

FINDING OUT MORE

You are always welcome to come and visit our school and Sixth Form to see the facilities, experience lessons and talk to staff and current students.

To ask any further questions or to arrange a personal tour please arrange an appointment by contacting Mrs Lynne King either by phone or email.

If you wish to find out more about Thomas Gainsborough Sixth Form and the school as a whole you will also find more useful information on our website.

We look forward to welcoming you to our Sixth Form.

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THOMAS
GAINSBOROUGH
SIXTH FORM



PROSPECTUS
2016 - 2017

THOMAS GAINSBOROUGH SCHOOL



*Excellence:
for each, for all*



WELCOME TO THOMAS GAINSBOROUGH SIXTH FORM



*It is time to make the biggest decision of your lives so far!
What lies ahead, beyond Year 11?*

You are about to make a choice that will define the pathways and opportunities available to you in adulthood. It is a fantastically exciting time (if not a little nerve-racking) and one that I am sure will take you in the direction of your dreams.

Learning with us at Thomas Gainsborough Sixth Form is about joining a community whose sole purpose is to enable you to fulfil those dreams. We know our students, we care about our students, we place great value on the importance of strong relationships and teamwork in order to ensure that every one of our students achieves success.

Developing mature young people in the Sixth Form is about personalising learning, support and experiences to meet every single student's needs. We believe in a close three-way partnership between students, their families and the school. We work together for one goal and that is you achieving the best you possibly can in your learning and developing as a person.

Our Sixth Form is characterised by teachers who know their students well. They are able to provide regular and highly effective feedback in students'

learning. They share information regularly and effectively with parents and students so that parents are involved in the learning journey.

Our students develop self-confidence in their learning; ensuring they become independent, resilient, happy young adults who make a positive contribution to their community.

This Prospectus is designed to provide you with an insight into what goes on here at Thomas Gainsborough Sixth Form both within the classroom and beyond. Sixth Form is about becoming the person that you want to be. It is about grasping opportunities and making the most of the exciting, enjoyable and fulfilling years of your entire school career.

Wayne Lloyd
Headteacher

EXPLORING YOUR EXCELLENCE

Thomas Gainsborough Sixth Form offers you the chance to explore your own learning pathways. You are at the centre of your learning journey and we will help you build a curriculum that meets your needs, your strengths and your goals.

Meeting these aspirations that you have for yourself is a challenging task. You are about to undertake two years of difficult study. Your success will be based upon your own endeavours but the support that you will get from Thomas

Gainsborough Sixth Form will ensure that, with every challenge that you meet, people who know you, understand your learning style and care passionately about seeing you do the best will be with you every step of the way.



LEADING YOUR COMMUNITY



*Your tutors, your teachers
and learning mentors
provide regular feedback
and set learning targets
with you constantly.*

You are the leaders of that community. Every student at Thomas Gainsborough Sixth Form is a future leader. We place high value on developing these skills throughout your time with us. Whether you are on a Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme activity, taking part in the Sixth Form Challenge event, whether you are enjoying work experience with business and industry leaders or playing a lead role in student politics we encourage all our students to see the development of the skills needed to prepare for positions of responsibility and authority as an integral part of your time in our Sixth Form.

Our Academic Sixth Form tutoring and House Systems are designed to develop these roles. Universities and employers will be looking for recruits that have shown their skills in leading and developing other people. This can involve being Head Boy or Head Girl or becoming a Senior Student attached to the leadership of each House but it can also involve the support and mentoring that you might give to younger students. Being a student at Thomas Gainsborough Sixth Form is being a member of a wider community, your community!

Your time here will be rewarding. It will be rewarding intellectually, it will be rewarding academically but life at Thomas Gainsborough Sixth Form is not just about what happens within the classroom.



EXCEEDING YOUR EXPECTATIONS

This is an exciting time and decisions, plans, ideas and subjects you commit to now will help forge the bright future that is ahead of you. The Thomas Gainsborough Sixth Form will provide you with an outstanding environment to help you meet and exceed your potential. We will have high expectations of you both academically and personally and we will expect you to work hard, aim high and seize all the opportunities that will be provided for you. Above all, we expect our Sixth Form students to be courageous and creative thinkers, able to meet challenges and to care about others within their community.

Our dedicated teachers will provide you with excellent teaching. They will build upon the knowledge they might already have of you to fully understand your core strengths and to identify areas where you need extra encouragement and motivation. They will be accessible not just during lesson time but via e-mail and also after school to provide additional support. Our wide-ranging curriculum, consisting of A Levels, BTECs, Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) and work experience will fire your imagination and inspire you to develop your unique opinions and attributes, unlocking a world where there are no parameters to possibility and potential.

“Our Thomas Gainsborough community is growing with more new students choosing to attend our Sixth Form.”

CREATING YOUR CURRICULUM

Learning at Thomas Gainsborough Sixth Form is supported not only by the excellent teaching but the recently refurbished and updated facilities.

State of the art computer and media suites, including the use of iMacs, supplement well resourced teaching rooms and an outstanding library. Our Physical Education facilities include a four court sports hall, gymnasium, fitness suite, swimming pool, dance studio and floodlit Astrotrurf.

The Media Studies suite comprises of a fully working TV studio including a fifty foot green screen and Science, Technology and the Arts also enjoy specialist facilities ideal for post 16 learning. Dark rooms, photography studio and dedicated Sixth Form art studio complement well resourced laboratories, workshops and IT support facilities.

The Wayman and Long Law Suite, and Walter Wright Accountancy Suite, offer a unique opportunity to access exclusive work placements, as well as the possibility of higher apprenticeships or a potential Law training contract.

You will enjoy greater independence in managing your own learning and time in the Sixth Form. To support and enhance your experience students will have independent use of the teaching and sporting facilities; four dedicated Sixth Form study areas, including our reading room; prioritised access to the dining areas before the lower school



and if students are meeting the required academic standards Home Study Agreements can be arranged.

Our Sixth Form Course Guide will give you detailed information about the different courses we offer and the GCSE qualifications and grades required. It will also provide you with additional information to help you make informed choices and the support available to help you make the correct decisions. You may wish to specialise in specific subject areas or you might want to choose a wide-ranging study programme; both routes are possible.

ENRICHING YOUR STUDY

In addition to the expansive offering within your core subjects, which will see you take part in field trips and cultural visits with your academic studies, you will also benefit from numerous opportunities to broaden your horizons, provide leadership opportunities, accrue additional qualifications and improve your curriculum vitae.



Sixth Form students organise and run their own clubs and activities ranging from whole school charity events, their own in-school business and visits to cities such as Paris and London. They take an active part in the many whole school House Competitions which include sporting events and the Sixth Form University Challenge. They participate in the Sports leaders programme, the choir, LAMDA performing arts tuition, the Duke of Edinburgh award, the TGS Media Team and the annual school production. They attend and lead the numerous after school activities such as Film club, Go-kart racing, Dance, Cipher challenge and Poetry.

During the academic year there are also three de-timetabled enrichment days during which Sixth Form students are able to experience a range of activities including: Cooking on a budget, Self

Defence, Financial Management, Health Awareness, Team Building and Interviewing Skills. The Sixth Form also benefits from very close links with the University of Cambridge and University of Suffolk, who regularly provide our students with opportunities to raise their aspirations through talks and visits, as well as practical help and guidance in completing UCAS forms and preparing for interviews.

As a student of Thomas Gainsborough Sixth Form these opportunities will provide you with additional skills, new challenges and an enriched curriculum vitae which will benefit you considerably when applying for University, apprenticeships and future careers.

FOOTBALL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME

The Norwich City Regional Football Scholarship Programme in partnership with Thomas Gainsborough School is an exciting opportunity for young people between the ages of 16-18 to continue their academic, footballing and career development through Norwich City Football Club.

This unique and high quality experience will combine focused, small-group educational sessions with our designated education tutor alongside the opportunity to train with qualified coaches and represent Norwich City Football Club and Thomas Gainsborough School in our football fixture programme.



Education: The Norwich City Scholarship Students can either study for a Level 3 BTEC Extended Diploma in Sport over 12 hours per week across a two year period OR can select a combination of A Levels and Vocational subjects.

The scheme will follow a carefully planned pathway of modules to provide them with a broad range of knowledge and experience whilst remaining linked to potential career pathways.

Carrying a maximum of 420 (168) UCAS points, it provides the perfect opportunity for university progression.



Football: The Norwich City Regional Scholarship Programme will see scholars train 6-8 hours per week using a technical programme based around technical and tactical development.

The squad of players will play in the British College League ensuring a competitive fixture programme on a weekly basis.

We are delighted to also announce a link with semi-professional club Cornard United who will offer their pitch and facilities for our initial trial.

MEET OUR STUDENTS



Emily

My name is Emily, and I am currently Head Girl at Thomas Gainsborough School. I study Art, English Literature, English Language and Textiles.

I decided to study at our Sixth Form because I liked the fact all of my teachers knew me by name, and I was a student rather than a number. From looking at other Sixth Forms on open days nearly two years ago I know this is a unique attribute to our Sixth Form, which makes the learning process feel a lot more personal.

Last year alone I managed to get a Work Experience placement at a local Primary Schools art week via the careers hub, mentored in lower school lessons once a week and taken part in our Sixth Form challenge all thanks to the Sixth Form team.



Ross

As Head Boy, one of my most significant roles is ensuring that the voices of students in the Sixth Form and across the school are heard, giving TGS that 'personal touch.'

Even as we grow, teaching remains active and dynamic with staff tailoring learning to suit your needs.

The Sixth Form Team are also very supportive outside the classroom, making important decisions about our 'next steps.'

I was able to set up my own Theatre Club with links to a local primary school and ran a Drama workshop for them.

It was one of many rewarding experiences that TGS has provided for me.



Callum

I'm currently in the 2nd year of Sixth Form, studying Maths, Further Maths, Physics and Chemistry at A level. In addition, I am working towards research for an EPQ, which has been invaluable for tailoring my learning towards my interests and future ambition of a career within the space industry. I am also President of the Student Parliament and a Senior prefect. This has been a fantastic opportunity to make a difference within school, whilst also helping to improve my organisational and communication skills.

I chose TGS Sixth Form because I knew that I wouldn't be a number within a system, and the quality of teaching, in conjunction with the UCAS support and careers links available, would enable me to achieve my full potential at A level and beyond.



Charles

I'm really enjoying my time at Thomas Gainsborough school.

The school is absolutely fantastic and I couldn't fault it.

The amount of work is manageable along with my Norwich City Scholars commitments and I look forward to the many new challenges and opportunities in such great school.



Olivia

After much thought, the options I chose were Psychology, Biology and Physical Education, with the hope of a future career in sports psychology.

I decided to stay on at TGS because the teachers really go the extra mile to help you improve and the smaller classes make it much more personal; also the sixth form block is separate from the main school so we are undisturbed for study periods, and we have our own cafeteria and coffee shop.

"Personally, I feel this is the best environment for me to get the grades I need for University."

"You are never alone at TGS, our Sixth Form is a strong community as part of the wider school community."

SPOTLIGHT ON SUCCESS

Thomas Gainsborough School Sixth Form Alumni



Shannon Smith

*Thomas Gainsborough Sixth Form
from 2014-2016*

“At TGS Sixth Form I studied Applied Science, Business Studies and IT, all Level 3 Btec.

I am currently studying a level 3 science technician apprenticeship at Stour Valley School in Clare. In the future, I aim to progress to the level 4 at Stour Valley and if that all goes well I will be offered a full time job at the school, or I may want to move into a similar environment.

TGS Sixth form was the right choice for me as I knew 98% of the work already, which made it more relaxing when it came to completing the coursework, plus if I needed any advice from the staff, they already knew me. I also liked the size of the classes and the effect of the teaching environment, I felt like I was being treated as an adult. The school assisted me with retaking my gcse English as the resit lessons worked around my academic lessons, which meant I didn't miss crucial lesson time. At the end of my time at TGS I achieved my C in English and three Distinction Stars in my A Level subjects.”



Lewis Wingate

*Thomas Gainsborough Sixth Form
from 2014-2016*

“Thomas Gainsborough School Sixth Form is somewhere very unique, the opportunities to excel yourself extend far beyond the curriculum. I was fortunate enough to take full advantage of some of these opportunities, one in particular;

With my expressed interest in the Law, Mr Alexander introduced me to local firm Wayman & Long, thanks to the connection which was made, following a period of work related learning, I am now a Paralegal at the firm working part-time alongside my university studies. We are also beginning to lay the foundations for me to run my own department within the firm following the completion of my training contract.

This has set me apart from all other candidates in the same field allowing me to go on and become a member of my university's Law Society and go way beyond where I ever expected to be at the age of 19. These opportunities aren't just limited to the Law so I would highly recommend getting involved with the vast array of projects at this school... What you do now will set you up for success way beyond collecting your exam results.”



Harriet Barber

*Thomas Gainsborough Sixth Form
from 2014-2016*

“I left Thomas Gainsborough school in the summer of 2016 after studying Maths, Further Maths and Physics as well as Art and the EPQ in my first year. I have now gone in the study a masters in Mathematics at the University of Exeter with the opportunity to study abroad in my third year.

Over the 2 years I was the the sixth form I found the whole sixth form team to be so supportive. Not only were they helpful with studies but they also helped with my UCAS application and gave many wonderful opportunities such as attending Cambridge Summer School which has all helped to get me to where I am now.

I’m not completely sure what career path I wish to go down, perhaps going into research or maybe even teaching. For now I feel I am on the right direction to achieve what I want to and I have the sixth form to thank for helping me to get this far.”



We have a proven track record in preparing our students successfully for their post-18 pathways.

All of our Year 13 from 2015 - 2016 successfully moved on into Higher Education, Apprenticeships or employment.

DESTINED FOR SUCCESS

Our students went to a wide range of Universities this year to read an impressive variety of subjects.

ARU: Nursing

Oxford Brookes: Anthropology

BIMM London: Music Event Management

Pearson London: Law

Birmingham: Animation, Music

Plymouth: Computer Science

Brighton: Media & Communication

Plymouth: Robotic Engineering

Bangor: Linguistics

Plymouth: Robotics

Edge Hill: Nutrition

Sheffield Hallam: Psychology x2

Exeter: Maths

St Marys Twickenham: Primary Teaching

Falmouth: Photography

Surrey: Maths

Hull: Law with Politics

UCS: Business Management

Hull: Geology with Geography

UCS: Sport

Herts: Areospace with Technology

UEA: Maths

Kent: Sociology x2

York: Psychology

Kent: Crimonology

Leeds: Sociology



TRAVEL

Thomas Gainsborough Sixth Form is easily accessible, with short travel time from all villages and towns between Halstead, Haverhill, Bury St Edmunds, Stowmarket, Sudbury, Ipswich, Hadleigh and Colchester.

Dress Code

Guide Lines:

Clothing should be professional attire, not casual wear.

Male students are asked to wear a tie. Formal/tailored shirt, trousers and smart shoes should be worn.

Female students should wear smart dresses or separates. Any cropped trousers should be formal and tailored. Skirts and dresses should not be too short. Shirts, blouses, knitwear and other smart tops may be worn, plus smart shoes or boots.

Hair should be neat and tidy.

Visible piercings should be restricted to the ears and wherever possible tattoos should not be shown.

The following may be helpful in clarifying what is and what is not appropriate.

No demim . No shorts . No combat or cargo trousers . No leggings unless under an appropriate length skirt or dress . No low cut or strappy tops . No sweat tops/hoodies' . No inappropriate footwear e.g flip flops, backless sandals, casual boots and trainers which may contravene Health & Safety guidelines

BURSARIES

Significant Sixth Form Bursaries, up to £1,200, are available to many students and can be used to subsidise transport costs, provide books and equipment, pay for field trips and other course-related costs and contribute to the costs of attending University interviews and open days.

Further information about travel routes and bursaries is available by contacting the Sixth Form.