



2023 Year 9 Options Choices

November 2022, 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.

Our Curriculum



- ★ Broad
- ★ Ambitious
- ★ Balanced

Plus, an extensive range of
enrichment opportunities

Process



Fri 25 November

Information shared & website ready, Year 9 Assembly

Weds 30 November

Options Evening, 5-8pm

December

Opportunities to speak to teachers, tutors,
careers advisers & use the website

Mon 9 January

Academic Review Day confirm with tutor and parents

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 Biology, Chemistry and Physics, or GCSE Combined Science 100% exams, 9 or 6 papers
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
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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

1. LANGUAGES

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, 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. OTHER CHOICES

Note that art based subjects cannot be studied together ❖. Do not use more than one of these in the first 4 preferences, they 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. Other courses are GCSE unless labelled vocational.

PERFORMING ARTS	VISUAL ARTS	TECHNOLOGY & IT	OTHERS
<input type="checkbox"/> Dance	<input type="checkbox"/> 3D Design ❖	<input type="checkbox"/> Design & Technology	<input type="checkbox"/> Business
<input type="checkbox"/> Drama	<input type="checkbox"/> Fine Art ❖	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering - 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
	<input type="checkbox"/> Textiles ❖	<input type="checkbox"/> Computer Science	<input type="checkbox"/> Statistics
	<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.

You have been given a draft form and planning sheet. Your final form will be completed with tutors on Academic Review Day on Monday 9 Jan.

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 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)

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

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

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?

Grace, Y10

French, drama, film studies, history

Henry, Y11

Business, GCSE PE, Latin, geography

Isabelle, Y11

History, drama, music, Spanish

Farran, Y11

Statistics, history, design technology, Spanish

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



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

Academic Review Day Monday 9 January, confirm choices