



THOMAS  
GAINSBOROUGH  
SIXTH FORM

# PORTRAIT



Issue 02  
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YEAR 13 GRADUATION, TRUST CHALLENGE,  
MY A LEVELS AT TGS SIXTH FORM

# TGS SIXTH FORM *Be inspired*



**A**nother warm welcome to our second edition...

We have been so lucky to have so many of our Alumni getting in contact and offering their time and expertise to support our current Sixth Form students. Just last week, we had Jonathan Foreman (CEO Wardale Williams/ Observatory the Opticians and TGS/Cornard Alumni) attend our Sixth Form Trust Challenge Day as a judge and sponsor. He has very kindly offered an annual bursary of £1000 for this event.

We have also had several students, currently studying at university, come back to talk to our students and staff about their experiences. In addition, we also have three alumni TGS students completing work experience, with the hope of entering in to the world of education.

We are always very keen to have our alumni getting involved with our school and Sixth Form community, and if you were a student at TGS or Great Cornard Upper School, please get in touch to let us know how you are getting on.

I look forward to sharing your achievements to inspire and enthuse our readers...

PS Two events for your diary that you might be interested in; TGS Sixth Form and Sudbury Chamber of Commerce Careers event at the Delphi Centre on Monday 30th September, and The TGS Sixth Form Open Evening on Wednesday 6th November. Hope to see you there...

Mr K Alexander





# FORMER STUDENTS SUCCESS!

## *Emily Gillbanks*

My time at Thomas Gainsborough School and Sixth Form very much helped to shape the individual I am today. The drive for excellence, and the rigorous hard-work of the art department continuously encouraged me to endeavour to be the best I could possibly can be. This is reflected in being awarded whilst studying at Thomas Gainsborough School with the chance to exhibit my own landscape alongside those of Thomas Gainsborough at Gainsborough House in Sudbury.

I have just completed reading my second year of Fine Art at the University of Suffolk and, most recently, have been awarded the title of Fine Art Student of The Year, 2019 by the Arts and Humanities faculty.

At Thomas Gainsborough Sixth Form, I studied A-Level Art and Design, English Language, English Literature, Textiles, and an EPQ; where I attained A\*A\*A\*AB. I am thankful for my EPQ experience-which interrogated whether selfies are a fad or the next step on

for self-portraiture? As the research, thematic is still prevalent to my studio practice today through the genre of

self-portraiture and portraiture straddling digital realms.

In the same year of starting my studies at the University of Suffolk I was asked by my institution to represent at the Art History and Creative Arts Higher Education Conference, 2018, at the prestigious venue of the Institute of Contemporary Arts, London, an event which advocated the importance of creative based learning in higher education. My representation at this event was strongly shaped by the values and attitudes instilled by the art department at Thomas Gainsborough School who always recognised the importance of creative and cultural learning in and outside educational curriculums.

In addition to this, I have also worked alongside The Network for East Anglian Collaborative Outreach (NEACO) and the University of Suffolk's Student Ambassador Scheme to deliver drawing workshops at a range of local Ipswich high schools. Having the confidence to do this stems from my role as Head Girl and the mentoring schemes I participated in at Thomas Gainsborough School as well as numerous professional opportunities I have undertaken throughout my time at university, so far.

Subsequently, since being at the University of Suffolk I have also had the opportunity of exhibiting



my work in the Waterfront Gallery, as part of a group show titled: Simultaneous Mapping, which was internationally transferred to Otis College in Los Angeles. As well as currently having my most recent self-portrait titled: Inhibition, 2019, exhibited in our year's end of year show at Arlingtons, Ipswich.

Currently, I am beginning to write my dissertation on 'The Hamartia of Perspective', questioning epistemologically whether we are rising or falling towards new perspectives, as well as developing my studio practice further painting a life-size series of the people I know within the environment in which they reside, leading up to my end of year degree show and applying for my masters.





# Year 13 Reflection of TGS Sixth Form

## *Teia Yule*

One of the reasons why I chose to stay at TGS was the small class sizes as I believed it would provide me with a closer relationship with my teachers and as a consequence, I would have more time with them, meaning I could have more support. I found this an element which was present throughout my time at Sixth Form, with my biggest class only containing ten students in total. Furthermore, I found the support network of the Sixth Form to be exceptional since there was always someone to support you, no matter what the problem you were facing. This was crucial during the run up to my final exams because the stress really starts to build up.

During the preparation for my exams, I spent a lot of time working on an extremely detailed revision timetable as I found it reduced my stress, since I knew I had a specific time to complete everything I needed to before the exams. The best form of

consolidating my knowledge was selecting the questions I would hate to be on the exam paper, and completing them because it meant I was prepared for the worst to come up and thus I was also prepared for good questions.

When it came to the night before the exam, I reread my condensed notes and created a brief overview of the content for the paper that I was going to sit. Then, more importantly, I took a break and had the majority of the evening off which allowed me to rest.

One of the best things about TGS was the networking opportunities which were provided as it allowed me to establish strong links with Wayman and Long. I am now carrying out my second period of work experience with them, with the possibility of future work experience.



## Ellie Barrow

**A**t TGS, I studied History, English Literature and Politics at A Level. These were all heavy subjects that were a big step up from GCSE. As an external student I felt as if the staff and teachers supported me through the transition from GCSE to A Level and I quickly felt like I fitted in with my peers. The staff helped support me through the stress of A Levels and were always there for me whenever I needed someone to talk to. I found my small classes at TGS very useful as it meant that we could have one-to-one time with the teachers and class discussions included everyone. The relatively small size of the Sixth Form also helped me to adjust and feel comfortable quickly and easily, making me feel more relaxed at Sixth Form.

My one BIG exam tip would be to get started with revision cards (or whatever type of revision method you prefer to use) as soon as possible, as this will save

you a large chunk of time as the exams start to approach. Trust me, I learned this the hard way during my GCSEs!

I am planning to go to the University of East Anglia to study History and Politics. After this I'm not too sure where I'd like to go, but I am following my passion and I'm sure I'll find my way. In the meantime, I'll just go with the flow.



# Emily Sharp

As a result of achieving A\*A\*AAB in my A-Levels at Thomas Gainsborough I am now studying Sociology with Criminology at the University of York. Dr Talbot's enthusiasm inspired my passion for the subject - he is a fountain of knowledge, always willing to discuss no matter the topic, and is still a sounding board now!

Moving away from home can be a daunting prospect and the Sixth Form team provided me with the support and confidence I needed to achieve this.

As well as A-Levels I completed an Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) based on the topic of language acquisition affecting young children's future opportunities. This was highly beneficial as it enabled me to research in depth an area I am passionate about which would not otherwise have been possible within the curriculum. I also found that it acted as a welcome break from A-Levels!

Outside of academic studies the Sixth Form provided opportunities such as the YOPEY befriender scheme and the chance to have my own Photography Exhibition wall within the sixth form building, which led to gaining a contact within the Magnum Photographic Agency. I also won the Lancaster University Law Department's Criminology Essay competition, a national competition that I would not have known about without the link from TGS.

I think that making the most of all opportunities available to you in Sixth Form is so important not only to enhance your CV but to give you skills and experiences that prove very useful in your future studies and career. The two years go incredibly quickly so it's important to embrace as much as you can.

A-Levels can be a very difficult and stressful time and so having Mrs King and my form tutor Mrs Buller there for support and a smiling face to talk to during any tough times makes everything seem more manageable and helps you to believe in yourself. I know I could not have done it without them!





# Maria Grumann

Whilst at Thomas Gainsborough Sixth Form, I studied Biology, Psychology and Maths at A level. My intention is to study children's nursing at University in order to pursue a career in neonatal care in the future. I also completed an EPQ, in which I chose to study the issues associated with plastic pollution in the ocean. For this, I used the skills and content learnt within my A level subjects, applying them to a real life situation.

Throughout my time at TGS, I always felt supported by my teachers and peers and never felt as though I couldn't ask for help if and when it was needed. They also supported me when choosing future pathways and universities, which can be quite daunting, but they made it more straightforward and accessible. Many of the teachers held additional sessions after school or during the holidays which I found especially useful in the run up to my exams and would recommend them to any upcoming students.

I am very grateful for my time at TGS; it has provided me with valuable skills and experiences I know will be useful in later life.



# SIXTH FORM CHALLENGE



THOMAS  
GAINSBOROUGH  
SIXTH FORM



Felixstowe  
Academy  
To make our best better



HAVERHILL  
COMMUNITY  
SIXTH FORM



ST EDWARD'S  
CHURCH of ENGLAND ACADEMY





I thought the Sixth Form Trust Challenge was a success and was very enjoyable. The University Challenge pushed me outside of my comfort zone to be in front of an audience but I still really liked it and I thought there was a good variety of questions. I thought the engineering task was also very good but very difficult as it was not the maths I usually do in class. I also really appreciate the food and drink tokens which were given out and Jonathan Foreman's very generous annual donation of £1,000.

Overall, I really enjoyed the experience and, if I could, I would do it again.

Tom Gage

I took part in the physical side of the Sixth Form Trust Challenge Day 2019. This day allowed me to get to know not only other students in my Sixth Form better, but also build new knowledge of the surrounding Sixth Forms that are in the Trust.

The day was great fun with competitive tensions running high! We built great encouragement for our team competing in the University Challenge and the whole day led to a well deserved victory for TGS!

Daisy Adams



# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

We would like to find out what happened to all our previous Head Boys' and Girls'.

Where did they go after TGS?

Did they continue their education or go straight into work?

Maybe they travelled or set up their own business?

If you know them or know of their journey please get in touch.

[mclaxton@tgschool.net](mailto:mclaxton@tgschool.net)



T G S A L U M N I

# Class Of

Thomas Gainsborough School-  
Great Cornard Upper School

**WE WANT TO INSPIRE OUR STUDENTS TO  
STRIVE TO BE THE BEST THEY CAN BE.**

**DID YOU, OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW, ATTEND  
TGS/GCUS AND HAVE GONE ON TO A  
SUCCESSFUL/FULFILLING CAREER?**

**PLEASE LET US KNOW BY EMAIL  
HYAPP@TGSCHOOL.NET  
MCLAXTON@TGSCHOOL.NET**





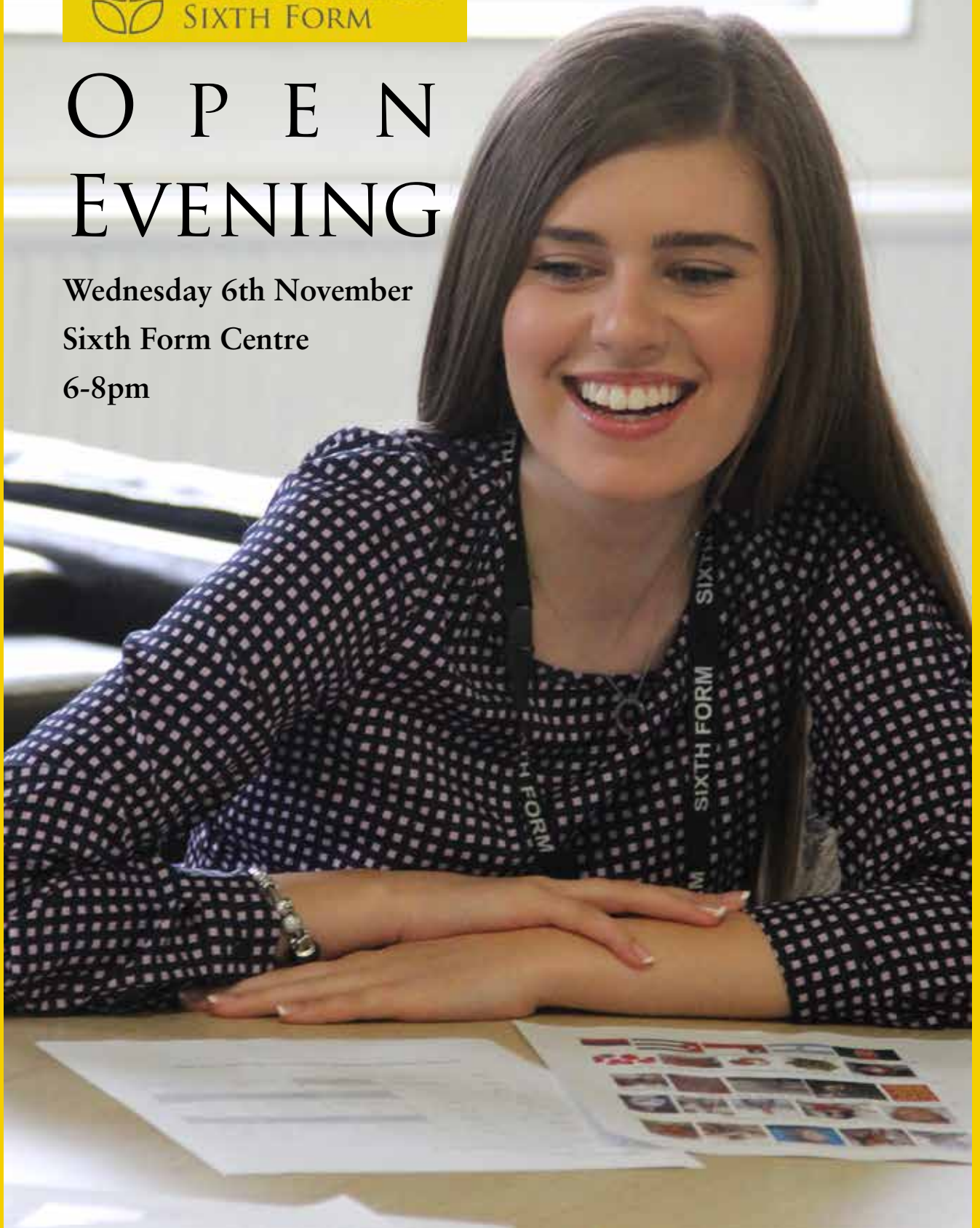
THOMAS  
GAINSBOROUGH  
SIXTH FORM

# O P E N EVENING

Wednesday 6th November

Sixth Form Centre

6-8pm





# KEY DATES

Month	What is Happening
August 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GCSE Results Day – 22nd August</li> </ul>
September 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year 12 Induction day – 3rd</li> <li>KSS Awards Evening</li> </ul>
October 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Academic Review Day</li> <li>Half Term – wc 21st</li> </ul>
November 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Subject Surgeries</li> <li>Sixth Form Open Evening</li> <li>Charities Week</li> <li>Yr 13 Mock Exams</li> </ul>
December 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enrichment Day</li> <li>Christmas Jumper Day</li> <li>Christmas Break 23<sup>rd</sup> December</li> </ul>
January 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Start of term – 6<sup>th</sup></li> <li>Academic Review Day</li> <li>Subject Surgeries</li> </ul>
February 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Half term – wc 17<sup>th</sup></li> <li>School Production (tbc)</li> </ul>
March 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Head Boy/Girl Interviews</li> <li>Enrichment Day</li> </ul>
April 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Easter Break – wc 6<sup>th</sup></li> <li>Academic Review Day</li> <li>Oxbridge Conference</li> <li>EPQ Commences</li> </ul>
May 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>May Day Bank Holiday – 6<sup>th</sup></li> <li>Subject Surgeries – 8<sup>th</sup></li> <li>Yr 13 Celebration Assembly</li> <li>Public examinations commence</li> <li>EPQ continues</li> <li>Half Term – wc 25<sup>th</sup></li> </ul>
June 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public examinations continue</li> <li>Sixth Form Induction/Taster Day &amp; Evening</li> <li>HE Convention &amp; Evening</li> <li>UCAS Registration</li> <li>Year 12 internal examinations</li> </ul>
July 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EPQ Week</li> <li>Sixth Form Trust Challenge</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Yr 10 Taster Day</li> <li>Enrichment Day</li> <li>Yr 13 Leavers Meal</li> <li>Summer Break</li> </ul>
August 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A Level results – 13<sup>th</sup> tbc</li> </ul>

**If you, or anyone you know, are Alumni of TGS/  
GCUS Sixth Form and would like to share your  
journey, please email [mclaxton@tgschool.net](mailto: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](mailto: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**