



**Candidate Pack
Head of Mathematics 2024**

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Excellence: for each, for all

Welcome

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

Our school motto is 'Excellence: for each, for all' and this encapsulates our values and ethos. 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 student 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 also part of a community, locally, nationally and globally. We want our students to become outstanding citizens and contribute greatly to the society in which they live.

The values and the ethos apply to our staff also. We have excellent staff and we endeavour to make every individual, whatever their role in school, feel valued, respected and cared for. Your voice will be heard and you will be part of a supportive staff body where we have high expectations and standards but we also have the conditions and systems in place to help staff to be successful. Being part of the Unity Schools Partnerships also enables us to access wider opportunities and support for our staff and we have an active and effective governing body. We also ensure that we laugh together and have an on-going supply of cakes and biscuits for those more challenging days.

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 and that education is most successful when the school, the students and their parents form a strong partnership. However, we also provide outstanding student support to ensure that we remove students' barriers to learning.

Our school is oversubscribed; it has a growing Sixth Form and staff turnover is low. We are proud of all that we have achieved but we are not satisfied and eager to continue to improve and as a leader within our school you will play an integral role in this.

Please come and see our school; we will happily make time to answer your questions and take you on a tour.

I am certain that you will be impressed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H Yapp', with a long horizontal line underneath it.

Helen Yapp (Headteacher)

Our Experienced & Supportive Maths Team

Our team of specialist maths teachers is highly supportive and staff work collaboratively, within the school and the Unity Schools Partnership, to move the department forward and support each other in our teaching and learning. The team are highly committed to the success of our students and supporting each other.

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 Maths is taught in specialist rooms all on one floor, with two dedicated teaching rooms in the Sixth Form building. Maths is one of the larger departments within the school in terms of team size, budget and qualifications offered, offering courses across all key stages. The team is made up of 13 subject specialists, covering the full range of experience.

Within the teaching team there are two assistant subject leaders..

Outcomes at KS4 and KS5 are strong with some exceptional performances from different groups of students. The curriculum is ambitious for all and students are supported to excel across the full ability range. The level of improvement and success has been maintained for several years.

With 280 students in a year group there are 10 sets and at KS4 some students will choose to study Statistics as a GCSE. At KS5 we offer A level Mathematics and A level Further Mathematics along with the AQA Core Mathematics course. TGS subscribes to Edexcel. Thomas Gainsborough School follows the National Curriculum and at KS3 the topics are taught using a spiralled approach whilst encouraging mastery of topics. The different curriculum pathway choices in KS3 do not affect the Maths offer for students. All students are given at least four, 100 minute lessons per fortnight whilst our weakest students are given five so that we can work to fill gaps in knowledge from the KS2 curriculum.

There is an excellent enrichment programme to accompany Maths. We enter students each year for the UK Maths Challenge and organise weekly Maths challenges for whole school participation. Students are given the opportunity to visit further education centres along with links with careers involving further study of Maths.

As a member of Unity Schools Partnership, the department has strong links to other schools across the region. Teachers and leaders from the school 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

Unity Schools Partnership

Through geographical hubs of like-minded schools and a vision of excellence that is shared by all, schools smash through barriers to achieve more than others think possible.

The vision of Unity Schools Partnership is to achieve the highest standards of education in its primary, secondary and special schools.

It is our intention that all trust schools, and the trust as a whole, be recognised locally and nationally for the exceptional quality of its educational provision.

We are a family of interdependent schools with a shared ambition to transform lives.

We are committed to the development of a very high-quality, and evidence-informed, model of how excellence is achieved.

Our work is fostered by geographical hubs of schools in close proximity that understand their specific communities.

The trust's work is characterised by:



The vast majority of schools are now successful, well-performing schools and judged 'good' by Ofsted. The ambition over the next three years is that schools across the trust become excellent schools, characterised by top quartile performance and with the capacity to support more schools in the area that need support to benefit from being part of the trust.

In order to achieve this ambition, the trust focuses on:

Excellent education – we have plans for work in primary, secondary and special education which aim by 2026 to achieve top quartile performance in primary and secondary results and that has very high approval ratings externally and from parents for children with special educational needs.

Excellent staff – we have a People Strategy that includes the ambition of being the employer of choice for school staff in the region.

Excellent support for schools – we have included in our plans for work in primary, secondary and special education how schools are supported to provide excellent education and we have an operational plan for wider support for schools in the trust, those who wish to be associated with the trust and those who potentially might wish to join the trust.

You can find out more about Unity Schools Partnership at www.unitysp.co.uk

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 Mr Ben Mills, bmills@tgschool.net or call the school to speak to Mrs Kerry Fuller, the Headteacher's PA, on 01787 375232.

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

