



THOMAS
GAINSBOROUGH
SCHOOL

Excellence: for each, for all

WELCOME



“We pride ourselves in being an open school. One in which parents feel they play a full and proper role in their child’s education.”

Many thanks for taking the time to enquire about Thomas Gainsborough School. We are very proud of our school and the educational opportunities that it provides for our wonderful students.

Our school motto is ‘*Excellence: for each, for all*’ and this encapsulates the values and ethos of the school. It is a school where every single individual matters. We strive to personalise a young person’s education, putting them at the centre of their own learning, to ensure that each of our students achieves his or her full potential, enjoying an education that focuses on their own individual skills, strengths and aptitudes. Each student has a voice here – it is their school and their education. Yet each student is part of a community, locally, nationally and globally. We want our students to become outstanding citizens and contribute significantly to the society in which they live.

We pride ourselves in being an open school, one in which parents feel they play a full and proper role in their child’s education. We encourage parents to come into school regularly and welcome their views, thoughts and opinions. We are providing a service, the singularly most important service a family can receive, the education of their children. That education is most successful when the school, the students and their parents form a strong partnership.

Please come and see our school, take a tour. I am certain that you will be impressed.

Mrs Helen Yapp
Headteacher



PROGRESSIVE LEARNING

Learning is everything at Thomas Gainsborough School. Lessons are designed to be engaging but challenging, with the focus on ensuring that our students make progress in every single lesson.

Each day consists of three one-hundred minute lessons as part of a two week timetable. Each morning students spend a twenty minute period as a tutor group preparing themselves for learning on that day. Homework is set regularly and appropriately to a student's individual needs, to support the work that they do in school and prepare them for their future learning.

Progress and attainment is regularly assessed and monitored and fed back to the students. Each half term parents are formally informed of their child's progress through school reports. These are issued in hard copy but are also accessible to parents via our online parents' information service. Three times each year we invite parents into school for our Academic Review Days where parents and students attend a fifteen minute interview with the student's Academic Tutor to review their progress over the previous term and set challenging targets for development over the term ahead.

Teaching staff are always available for parents to contact. We operate an open door policy and encourage parents to visit the school regularly to discuss their child's progress.



“The aim of the Thomas Gainsborough School is to provide an education of sufficient breadth and balance that every student is able to maximise their potential: so that each student is able to develop their self confidence in a learning culture based on mutual respect. We want our students to go on to become honest, resilient, happy young people who make a positive contribution to their community.”



Oxford
Learning
SPANISH
DICTIONARY

INNOVATIVE CURRICULUM

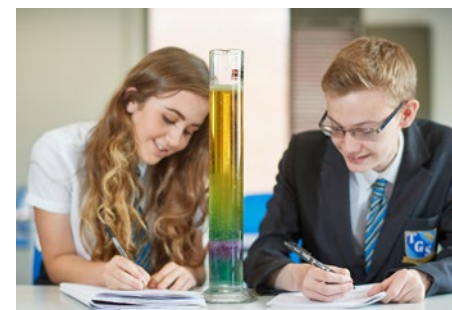
Our curriculum is designed to meet the needs of all our learners. It provides the necessary stretch and challenge required by able students and the support and skills development required by others.

We offer four distinct learning pathways that are based on each child's strengths, skills and aptitudes. All students follow a strong core of Mathematics, Science and English Language and Literature. Most students will follow a curriculum that will provide a breadth and balance of study across the Humanities, Technology and Arts subjects. However, some students will specialise in our Grammar Curriculum route. This provides a traditional Grammar School curriculum with an emphasis on academic study. Students will take lessons in Latin and three foreign languages as well as a focus on History, Geography and Philosophy. Our STEM Pathway on the other hand provides a focus on Technology and creativity. Each pathway meets the requirements of the national curriculum but enables young people to feel that their learning journey is personalised to them. The choice of which pathway a student will follow will rest solely with parents. Student groupings in all of our pathways are organised based on students' prior attainment following consultation with parents and partner schools.

Learners who have not yet developed the necessary skills to access a typical secondary school curriculum will work with specialist staff and be taught for much of their day in a Primary School type learning environment. This is designed to support them in their development as learners and their ability to access the learning levels of their peers.

We passionately believe that all students should study the Arts and have a strong basic grasp of Music. We prioritise the development of all our learners' communication skills equipping them for the globalised jobs market that they will enter on leaving school. Subjects such as Dance, Drama and Media Studies provide all students with key skills and we are proactive in ensuring at least basic levels of competence in all these areas.

Our curriculum provides a set of pathways all the way from Year 7 to Year 13 and beyond. We hope a student's learning journey will be smooth and seamless from joining the school to the Sixth Form. As each learner joins us it is our expectation that their journey will continue at Thomas Gainsborough School until they leave us at 18 to go to university or the world of work.



“The innovative ‘grammar’, ‘broad’ and ‘STEM’ pathways curriculum enables pupils to specialise from Year 7. As a consequence, pupils are well prepared to make choices for Key Stage 4 study.”

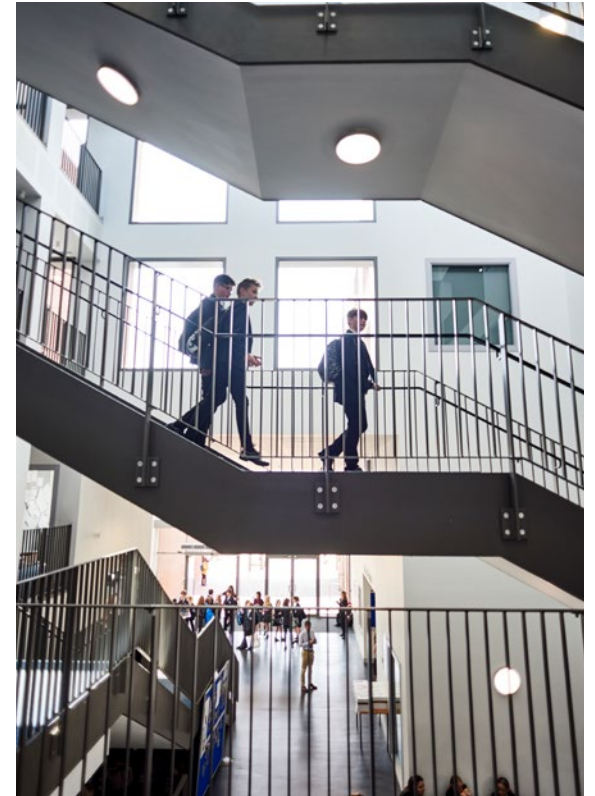
OFSTED REPORT



**“Pupils behaviour
is exemplary.”**

OFSTED REPORT





“Pupils are exceptionally well prepared for the next stage of their education or employment.”

OFSTED REPORT



EFFECTIVE LEARNING

“Teachers have high expectations of how pupils should behave. Pupils respond well to this and are attentive during lessons. As a consequence, lesson time is well used to develop pupils’ skills, knowledge and understanding.”

OFSTED REPORT



Learning takes place most effectively in a calm purposeful environment. Thomas Gainsborough School has a rigorously enforced behaviour for learning policy. We expect high standards of discipline inside the classroom and out. We expect our students to be polite, courteous and respectful and staff at the school treat students in the same manner.

Students at the school behave well and work hard and are rewarded for this. Staff send home letters and postcards when students produce excellent work or apply effort to their work that goes above and beyond expectations. Certificates are awarded for high levels of attendance and punctuality and for consistent meeting of the schools expectations for learning.



Students also collect merits for endeavours in every aspect of school life. These merits then contribute to our annual rewards trip as well as counting towards the termly awarding of the inter-house trophy – The Chelsworth Cup.

We are very proud of our Thomas Gainsborough School uniform, it gives us a sense of shared identity and collective pride. We expect that it is worn correctly at all times both in school and on journeys to and from school. We have specialist kits for Physical Education and also specialist areas of the curriculum such as Dance, Drama and Engineering.



STUNNING FACILITIES



The facilities at the school are stunning. The main school building was opened in September 2015 and was designed to meet the needs of our diverse curriculum.

Subjects are taught in specialist rooms and laboratories, all furnished to high standards. We have outstanding sports facilities and excellent Media Studies, Dance and Drama studios. We have specialist Sixth Form teaching spaces and IT suites and we will continue to develop the site to meet the changing needs of the world that we live in, to ensure that our students continue to thrive.



We place a high value on sport, both competitive and social. The school runs many teams in a number of sports. We have a record of success in hockey, football and basketball but we value participation in all sports. In addition to competitive sports we run the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme and other leadership development programmes, such as sports and army cadets.

Sports teaching takes place in our leisure centre which includes a large sports hall, gymnasium, dance studio and fitness suite. We also have a 20 metre outdoor, heated swimming pool which is the venue for our annual swimming gala. We are fortunate to have the largest netball facility in Western Suffolk and nine competition-quality tennis courts. We have a large multi-purpose all-weather pitch, rugby pitches and indoor cricket nets.



“The school building is amazing. The classrooms are very light and it’s easy to find my way around.”



“The school has a very powerful culture of respect and understanding. Pupils value this.”

OFSTED REPORT





**“The school is ambitious
for it’s pupils.”**

OFSTED REPORT



OUTSTANDING STUDENT SUPPORT

“The school’s work to promote pupils’ development and welfare is outstanding.”

OFSTED REPORT



Learning at Thomas Gainsborough School is supported by our excellent Student Support Team. All of our students are placed in small tutor groups with their tutor being the key individual in the child’s time in school.

Tutors maintain high expectations of their students and monitor their academic progress. They set high standards of behaviour and promote a culture of active involvement in all aspects of school life. Tutors are the first point of contact with the school for parents. These Tutor Groups are organised vertically and contain students of all year groups. This fosters a cohesive and coherent culture within the school where students of different ages can mix readily and confidently. Older students act as role models and mentors to younger students which enables them to develop the interpersonal skills that prepare them for life beyond school.



Tutors are supported in their work by our team of Learning Mentors. These specialist staff, based in our Student Services area, can be accessed by students at any time for any level of support. Whether they are students wishing to enquire about university places, looking for careers advice or simply needing help with lost equipment, we pride ourselves in the quality of support we offer our students.

We have an excellent team of trained professionals that help support those students with particular special educational needs. Valuing the progress made by every child equally, our Learning Support team works closely with students and their families to ensure that all their learning needs are met and that every child maximises their potential.



BEYOND THE CLASSROOM



At Thomas Gainsborough School we place an enormous value on the learning that takes place beyond the classroom enriching a young person's life. We encourage our students to get involved in a range of activities that enhance their time at school. From sports teams to maths challenges, from Photography clubs to the school orchestra and public speaking competitions, we offer a vast array of clubs and activities that accommodate the skills and interests of all of our students.



We also organise a wide range of trips and visits. Travelling as far afield as China and America or much closer to home on theatre trips or visiting museums, we believe that it is crucial to a child's wider learning that they experience many different cultures and societies as they grow.

We foster a culture of healthy competition at Thomas Gainsborough. Many activities are organised throughout the year to engage students in as many competitions and challenges as possible. Many of these are organised through our House system. Every student is placed in one of five Houses: Abbas, Chamberlain, Houghton, Peyton and Tollemache. The House system brings students of all ages together. It generates pride and a sense of belonging.



“Tutors maintain high expectations of their students and monitor their academic progress. They set high standards of behaviour and promote a culture of active involvement in all aspects of school life.”



“Respect and courtesy
are the norm.”

OFSTED REPORT





“Pupils speak positively about their experiences and the quality of education they receive.”

OFSTED REPORT

VISIT OUR SCHOOL



Open Evenings are held each September when you can meet staff and students, view the facilities and see demonstrations of students' work.

You are also very welcome to visit the school at any time for a personal tour. To arrange a visit please contact the school.

We hope that you now have a clear view of the strengths and unique vision of our school and we look forward to working with you to ensure the best possible education for your child.



“Staff care for the pupils extremely well.”

OFSTED REPORT

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