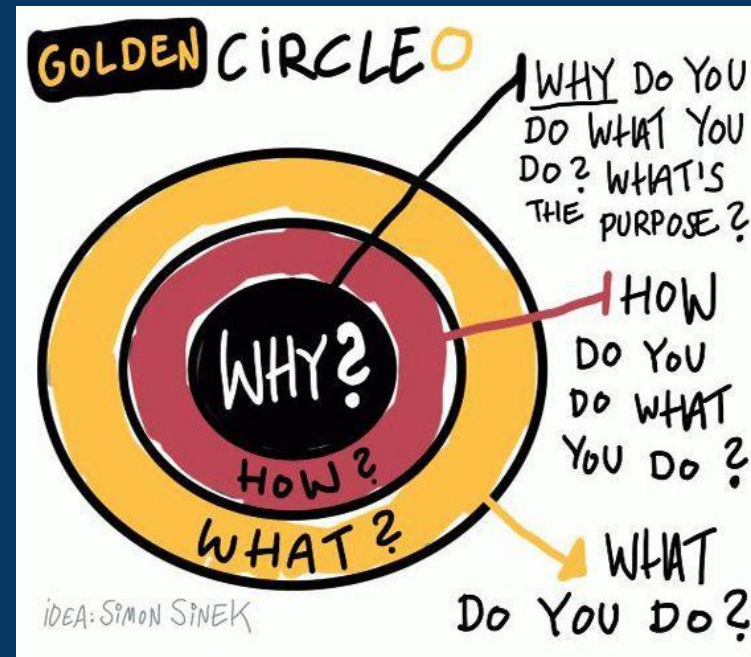
Each key stage is:

- deep in challenge and support for all learners;
- suitably broad and rich in opportunities;
- built upon key concepts, carefully selected from the best of what has been thought and said; and is
- balanced and focused on the knowledge & skills needed for future success.

Purpose: start with why

Option choices and practise exams...

- Help you excel
- Help you understand & change yourself, and the world
- Help prepare you for your future



Our Curriculum



- ★ Broad
- ★ Ambitious
- ★ Balanced

Plus, an extensive range of
enrichment opportunities

Process



Weds 30 January

Information shared & website ready, Year 9 Assembly

Weds 14 February

Progress checks shared

Thurs 29 February

Options Evening, 5-8pm

Thursday 14 March

Year 9 subject teacher evening – appointments online or in person bookable from Tuesday 5 March, 6pm

Wednesday 20 March

Deadline for signed forms to be returned to tutors

After May Half Term

Confirmation of allocations, **last chance to change**

Respect, Resilience, Honesty, Happiness, Positivity & Confidence

Key Stage 4



CORE CURRICULUM		Lessons a fortnight	
English Language	GCSE	6 lessons in Year 10 5 lessons in Year 11	100% exams, 2 papers
English Literature	GCSE		100% exams, 2 papers
Mathematics	GCSE	5 lessons in Year 10 6 lessons in Year 11	100% exams, 3 papers
Science	2 or 3 GCSEs	6 lessons	GCSE Combined Science 100% exams, 6 papers, 1 hr 15 mins each If individual sciences are chosen, still 6 papers, 1 hr 45 mins
Core PE	-	1 lesson	No exams or coursework
Personal, Social & Health	-	Enrichment Days	No exams or coursework
4 OPTION COURSES - most will include a language and all will include a humanity			
4 Courses	GCSE or equivalent	3 lessons each	
ENRICHMENT: Trips, Co-Curricular & Extra Curricular			

A wide range of activities, each night after school, changing each term to support students enjoyment & personal development

	GCSE	Old GCSE	Level 2	Level 1
20%	9	A/A*	Distinction*	
	8		Distinction	
	7			
60%	6	B	Merit	
	5			
80%	4	C	Pass	
100%	3	D-G		Distinction
	2			Merit
	1			Pass



Maths, English,
Science

Options

GCSE

Old GCSE

Level 2

Level 1



D Band
5 classes

E Band
5 classes

Range of
Abilities

20%

60%

80%

100%

9

8

7

6

5

4

3

2

1

A/A*

B

C

D-G

Distinction
*

Distinction

Merit

Pass

Distinction

Merit

Pass

Please number the preferred courses, in order of preference, at least 4 choices, ideally 5 or 6.

1. LANGUAGES – Majority

Students on course to achieve a grade 5 or more in English must choose a language, other students are encouraged to choose a language, this should be the language studied in Key Stage 3.

More than one language may be chosen.

<input type="checkbox"/>	French	<input type="checkbox"/>	German	<input type="checkbox"/>	Spanish	<input type="checkbox"/>	Latin
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2. HUMANITIES

All students must choose at least one of these courses, or a language, more than one may be chosen.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Geography	<input type="checkbox"/>	History	<input type="checkbox"/>	Religion, Philosophy & Ethics
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3. PERSONALISED CHOICES

Note that art based subjects cannot be studied together ♣. Do not use more than one of these in the first 4 preferences, other art courses can be used as preferences 5 or 6. For music and PE courses marked * subject staff will advise on whether GCSE or vocational courses are most suitable. For individual sciences ♦ students will need the recommendation of the science team based on strong performance in Year 9 and a desire to study additional science (you do not need individual sciences to be well prepared for A Level science).

PERFORMING ARTS	VISUAL ARTS	TECHNOLOGY & IT	OTHERS
<input type="checkbox"/> Dance	<input type="checkbox"/> 3D Design ♣	<input type="checkbox"/> Product Design (D&T)	<input type="checkbox"/> Business
<input type="checkbox"/> Drama	<input type="checkbox"/> Fine Art ♣	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering Design - vocational	<input type="checkbox"/> Film Studies
<input type="checkbox"/> Music GCSE or Tech *	<input type="checkbox"/> Graphics ♣	<input type="checkbox"/> Food Nutrition	<input type="checkbox"/> Health & Social Care - vocational
SCIENCE	<input type="checkbox"/> Textiles ♣	<input type="checkbox"/> Computer Science	<input type="checkbox"/> Statistics
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual Sciences ♦	<input type="checkbox"/> Photography	<input type="checkbox"/> Digital IT - vocational	<input type="checkbox"/> PE GCSE or Fitness *



What is Available?

We will do our very best to give you your first choice of courses, but that is not always possible. So please rank your choices 1 to 4 and identify two reserves, 5 & 6.

Must choose at least one.

Must choose a language and a humanity

Please number the preferred courses, in order of preference, at least 4 choices, ideally 5 or 6.

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<input type="checkbox"/> Music GCSE or Tech *	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4 Graphics ❖	<input type="checkbox"/> Food Nutrition	<input type="checkbox"/> Health & Social Care - vocational
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<input type="checkbox"/> Individual Sciences ♦	<input type="checkbox"/> Photography	<input type="checkbox"/> Digital IT - vocational	<input type="checkbox"/> PE GCSE or Fitness *

All must choose at least one.

Most will choose a language and a humanity



Adding 2 reserve choices helps us in case a course is full or does not run

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Year 9 Assembly
Wednesday 31 January

Y9 Progress Checks
Wednesday 14 February

Options Evening, 5-8
Thursday 29 February

Year 9 Subject
Teacher Evening
Thursday 14 March

Options Returned
to tutor by
Wednesday 20 March

Individual Sciences

*Desire &
Ability*

You do not need to study individual sciences to be successful at science A Levels

This is more challenging but gives you a deeper understanding of the three Sciences and allows you to gain three GCSEs.

If you enjoy learning STEM, discovering new things, applying your skills and learning a large amount of facts, this is the option for you. Triple Science could lead to an easier transition to A Levels in the Sciences and help gain a career in the Science sector.

Your science teacher will advise you if this is a good choice for you.

Combinations



Art, Craft & Design

Only one of:

- **Fine Art**
- **Textiles**
- **Graphics**
- **3D Design**

It is not recommended that students choose Photography as well as an art course because of the extensive portfolio work which needs to be completed over two years.

Music

Only one of:

- **GCSE Music**
more theoretical with performance & composition
- **V-Cert Music Technology**
focused on production and recording

Your music teacher will recommend the best course for you.

PE

Only one of:

- **GCSE PE**
more theoretical with 40% practical element
- **V-Cert in Health & Fitness**
Includes coursework

Your PE teacher will recommend the best choice for you.

Combinations



Digital IT & Computing

Can choose both:

- **GCSE Computer Science**
100% exam, more theoretical,
Includes programming skills,
strong maths is an advantage
- **BTEC Digital IT**
Includes practical elements developing
digital products
40% examination & 60% coursework

Technology

Can choose both:

- **GCSE Product Design & Technology**
50% exam & 50% coursework
(of which approx 10% practical)
supports design skills
- **Cambridge National Engineering Design**
40% examination & 60% coursework
(CAD skills, Prototyping and Drawing skills)

Students Views



Which subjects you have chosen?

Why you chose the subjects (what or who helped you decide)?

What they have found helpful or interesting about the subjects?

Why do you think the choice has helped you?

Summer

Geography, Business, Fine Art, Spanish

Veronika

Art, Spanish, History, Health and Social

Corren

Classics, History, Business, Computer Science

Keavy

French, RPE, Dance, Drama

Languages & Latin



Improves literacy in own language

**Improves listening and speaking
in own language**

**Builds connections across subjects,
with particular cognitive benefits**

Expert team with fantastic knowledge

Understanding our place in the world

Accessible to all students

Employability edge

Global nature of business & study

Cultural awareness

Develops confidence

For the *joie de vivre*

Humanities



Deep understanding of the world we live in

Develops analytical and critical thinkers, using evidence to convince

Helps navigate the complexities of today's society

History - interrogation and interpretation of events and sources.

Geography - the social and physical changes that we are facing currently, climate change and global governance

Religion, Philosophy & Ethics- answering the big questions about how people and cultures think and behave

Why?

How?

When?

What?

Who?

Visual & Performing Arts



Confidence

Enjoyment

Communication

Self awareness

Creativity

Analytical skills

Collaboration

Resilience

Challenge

Technical skills

The arts help young people flourish

*Develop vital skills for our creative economy
2.9 million jobs, £84 billion a year*

“Fundamental to the human spirit and absolutely essential for developing the communication skills that are becoming increasingly important for success in 21st century life” Mick Waters

Respect, Resilience, Honesty, Happiness, Positivity & Confidence

New Subjects



Business

Engineering

Film Studies

Health & Social Care

Statistics

Business



The heart of modern society

Gives you with a better understanding of the world around you and how it works

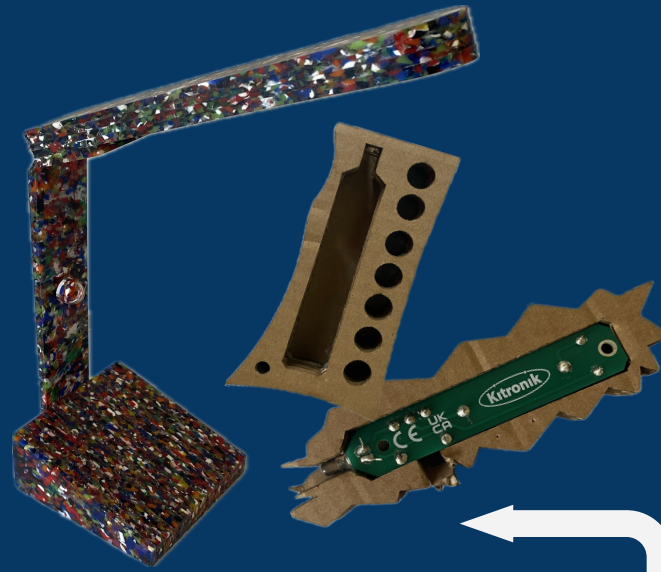
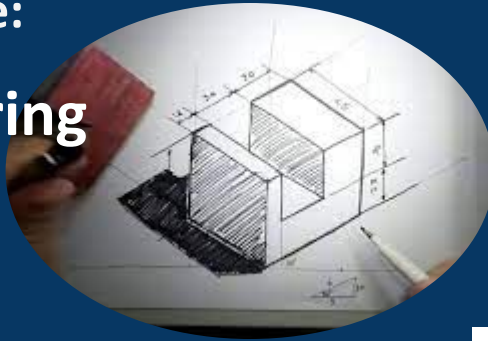
Develops you as an enterprising individual with the ability to think commercially and creatively to demonstrate acumen, drawing on evidence to make informed decisions and solve business problems

- marketing
- innovation in technology
- the economy
- finance
- ethics
- impact of business on individuals and society

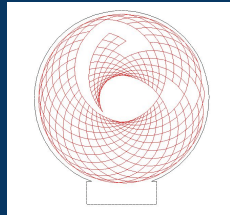
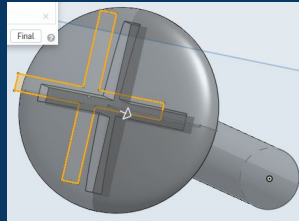
Engineering

What Engineering Design looks like:

Engineering Drawing



Prototyping
Modeling



Computer Aided Design (CAD)

60% Coursework
- 2 units
40% Exam
- 1.15hr

Theory



Respect, Resilience, Honesty, Happiness, Positivity & Confidence

Film Studies



Key visual mediums have dominated storytelling & entertainment for over a century, and shapes many of our ideas today.

Our ideas about gender roles, responses to conflict, and politics are shaped largely by films.

Gain a critical, questioning approach to films, the industry, audiences and social contexts. Students study a variety of films and analyse their techniques, representations and cultural influences. You will learn to analyse texts, develop their ability to visualise stories, and learn the technical skills to turn ideas into films.

Perfect for aspiring and budding filmmakers, as well as *anyone who likes to annoy their friends and family by over-analysing films when you watch them together!*

70% Exam: paper 1: Films studied: (Blinded by the Light, Jojo Rabbit, Girlhood); paper 2 (Dracula, The Lost Boys, The Hate U Give)

30% Coursework: Produce your own screenplay - a film genre of your choice.



Respect, Resilience, Honesty, Happiness, Positivity & Confidence

Health & Social Care



**Do you want to make a difference? Save lives? Improve lives?
Support those in need?**

An ageing population means demand for these roles,
professionally & personally

You will be nurtured develop resilience, independence & expression
to enable you to succeed in today's society

Learn about health & wellbeing

Mixture of assessments



Respect, Resilience, Honesty, Happiness, Positivity & Confidence

Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM)



2021

2.8 million

people employed in STEM

2027

+4.3%

Estimated growth in jobs

Especially in Suffolk

Green energy, medical sciences,
IT & computing, engineering, logistics,
design, production, transport, finance...

Most popular apprenticeships

Statistics



The age of statistics is upon us. Statistics are being collected and used at an increasing rate in business, politics and science and they drive Large Language Models behind AI

In the real world and other subjects we use lots of graphs, statistics, economic data

We help you gain confidence & expertise in this key mathematical skill



Students Views



A Year 12 perspective

Jensen

STEM

*GCSE: Computer Science, Business
Media Studies, Photography*

Sixth Form: Computer Science, Business, Psychology

Thea

Grammar

*GCSE: Spanish, Health & Social Care,
Business, Geography*

*Sixth Form: English Language, Health & Social Care
Psychology*

Students Views



A Year 12 perspective

Emily

*Religion, Philosophy & Ethics;
Spanish, Drama, History*

History, English Literature, Sociology

Careers Guidance



One-to-one careers guidance

Appointments available by Email and phone

Activities on Enrichment Days

Visits to Careers Hub

Careers Adviser, Mrs Osborne

Email kosborne@tgschool.net

Online www.tgschool.net/careers

Consider



What you excel at

- your progress checks, feedback from teachers and Go4Schools will help

What helps you for the future

- be ambitious

What gives you a broad range of skills

What you enjoy

Advice of others

- family, careers team, tutor, teachers, Head of House





Morrisby is a careers platform students have access to at any time using the login details they have written in their planner. This can help them make informed decisions about subjects and pathways that interest them.

Students complete a psychometric test matching them to some suitable careers which they can research in more depth from home and retake the questionnaire at any point over the next few years.

Any questions please email Mrs Osborne.

A screenshot of the Morrisby careers platform interface. The top navigation bar is dark blue with the Morrisby logo and links for Home, About Me, My Choices, Progress, and Locker. On the right, it shows 'Currently Viewing Sample Student' and a 'Back to Manager' button. The main content area displays a grid of career cards. The first row includes 'Application Analyst/Programmer' (100% match, 'Career' tag), 'UX Designer' (94% match, 'New Entry' tag), and 'Web Developer' (93% match, 'New Entry' tag). Each card features a representative image, a progress bar, and a 'Show related career' button. A 'Favourites' sidebar on the right lists 'Application Analyst/Programmer', 'Web Designer', and '3 other careers' with a 'Show my favourite careers' button. Below this is a 'Search' section with a search bar and 'Search' and 'Clear' buttons. At the bottom right is an 'Explore' section with the text 'Investigate a whole range of career families' and an 'Explore' button.

National Careers Week 4-9th March



The Bitesize Careers Video Podcast



How do I find a job I'll enjoy?



How do I turn my passion into a job?



What are the jobs of the future?



Where can my subjects take me?



Is an apprenticeship right for me?



Next steps



Enjoy the evening, speak to staff & students

Use the website

www.tgschool.net/ks4-options

www.tgschool.net/subjects

Visit careers this evening, break, lunch or arrange an appointment

Discuss with family, tutors & teachers

Student specific questions to tutors and Heads of House

Options Evening Thurs 29 February & Forms in by Weds 20 March