

PORTRAIT



Issue 04
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CONTENTS INCLUDE: YEAR 12 UPDATE, GRADUATE
UPDATE AND ENRICHMENT



HEAD GIRL & HEAD BOY 2020/21



Milly Wingate

The role of Thomas Gainsborough School Head Girl is one that I feel honoured to have. Seeing the school grow and flourish over the past five years has been incredible, yet George and I can't wait to implement some new changes with the best interests of TGS in mind. We are focusing on creating an enthusiastic team, capable of implementing a sustainable Sixth Form model, enabling students to be actively involved with their school and wider community.

In the future, I would like to pursue my passion for fashion and textile design. The amazing staff at Thomas Gainsborough School are highly supportive of this by ensuring networking opportunities, something

that George and I would like to expand by creating links with local businesses.

A main goal of mine is to improve environmental sustainability within Thomas Gainsborough School. Simple measures will be put in place, such as ensuring recycling, regular litter picks and participating in 'Eco Schools,' part of Keep Britain Tidy.

George and I thank you for your support and look forward to implementing these changes.



George Dunn

As the new Head Boy, I plan to create a focused, dynamic team with Milly to really change how the Sixth Form is presented and looked upon. By introducing new ideas and concepts tailored to student demands, my main focus is to create a warm, inviting environment, whilst maintaining the academic excellence we pride ourselves on.

My career goal is to enter the police force and I believe the skills and qualities I gain through being head boy will act as a key platform for supporting this, and to my university applications. Being able to communicate ideas clearly, take responsibilities and to lead a team are all vital qualities that will help me in the world of work and in my hobby of rugby.

One of my main passions is sport, and I would like to change the amount of sport in the Sixth Form and the school as a whole. Creating ties and connections with a number

of sporting establishments in Sudbury and the surrounding area will be a major focus.

Milly and I look forward to your support in achieving our goals.

Alongside this, I have been coaching and running the afterschool rugby club for Years 7,8 and 9. I started doing this as I wanted to help out and promote rugby in the lower school, along with another coach from Sudbury Rugby Club. I have been playing rugby for around ten years, representing Northampton Saints and most recently Suffolk Rugby. A few weeks ago, Mr Richards and I took a Year 7 team to Westley Middle School where we played four games: we won two, drew one and narrowly lost one. After this, we were seeded into the next tournament. However this was cancelled due to COVID-19. I plan to get the after school club up and running when we go back to school, as everyone was making a lot of progress.

ALUMNI *Patrick Bray*

I joined TGS back in 2011 as a Year 9 pupil. Lots changed over the three years I was working towards my GCSEs, the biggest being a new school building. Having finished GCSEs I decided that the Sixth Form would be the best place for me to complete my A levels. My choices were based upon what I enjoyed as I didn't really know what I wanted to do after leaving school, so I decided on P.E, Geography and BTec P.E.

The P.E. department was amazing at being able to provide the course for me because at the time there were only two of us out of the entire Sixth Form on the course, so if they hadn't been so supportive I definitely would not be at university with the opportunities I have now. Whilst at Sixth Form all the staff were extremely helpful when it came to working around my sailing commitments; without that support I definitely would not have the opportunities that I'm lucky enough to have today. I really enjoyed the smaller 'close knit' feel of the Sixth Form and working in a really positive atmosphere.

Having finished my A-levels I was still unsure on what I wanted to do, so again I just stuck to what I enjoyed. For the next two years I was lucky enough to be selected for the British Keelboat Academy where I then went on to work in various professional racing teams across Europe in global campaigns like the Volvo Ocean Race whilst also competing in UK events. Through these experiences I became more interested in Sports Science, so I applied to study Sports and Exercise Science (performance sailing) at the University of Chichester. The course is a standard Sports Science degree but with the benefit of being integrated with British sailing, so I am now fortunate enough to be taught by some of the best sports scientists in the world and lucky enough to have an active involvement in current projects such as the now delayed 2021 Tokyo Olympics.

When I started at University I was competing at an international level and had been fortunate enough to become a coach to the British Keelboat Academy and the University have been extremely supportive throughout my time there. Outside of academia our sailing team became national champions and narrowly finished second at the youth nationals. This led to the opportunity to go to the Youth Match Racing world championships in Auckland NZ for Great Britain. This is where my academic life and my sporting campaign came together and all of the staff at the University did everything possible to help me on my way to the Worlds, from professional physiology and nutritional support to psychologists to S+C, all of which I'm extremely grateful for! The Worlds was an amazing opportunity, though disappointingly finishing 8th I am. However, extremely proud of the team for the efforts we put in.



Getting to University is never something I thought I would be able to achieve; I believe a lot is owed to the brilliant support from all the staff at TGS Sixth Form who allowed me to continue my sporting endeavours and achieve academically during times which were challenging for myself, which have ultimately led to where I am today.

Going into my final year I'm still unsure as to exactly where I want to go. I'm fortunate to have plenty of options in Sports Science with the Olympics and America's Cup approaching or possibly even a masters, something I never ever thought I could consider. Alongside being able to compete, my next aim is to win the European championships.

Looking back at my time at TGS I am extremely grateful to everyone who helped me through my studies there.

Without the support for both sport and academic studies I would never have got to where I'm lucky enough to be today.

DRAMA AT TGS SIXTH FORM





The Sixth Form have had a very busy year of drama. They have created and directed their own play DNA, by Dennis Kelly, as well as starring in the whole school production of Bugsy. Year 13 students completed their C1 exam with a successful performance of a Kneehigh interpretation of Pygmalion. They also had lots of fun during the Gecko workshop

and a clowning workshop earlier in the year. Students have been on a wide range of trips to see some excellent theatre: *Lovely Bones* at the Cambridge Arts Theatre, *One Man, Two Guvvornors* at the Wolsey Theatre, Trestle's moving tale of Rachel, a Holocaust survivor, Splendid's interactive version of *Dr Faustus* and most recently, *Nora*, a reinterpretation of Ibsen's *The Doll's House* in London.

Mrs J Arrow

Outside Trips & Visits



The Rotary club Schools Public Speaking competition led by our Year 12 team, Yola Lohr, Hannah McGrath - Wells and Olivia Roberts presented a very thought provoking speech on the detrimental impact of the media selection and manipulation of news stories.

The Year 12 Philosophy Class attended the annual Religious Studies 'Candle Conference' in Cambridge run by Peter Vardy.





Year 13 visit
Amsterdam for TGS
Enrichment Day.



Year 12 & 13 visit The
Young Vic Theatre
in London for the
production of '*Nora-A Dolls
House.*'

There was also a trip to
'*A Taste of Honey*', also in
London's West End.



CURRENT YEAR 12

Catch up

Ben Lowe

I am still studying A level Music, Geography and Biology and all 3 subjects are going very well. I have had multiple tests and mock practices in each subject already this far into Year 12. My first Alevel music mock performance is coming up in the next few weeks and completion exams for Year 12 aren't too far ahead either. I have continued to maintain my workload and meet deadlines successfully.

I feel that I have made the correct choice in A level subject choices for myself and they may not have fully been as I expected however are definitely the right choices for me. I have recently completed some work experience outside of school at a veterinary practice. I will continue to built up my work experience to aid my university applications.



“Looking to the future with the remainder of Year 12 and then Year 13 I definitely feel that I made the correct choice in studying at our Sixth Form as I have transitioned from GCSE very smoothly and am coping with the heavier and more challenging workload.”

Katherine Chapman

I am currently studying History, English literature and Psychology and I am still enjoying all of them immensely; I wouldn't be able to choose a favourite! All my teachers and lessons are superb. As the year has progressed the workload has definitely increased but I still believe that I have chosen the perfect subjects for me. All my subjects link together well and I think that it is this and the teaching style of my lessons that have allowed me to manage my workload and keep on top of deadlines over the last few weeks. Over these last few weeks I have also been involved/ selected to take part in many amazing opportunities in and around

my studies which, to me, just reinforces how much the school and staff care about other aspects of our education as opposed to just the subjects we chose at the start of Year 12. It's features of the school community like this that reminds me that I've definitely chosen the right place to study.

Looking forward to the end of the year, and even into Year 13, I believe that I am in the perfect environment for me, as a student, to progress and succeed in all my ambitions. As completion exams draw closer the prospect of revising once again enters my mind but the style of teaching and practicality of my timetable makes this far less daunting than

it may first appear. As well as this, I am also starting to meet to discuss with the Sixth Form team about my next steps after Sixth Form. I'm so happy for this opportunity as it means I know that when the time for university applications come that I will be well prepared and hopefully get a position at a university I enjoy studying at and am as proud of as TGS.

“Looking forward to the end of the year, and even into Year 13, I believe that I am in the perfect environment for me, as a student, to progress and succeed in all my ambitions.”



GRADUATES

After TGS Sixth Form

ANNA MORLEY
2019 Graduate

Since leaving Sixth Form:

I had always wanted to pursue a career in the veterinary industry, but with disappointing A Level results I thought this was impossible and had started to consider other future career paths. However, I still managed to secure a place at Writtle University College to study an Integrated Masters in Veterinary Physiotherapy. Knowing that I wanted to go to university, I took a gamble and took the place.

No one can ever fully prepare you for life at university and nearing the end of my first year of studies, I can say it was possibly one of the best decisions I have ever made!

“Having moved away from home I am now much more independent and have made some amazing new friends.”



OLIVIA KUJAWA

2019 Graduate

“TGS gave me the foundation to feel confident to go and study a subject that I love at university.”

I'm Olivia, a former student of TGS and a current undergraduate on a Psychology course at the University of Essex. TGS gave me the foundation to feel confident to go and study a subject that I love at university and my first year at uni has only further developed this passion.

Choosing whether to go to uni or pursue a different avenue was a big decision for me but having attended many open days, something just clicked at Essex and made me feel like this is the place for me. I would encourage anyone to do plenty of university open days and ask lots of questions about the courses they want to study; speaking to current students at the university is particularly helpful and gives you an overview of what life at university is really like. Also, follow your instincts, I think when I went around the university it just felt like this was where I was meant to be and what I was meant to be doing, so don't ignore that feeling on open days, especially if you're planning to live on campus. Lots of people will tell you that when you go to uni everyone is in the same boat initially and I think I found that so hard to believe before I started, but it's genuinely true. You soon meet people and make friends and settle into a different kind of learning environment.

Throughout my first year we've studied a lot of the material that is very similar to the psychology syllabus at Sixth Form, I found that this acts as a good refresher. Other topics are new ideas which open your mind to various different specialisms within psychology. Studying tends to be more open ended and you have to manage your time and learning yourself. No one is going to chase you up if you're not going to lectures so you need to make sure that you're

motivated and really want to be on the course you're studying. And definitely go there because you love the course, not the social life, that is only a bonus!

Clinical psychology is the area that I want to specialise in and learning about it has allowed me to develop a further understanding of this subject and form my own ideas. Essex has also got a platform called SONA. This is where we have to gain a certain number of points in our first year by being involved in different studies, both online and laboratory. These studies can be very interesting, spark up new or further interests on particular hypotheses or theories, and show first hand how psychological experiments are carried out.

Overall university has been a massively positive experience for me. It takes a bit of time to find your feet and get used to the different environment but it's definitely worth considering if you want to gain further knowledge on something you love. It opens up many doors ahead of you.



MOLLY FISHER *2019 Graduate*

Since leaving TGS Sixth Form, I have been studying Hispanic Studies and History at the University of Kent. It has been a bit of a step up between A-Levels and university, as I have had to become a great deal more independent since moving from home. In regards to studying, I have a lot more free time, and my classes are very spaced out giving me lots of time to prepare for lectures and seminars and work on my assignments. One thing I have found great about university is that I have met a lot of new people from a variety of places and backgrounds, which has greatly helped in terms of settling in.

“While it has been a huge step, I am very glad that I chose to come to university, as I have seen a huge confidence growth in myself, and the skills I learned at Sixth Form of time management and organisation have, without a doubt, been very useful.”

The logo for the University of Kent, featuring the text "University of Kent" in a blue, sans-serif font. The word "Kent" is significantly larger and bolder than "University of". The logo is enclosed in a yellow rectangular border.



UNIVERSITY OF
SURREY

MILES MCCRORY *2019 Graduate*

Since I left Thomas Gainsborough Sixth Form I spent the summer volunteering at Ferrier's Barn and stewarding at Colchester United Football Club. I am now at the University of Surrey, reading Mathematics. It is a four year course with the third year spent in industry. During this year I could be working for companies such as Rolls Royce, IBM or Lloyds Bank, with the ability to gain valuable work experience, a salary and to apply the skills and knowledge from my degree to the work place. Furthermore, through networking, I will make contacts that could be beneficial when I am looking for future employment.

The maths teaching at TGS worked as a good bridge from A-Level to degree, which has helped me comfortably adapt to university level work. The way the maths department at TGS challenged us meant that I found that I was one step ahead of my peers in the first semester. Semester two, however, is proving to be a lot more demanding. The course offers a vast number of optional modules; we can choose the ones matching our areas of interest in mathematics.

Academic expectations for students are high but there is plenty of time to enjoy all the other aspects of university life. The sports facilities here are exceptional with a superb gym, Olympic size swimming pool and rock-climbing facilities, which I make good use of. I am an active member of the rifle society and I am also learning Russian on top of my degree as an additional module.

The accommodation is excellent. Living away from home, I have gained invaluable skills: cooking, cleaning and budgeting. It is almost impossible to not grow more independent. I have been lucky enough to make some great friendships and have already arranged a house share for September. Guildford may be only a small town, but there is a full social life and night life here, albeit, it is rather expensive.

“Whilst at TGS, the guidance through the application process, the assistance with my UCAS form and the way we were prepared for the move to University education has made it a very smooth transition. I’m finding my time at university to be thoroughly enjoyable.”

EDEN ARKESDEN

2019 Graduate

Since leaving Thomas Gainsborough Sixth Form I have started studying at the University of East Anglia in Norwich. I am studying mathematics, and I'm really enjoying what I'm doing. I have a renewed passion for a subject that I have loved for a very long time. Coming to university has given me a lot of freedom both within my education and outside. When studying I have a lot more freedom of what I study and when, and without the pressure of A-levels. I have to be more responsible for my education as lecturers won't chase me to do work outside of the lectures. I prefer the structure of my degree compared to that of Sixth form, as I am more free in what I can learn, and I feel I am learning not to pass an exam but to be educated. Outside of education, I have moved into University accommodation and I am more independent because of it.

I have found this to be an unexpected advantage of going to university and I would recommend it as I have had the chance to become more independent whilst also having the support I need from home. I have picked up a couple of small jobs, including tutoring which I really enjoy doing. On top of that I also work for the university as an accommodation rep, where my room is on show during open days.

“I have a renewed passion for a subject that I have loved for a very long time.”



EZE School of Motoring are pleased to collaborate with TGS in providing students with essential life skills. EZE provides a Young Driver course FREE on-site (similar to more costly courses provided externally) which enables pre-17 year old students to get ahead of the game and get an insight into the theory and practical requirements of driving in a fun, safe and informative environment. Not only do they spend time in the car learning the basics but are also guided on safe and economical driving, dangers on the road, actions and consequences as well as theory and hazard perception tips.

Student recommendation

Al and Chris from EZE School of Motoring have delivered excellent service to those learning how to drive. Particularly the FREE 3-week course has been very helpful before getting behind the wheel for the first time, with a taster to the theory and practical aspect of driving. They provide a head start to learning how to drive in an efficient and fun way!



SPEAKERS *for* SCHOOLS

MARTHA KEARNEY
Broadcaster & Journalist



We were extremely fortunate to have a fantastic presentation from the BBC Today's presenter, Martha Kearney.

She gave us an insight into the world of journalism, from presenting live from Jerusalem, Syria and the Arctic Circle, as well as speaking to Amy Winehouse and Ed Sheeran at the very start of their careers.

She talked about her passion for politics, as well as her love of music.

She shared some great footage of her TV and radio accolades, including Newsnight, The World at One, Woman's Hour and The Today show.

SHAUN COLES
*Global Director of Santander
and Alumni of TGS*

He said 'that to get what you want, you have to take risks, since you lose nothing'. He also explained that the process to get to where he is now was not easy, but he worked really hard and is now reaping the rewards of that hard work. He also highlighted some values that employers appreciate when hiring people, and he encouraged us to use the talents we all have as it will make it more beneficial to impress everyone and access more opportunities in the future.



SPEAKERS *for* SCHOOLS

DAVID KOGAN *Media*

David Kogan has had an extensive career in the media industry as a journalist, senior executive and businessmen.

He began his career in newspapers, then spent 8 years at the BBC on 'Today', 'Newsnight' and as Radio Editor in the USA. He then joined Reuters when he was Managing Editor and then Global Managing Director of Reuters Television until 1996. This period included coverage of the fall of communism in Europe, the end of apartheid, and the Yugoslav civil war.

Kogan founded Reel Enterprises that was a leading commercial negotiating agency and for 20 years represented major broadcasters and sport organisations in media rights and intellectual property. It was responsible for over £20 billion of deal flow. In 2010 he sold Reel Enterprises and in 2014 joined Magnum Photos as Chief Executive. He has extensive non-executive director experience including further education, higher education and government, and was awarded the OBE on the Diplomatic list in 2014.



ACADEMIC SUPPORT

As a Sixth Form we are proud of the academic support that is available for all of our students. Like many other aspects of the Sixth Form, it's strength comes from an approach that is focused on the individual and takes advantage of the high quality relationships that our staff have with our students.

Academic support can be seen in two main areas. First and foremost, through subject teachers. Our subject teachers build a very detailed knowledge of student progress throughout their course and are the primary contact with the student and their families in relation to any individual needs they have in their subjects. Secondly, via the Sixth Form team and tutors. The Sixth Form team takes a holistic view of the progress of all of our students and supports with academic intervention. The aim of academic intervention is to help with a student's clarity about their progress and to support by working with them to identify their priorities and how they might be best achieved. Students working at all levels are engaged in this process throughout the year, not just in any particular group, and this has the added benefit of providing yet another avenue of student voice.

Ultimately, success in academic studies will come from how a Sixth Form student manages their independence. Our academic support puts the student's appreciation of their independence at the centre, focusing them on their decisions and the impact they can have on their success.

Mr M Harris



**If you, or anyone you know, is an Alumni of TGS/
GCUS Sixth Form and would like to share your
journey, please email mclaxton@tgschool.net**

F i n d i n g O u t M o r e

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 lking@tgschool.net.

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.

Download our App on Googleplay or Apple Appstore and search for Piota Deeper Engagement and then select Thomas Gainsborough Sixth Form.

We look forward to welcoming you to our Sixth Form.



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If you would like to visit us it would be our pleasure to show you around. Please contact us on 01787 375232