



**Candidate Pack
Teacher of Film Studies 2025**

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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 Film Studies Curriculum & Facilities

Film Studies is a relatively new addition to the curriculum here at TGS but it is proving to be a popular one! We have full classes across the GCSE course in Years 10 and 11 and the A-Level course in Years 12 and 13. As a teacher of Film Studies, you would be responsible for maintaining excellent outcomes for these students, running student intervention classes, adding to and developing schemes of work, and driving the already strong recruitment for the subject.

Although you would be the primary teacher of Film Studies, you would be working alongside a range of teachers who similarly work in small or single-teacher departments: Health and Social Care, Sociology, Law, Politics, and Psychology. The team is an excellent group of people to work with. More than anything else, we are very supportive and collaborative, we all have high expectations of ourselves and the students, and we all highly appreciate a good sense of humour. Beyond our after school commitments for whole school CPD, department time, and the running of student intervention classes, there is the opportunity to participate in additional CPD on Wednesday evenings to support collaboration with other Key Stage 5 teachers.



For all year groups, Film Studies is taught in our sixth form block. We provide iPads for every member of staff to adopt in their teaching practice and all Sixth Form students have been provided with one since September 2024. Not only have iPads further enhanced our excellent teaching and collaboration, they have also provided new ways to manage feedback and assessment. For Film Studies, iPads also mean that A-Level students have access to a personal film and editing device, as well as our classroom set of Mac desktops and fully featured green screen room and live editing suite.

Outcomes at KS4 and KS5 are exceptional and our results for the 2023/24 academic year were among the school's best. The curriculum is ambitious for all, and students are supported to excel across the full ability range. We have developed a scheme of work with current Year 8 students centred around the notion of 'coming-of-age' and growing-up in film. By closely aligning film choices to the experiences of teenagers, we have been able to engage year 8 learners better in the study of film as a medium of storytelling. This course may run again next year and provides an excellent opportunity to enrich cross-curricular learning from English and PSHE, and to promote Film Studies to the students as a GCSE option.

The enrichment offer that accompanies Film Studies is varied and valued. Recently, we have run trips to Sky Studios in Elstree and film workshop trips with local universities. There may be the opportunity to organise a trip to Disneyland Paris for a Film and Media workshop in the 2025/26 academic year.

Thomas Gainsborough School is well connected across the wider trust, regularly collaborating with and supporting teams in a range of schools, and benefiting from shared practice throughout the academic year. We have connections beyond the trust too, and are proud to share practice with educators from a variety of settings.

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, and Teaching & Learning podcast
- 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 and coaching available
- 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 Mr Chris Ryall, cryall@tgschool.net or call the school to speak to Mrs Mel Griss, Human Resources Manager, 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/

