

Excellence: for each, for all

PORTRAIT

THOMAS GAINSBOROUGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER · NOVEMBER 2016 · ISSUE 08



THOMAS
GAINSBOROUGH
SCHOOL

**TGS Supports
Children in Need**



CHILDREN IN NEED

ABBAS I would like to begin by saying a huge "Thank you" for the fabulous and generous donations of red themed cakes for the MacMillan cake sale. The Abbas House tables looked brilliant and the cakes sold out, contributing greatly to the total raised in school. Plenty of Abbas students volunteered to sell cakes on the day really adding to the team spirit. Kindness and happiness were clearly demonstrated during the day. It was brilliant to witness Lorcan Connolly (Yr7 RMY) rise to the enormous challenge of learning and performing the Last Post tribute on his cornet for Remembrance assembly. This important piece of music was a full two grades above his current position and Lorcan showed true resilience and respect to achieve it. He then played at each House assembly during the week and also marked the whole-school two minute silence with a final performance on Friday.

The Abbas House Countdown team achieved a respectable second place in the competition on Wednesday 9th November. It was great to see Matt Street and Olivia Greaves (6th form) lead their team of Daisy Hanmer & Jacob Edwards (Yr8s), Sebastian Crayford (Yr9) and Ben Wong (Yr10) during the tricky conundrums and mental maths questions. It certainly took courage to face questions in front of an audience in the hall. Well done!

Our Abbas House committee has been very busy this term. The students sold poppies to each tutor group every morning for a week, have chased and cajoled Abbas students for competition entries and have now begun collecting copper coins for Penny Wars which started this week. The team is also working on our Christmas fund raising idea, to be announced soon.

Mrs N Wilby



Huge thank you to all who donated to the Macmillan cake sale and also everyone who came along and bought cakes – our table looked amazing.

Well done to our winning Countdown team – very impressive conundrum skills!

Good luck to Chloe Tills-Lines who is auditioning for the second round of Britain's Got Talent next month and also to Carys Thomas who auditioned earlier this month.

Congratulations to Lewis Watson on his great contribution to The Porch Project in Cornard, earning him the opportunity to meet Her Royal Highness.

Please support our Sixth Form Sponsored Dog Walk on Tuesday 6th December in aid of Guide Dogs.

Thank you for all your contributions towards Children In Need.

What a fabulous term Chamberlain are having – please continue to work hard and contribute to school life!

Miss J Hilson



Macmillan Coffee Morning: On Friday 14th October students from all Houses got together to raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Support. Houghton students were incredibly supportive, bringing a great number of cakes decorated in Houghton colours, and helping out during break, lunch and after school to sell them. The following students made a great contribution and I would like to thank them as well as all Houghton students, parents and staff:

Ashleigh Blowers
Cameron Noble
Clemmie Gwinnell
Dan Mumford
Demi Hollington
Ella Gillibrand
Gemma Dix
Hannah Batty
Hannah Tinsley
Josh Finch
Kaitlin Riddle
Kayleigh Bishop
Kiera Blowers
Milly Wingate
Nadjia Bearn
Phoebe Cutmore
Stella Blezzard
Thomas Hellaby-Pearson
Zinzan Forster



Children in Need:

On Friday 18th November TGS held a Spotacular day to support Children in Need. As usual, the support from Houghton students was phenomenal, raising lots of money and taking part in the Spotty Fancy Dress competition. I would like to thank the Houghton Committee who promoted the event throughout the week and especially those students who entered the competition:

Hayley Bishop
Oliver Race
Asha Brooks
Anwen James
Hannah Tinsley
Poppy Curran
Kira Hall
Chloe Goodwin
Kaitlin Riddle
Holly Platt
Gemma Dix



Great examples of values:

This year Houghton students have excelled in their performance in and out of school. Every week we choose students who have shown excellent examples of school values and celebrate their achievements. I would like to share with you some of those examples and encourage you to tell us about what you are doing in or out of school that makes you or your family proud. Sharing these experiences motivates other students to get involved and supports those who are just considering volunteering or taking part in different activities. You are all making a huge difference in our school and our community. We are very proud of you!

Ethan Hempson: Showing excellent care and consideration towards another student going through a very difficult situation.

Charlie Drain: Helping a boy called Harry Read who fell off his bike in the road. Charlie helped Harry and also helped to fix his bike.

Asha Brooks: Paddling 24.5 miles last weekend in her kayak along the river Stour in the annual 'Sudbury to the Sea' event. It was a tough and demanding route and very tiring, but she showed determination and perseverance in

completing it.

Louie Arnald: Coming 7th in the area cross country and getting through to the next round in December.

Maisy Berridge: Successfully auditioning to take a chorus role in this year's professional pantomime at the Ipswich Regent Theatre. She passed the audition and is now cast as one of the senior dancers in Sleeping Beauty.

Mrs L Hurtado

TOLLEMACHE



This term has seen a flurry of activity and the commitment of students only increases as we head toward the end of term. I have been delighted to hear of so many successes as outlined below. We have great opportunities for students to excel and encounter a wide range of activities. It's important to make the most of these opportunities.

Good luck to Year 11 students who will be conducting their mock exams: remember the rules for keeping calm under pressure; the key is preparation! Use your time wisely, eat and sleep well. Get organised. As we head for the final few weeks, I am making an appeal to all students in the House: get involved with the competitive spirit, support each other, showcase work you are proud of and get involved. Let's hope that your contribution will bring success at the end of term assembly. Good luck!

Commendations/Awards

I was thrilled to read the names of 62 students who achieved 6 or more exemplaries on their Autumn progress check. This is a testament to the dedication, hard work and commitment - I was very proud to see such a long list of students who are an inspiration to others.

Performers and Participants

Performances for the assembly have been fantastic, thank you, especially to those taking part for the first time. All performers are a credit to the House and to the school. Should you wish to perform, please email me: it would be fantastic to see you support the House.

Values

I have received some fantastic stories about students who demonstrate the core values of the school. Please remember to discuss with your tutor or me. We'd love to recognise your achievements.

Competitions

Simply put - Get Involved and get some Merits for the House! Let's see if we can be House champions on the last day of this term. Come on Tollemache House!

Countdown

Thank you to our valiant competitors who performed in the Countdown



House Challenge. It was a tough event, but our students did us proud. Thank you to Matthew Spooner, Alisdair Noble, Katy Jones, Tom Dudden, Charlie Mayhew and Rebecca Harding for their support and stepping up to the challenge.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Thank you to the students who supported the Macmillan Coffee morning. There was a flurry of activity and a fantastic contribution made by our bakers - thank you for all of your hard work and support for this event.

Stem Event Winners

Congratulations to Tollemache students who were part of the winning team for the STEM challenge. Tilly Mace and Megan Matthews-Flight were successful in developing a small product that could be used around the home. Together with their team mates, they impressed and were successful in coming first. They were a real credit to the school. Well done!

Options

To all Year 9 students, ensure that you have spoken with your tutor, subject teacher and myself regarding your option choices. This is an important step for you: make sure you are choosing for the right reasons, try to balance the type of assessment and get a well-rounded experience across a variety of subjects. Choose wisely then commit to the decision you make.

Mr J Oliver



PEYTON COUNTDOWN

Rachel Riley eat your heart out!

This year's Countdown event at TGS was headed up by Ross McRory and Callum Rolfe, with Chamberlain narrowly winning the quiz competition. Students from all Houses signed up to represent their House in this year's Countdown event. Countdown is a game of numbers and letters comprised of three rounds: the letters round, the numbers round

and of course, the Countdown Conundrum. In the letters round contestants choose consonants and vowels and sort them into the longest word they can while racing the infamous musical countdown clock. In the numbers round a randomly chosen number is generated and using the big and small number cards the contestants try and find a calculation to get to the number. The final test of the contestant's skill is the countdown conundrum: a word in anagram form that contestants must figure out.

The contestants were put in their House teams and worked through the difficult questions. Tom Hanmer said, "The time was the hardest thing." By the end of the tricky conundrums, difficult anagrams and hard sums all the Houses were neck and neck. It came down to the final conundrum and the audience was asked for the answer. Chamberlain answered, scored the point and won the quiz. Tom Hanmer was on the winning team and said, "It was very tense but good fun."

Josef Thompson

STUDENT SUCCESS

Carys Impresses BGT Judges

Year 7 student Carys Thomas spent Saturday 5th November in London at the Britain's Got Talent Auditions. Fighting sinusitis and other illness, she still managed to go through to the 2nd stage and impress this year's winner Magician Richard Jones and runner up Chris Ball. The judges took a shine to Carys and were incredibly impressed with her voice despite her being ill. They asked her to return next year when she has had some more experience performing in front of a live audience.

Carys' parents said, "We are very proud that at just 11 years old she managed to reach this stage of auditioning as hundreds were turned away. Carys came away feeling positive and is taking the judges' advice on board. She will continue with her voice coach and prepare for next year. It's been really encouraging for Carys having her teachers and school friends behind her. Thank you for all your support."



BMX Talent Camp

I am a member of Braintree Bullets BMX Club and race for their girls 15-16 age group team. I'm proud to say that my hard work and dedication have paid off and I am both the 2016 Regional and East Anglian Champion. This has resulted in a sponsorship deal and I have therefore been selected for Team Thrill.

Since being in the sport I have completed my Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum volunteering Awards, which make up a total of seventy two hours: twenty four of which were at the European Round in Calais. I also completed around 10 hours helping my coach with young and up and coming riders. Since completing this course, I have been told about the Talent Camp Coaching Course, which I instantly wanted to complete, especially as I have just started my GCSEs and am thinking about what I want to do in the future. It will also be really good for up and coming girls that are interested in the sport to have a female coach. I would really like to work in British Cycling when I am older and am excited about the insider knowledge and experience the Talent Camp will give me.

Macey Hinton



Chloe also Impresses BGT Judges!

Chloe Tills-Lines in KYO auditioned for the popular TV show 'Britain's got Talent' in Bury St Edmunds recently. She sang her heart out and got through to the next round in London in December 2016! We would like to wish her the best of luck and look forward to hearing how she gets on.



Blue Peter Visit

When I arrived, we had lunch and explored a bit. We saw the Tardis and some Daleks from Dr Who before entering the Blue Peter Studios. I met with the other children and had a talk with them, then we entered for a run-through of the Jeff Kinney's Superfan Quiz, which we won 6-4.

After we had filmed the quiz, we visited the Blue Peter garden, where the BP pond is and the iconic Petra statue. We met the magician Jamie Raven too, who levitated Lyndsey!

This will be an experience I will never forget.

Kate Wood
Year 7



Horse of the Year Show

Competing at Horse of the Year Show, "The World's Most Famous Horse Show", is widely regarded as the pinnacle of achievement in the equestrian world. Amelia Lee in Year 7 was thrilled when she was successfully selected for the show.

It was finally the day Amelia had waited for, Thursday 6th October. Her pony was groomed to perfection and she was immaculate. She waited patiently for her turn to jump: she was 8th to go! Amelia came out to perform the most beautiful show. Finally, it was the confirmation before all the ponies were called back in for the results. There were nine places awarded which were announced in reverse order. She was awarded 84 points which gave her 3rd place.

It was an amazing experience for Amelia. Simply achieving a place in the show was wonderful for both her and her family, but to be placed on the podium at the end of the day was phenomenal. Throughout the year Amelia has showed dedication and commitment and these have clearly paid off.

Well done Amelia and we look forward to hearing more about your future success!



Lewis meets Princess Anne

Her Royal Highness Princess Anne is the patron of a number of charities, including the Rural Youth Trust which helps young people in rural areas. To mark the 25th Anniversary of the charity, she attended a celebratory Dinner at the Farmers Club in London last month. The Porch Project team was invited to attend to acknowledge all of their hard work with young people in the local community.

This was a real honour for Craig Hutton, Youth Work Co-ordinator at the Porch Project, because the charity was chosen over four hundred others in the UK to attend the celebrations. Craig had to invite one young person to join him, which was a tricky task, because he had over 200 possibilities. TGS were delighted that he chose Lewis Watson in Year 11 to get dressed up and enjoy a three course meal all in the company of HRH. Lewis was chosen because he was part of our Youth Volunteer Team at the Porch Project in Cornard and is consistently polite, well mannered, always on time and always helpful when needed.

At the end of the evening HRH got up from her table and we toasted to the Queen and then we assumed that she had left. To our surprise, a few moments later, a lady came in and asked if Princess Anne could see Lewis and the other two young people present, to discuss more about their involvement in the charities and projects.

It was a fantastic evening and Lewis was a credit to himself, the Porch Project and the school.

Craig S Hutton



Panto season is almost here....Oh yes it is!!

Year 9 LAMDA student Annabel Mudge (who has just achieved Grade 4 in singing) will be appearing at the Theatre Royal in Bury St Edmunds in their production of Beauty and the Beast. The Theatre Royal is just one of eight Grade 1 listed theatres in the UK and it is the only working theatre on the National Trust's portfolio of properties.

"The audition process took a whole day and involved singing, dancing and acting; I was very lucky to get through each heat and to be selected in one of the two chorus casts. The rehearsals have just started and I am really excited that I will get to perform in 38 shows between December and January," said Annabel.

An intensive schedule no doubt, but unlike Father Christmas, Annabel is lucky and will get Christmas Day off!



ENRICHMENT

Enrichment Focus

The Autumn Term 2 Enrichment & Intervention timetables are underway – these can be found on our website.

Art Club

Held on a Wednesday after school in room 317 with Miss Nichol.

At Art Club students have the choice of:

- Completing their homework – with support if needed
 - Working on a community project (we completed the moss art mural at the Co-Op and we have the Christmas Tree Festival approaching)
 - Doodling – just creating something of their choice
 - House Competitions or Events – creating posters for competitions or decorations for the Georgian Christmas Fair
 - We have been out on trips – such as Gainsborough House (mentioned below) and the Sudbury Summer Art Fair
 - Making props for the school production – Little Shop of Horrors
- ### Knitting Club

Held on a Friday after school in room 105 with Miss Hilson.

Come along and learn how to knit! We have a range of abilities in the group from beginner to advanced –

but we do have expert help on hand for those of us who are just starting out.

Introducing..... MINI BUS WEDNESDAYS

As part of our Enrichment programme we are now running regular activities on a Wednesday after school. These activities may be something educational, social or cultural to enhance the extracurricular opportunities available to our students.

Our first activity was a trip to Gainsborough House for a Printing Workshop on Wednesday 23rd November.

Our next activity is Strikes Bowling & Laser Quest – Wednesday 7th December £6.

Letters for each trip will be available from Student Services – students need to keep an eye on the Student Noticeboards to check the release date of these letters as spaces are limited.

We have plenty more activities planned in the New Year: Ager Fen, Toxic Archery and The Bridge Project to name a few.

Come and try something new!

Miss J Hilson



Penfriends

The staff cream tea and subsequent cake sales raised a total of £161.83 for the Immaculate Top 5 Achievers programme in South Africa. Well done to the UK penfriends for their amazing bakery skills!

Mrs S Ibbetson

Partner School Opens New Site

On the 18th October TGS' partner school in China opened up its new site. The school is very modern, but apparently very large, meaning that the students get their exercise every day just by walking from class to class. We hope that at some stage students from TGS will be able to go there and get a taste of school life in Chinese culture.



Remembrance



Students at TGS showed their respect for servicemen and women who have died fighting for Britain in a series of assemblies during Remembrance Week. These focused on men from Great Cornard and Sudbury who died in the First World War and whose names are recorded on the war memorial at St Andrews Church. Students were fascinated to learn about the ordinary lives these men lived, the roads and houses they lived in and how they were remembered at the time. Each assembly was concluded by a rendition of The Last Post, played by Lorcan Connolly in Year 7, who then also played at 11am on Friday 11th November when the whole school observed a two minutes silence, in what was a very powerful and poignant tribute.



Mr M Gibson
Deputy Headteacher



Library

TGS students volunteered in the Library during the summer to help staff to deliver the Summer Reading Challenge to children from 0 to 12 years old. The students were all amazing and were a credit to themselves and the school. They were: Daisie Houlden, Olivia Roberts, Theo Kurtz, Eliza Betts, Jasmine Manning, Thomas Dudden, Daniel Marsh, Rosie Young, Azuleia Perez-Oxley, Jemma Slade and Mabel Frost.

They each received a certificate and a £10 Love2Shop voucher which was donated by Suffolk Libraries and the Friends of Great Cornard Library. Thomas really enjoyed the experience and said,

"Over the summer break I spent some of my time volunteering in the Great Cornard Library as a supporter for the BIG Friendly READ Challenge. My role was to listen to younger children talk about what books they had read and to organise their Reading Challenge. This involved some admin work and presenting prizes to the children. During my time I developed skills such as communication and organisation which were vital for that role. Talking to the community has given me confidence and the ability to adapt appropriate conversations to suit the listener and to provide as much or as little information when necessary. Overall the whole experience was great fun and I really recommend anyone doing it over your next summer break."

Olivia Roberts also enjoyed the

experience and said,

"I really enjoyed volunteering in the library this summer holiday because I have gained lots of confidence and new skills. The best part of my volunteering role was talking to the children about the books they had read. The children were really enthusiastic and it was really fun to talk to them. I will definitely volunteer with the summer reading challenge again."

Mrs H Welch



The Eastern Region Summer Reading and Arts Activity

The Eastern Region Summer Reading and Arts Activity facilitated a reading and art challenge for young people aged 11 to 18. It aimed to encourage reading for pleasure and to provide opportunities for young people to create their own original art, inspired by reading. Six students read at least two books and then chose from a range of arts activities to help them express their ideas. The students were Rosie Young, Kaitlin Riddle, Nicole Grumann, Aimee Sharp, Megan Banks and Mabel Frost. Kaitlin really enjoyed the challenge and said, "I thought it was a great thing to do and full of activities. I liked the fact that it's encouraging older ones (11-18) to take on the challenge. It's more grown up for secondary students and I would love it to come back next year." They all received a certificate and a free loan of a DVD or CD from Suffolk Libraries.



Book Mastermind 2016/17

Book Mastermind is a competition open to all pupils in Years 7-9 and is a vehicle for promoting reading across Suffolk.

The competition starts in schools with winners from each school competing in area finals. The county final includes workshops by leading authors for young people.

The winning school keeps the trophy for a year and receives £200 worth of books.

Thomas Gainsborough School students are currently preparing for the competition with a lot taking part. The class rounds are taking place in the next few weeks with students answering questions on a

range of books. The top scorers of the class rounds will be competing in a school final on Thursday 26th January in the assembly hall to decide the school Book Mastermind Champion. This student will represent the school in future rounds against other schools in Suffolk.

Mrs H Welch
Library Manager



Roman Invasion at TGS

Building upon their learning at Key Stage 2, students in Year 7 History classes started the school year investigating the successes of the Roman Empire. The children looked into why the Roman army was so successful and loved the interactive learning experience involved in making their shields and re-enacting Roman army tactics.

Kaitlin Riddle in Year 7 gives us her thoughts below:

"It has been great fun to learn about the Romans this half-term, and especially to be given the opportunity to re-enact some of the famous Roman army tactics we had been learning about in lessons. And in the short amount of time we spent on the field we learnt more than you might think. We all soon realised that being a Roman soldier – having to listen to orders, stay in formation and carry heavy shields and weapons – was much more difficult than it looked. We also learnt about how working as a team was essential and how teamwork made the Romans' tactics so effective. I found it particularly interesting to discover how 'the wedge' was used in the eventual defeat of Boudicca and the Iceni tribe even though the Romans were greatly outnumbered."

Mrs S McNeish, Humanities Teacher



Archeological Dig

I have received your dig reports from Cambridge University and your certificates. It is clear in their feedback that you have certainly impressed the Cambridge team, so congratulations and a big WELL DONE to each and all. (And don't forget much of what you were being assessed on was equivalent to the work Cambridge undergraduates would do, which makes your achievements all the more impressive.) Here is a breakdown of the assessment:

All of you scored incredibly highly in the Data Collection skills component proving a very clear ability among you all to collect and process

complex archaeological information. This was broken down into four skill sets:

1. Technical proficiency
2. Data collection and processing
3. Measuring and recording
4. Working with others.

Of the twelve of you that took part in the dig seven achieved an A* or an A - truly exceptional.

This was accompanied by similarly very high scores on the Personal Learning and Thinking Skills component of the assessment. This criteria was broken down into six skill sets:

1. Verbal communication
2. Structured working
3. Creative thinking
4. Reflective learning
5. Working with sustained effort
6. Persistence and team working.

This time six A*s or A's were awarded - remarkable.

The third component of the assessment was the written report. This allowed you to demonstrate a range of skills in:

1. Writing
2. Data analysis
3. Technical report writing
4. IT skills.

In many respects this was the most intellectually demanding aspect of the assessment and it had to be fitted into your already demanding homework and holiday fun schedule. Despite these challenges it is a real pleasure to announce that four of you achieved A*s, so a special mention must go to Gemma, Florence, Tom and Jacob who all achieved over 90% on this component.

So a big thank you and much applause to the TGS Archaeologists of the 2016 season:

Chloe Graham
 Evie Byott
 Florence Redmonds
 Gemma Deacon
 Isabel Hall
 Ismay Hathaway
 Jacob Miculob
 Joshua Thomas
 Natasha Farrelly
 Oscar Edwards
 Rebecca Hall
 Tom Hanmer

Dr C Talbot

A special thank you to Ricky Reader from the Sixth Form who acted as pit supervisor throughout the dig, and of course, to all the staff who took part and made it possible.

I would like to echo the words of Dr Carenza Lewis, Director of the Higher Education Field Academy, Department of Archaeology, University of Cambridge:

'I hope you feel proud of what you yourself achieved on the Field Academy, both during the digging and afterwards. You certainly should do - it is a tough challenge to take on a new task in unfamiliar conditions with new people, and then to complete a job that can be physically and intellectually demanding to the high standards that are required ... you were carrying out activities more commonly done by university graduates - so now you know that you can succeed at that level!'



Media

BIMA Digital Day 2016 Challenge

Year 9 Media Studies students took part in a 'digital' challenge on Wednesday 15th November.

Three challenges were issued:

1. Standard Life - To come up with an idea to encourage young people to save money.
2. Cancer Research UK - To come up with an idea to help educate young people about obesity and cancer.
3. TATA Communications - To use their existing infrastructure to help educate people about poverty, unemployment, gender inequality and water shortage in third world countries.

Students were allowed to think outside the box to generate ideas. Notable ideas were a virtual reality treadmill running experience, where if you didn't run fast enough you would get attacked by strange creatures. Another idea was an app which helped you to save money to buy things by doing jobs for points, which can be exchanged for money. Another idea was a hunger belt, which when worn would enable you to experience what extreme hunger would be like. Participants also had the opportunity to use an app creator to visualise their ideas. Students had lots of different ideas and the three best were entered into the national competition. Fingers crossed.

Mrs S Crawte and Mrs A Gammon



Pretty Curious Studio Trip

On Wednesday 16th November, a group of female STEM students participated in a free event over in Ipswich. Several schools were invited to Trinity Park for the experience which hoped to gain the interest of girls to work in a STEM-orientated subject. The inflatable dome housed us for the afternoon – from 13:30 until just before 17:00. During this experience, we split off into small groups in order to engage in the activities, learning more about science, technology, engineering and mathematics, and being shocked to hear that only 1 in 7 people working in STEM are female.

In the tent was a stage surrounded by tables in which we sat at and 4 stations along the edge of the dome. All of these stations targeted a certain area of STEM and the helpers by each station informed us more about each topic. There was also a section dedicated to Virtual Reality (VR). Here, we had a competition with every other group in the tent to see who could most quickly build a circuit using remotes. Throughout the second half of the project we had to design our own product. We had approximately 2 hours to come up with our idea, make a specification and poster, and create it. We had to use technological components to make it. Our group designed a device that allows you to read in the dark. It is targeted

specifically for people who need glasses to be able to read. Overall, out of the 3 Thomas Gainsborough School groups, 2 of us won prizes for coming joint runners-up and first place. We got a Zingy toy for coming second and a cardboard VR headset for coming first. By the end of the trip I think everyone was even more interested in a STEM career than they were before. I would recommend this trip to upcoming years because of the new knowledge we obtained and the fun we had.

By Charlotte Knights and Lucy Bowes

STEM Event Winners

The competition was to create/invent a smart product that could be used around the home. Our students were a credit to the school. The volunteers at the event were so impressed that they were coming to tell us how well the students were doing.

Winning Team

Louise Waitling
Tilly Mace
Lauren Martin
Megan Matthews-Flight
Carys Frost

Runners Up

Tilly Mace
Charlotte Knights

Miss S Doran



GCSE Drama students settle into the new course

This year has seen a fantastic uptake of students opting for GCSE Drama at TGS. The new course is an exciting one, offering a mix of practical workshops, performances and written elements. Students may also opt to choose costume, set or lighting design as part of their course.

The course offers students many opportunities to experience live theatre. Their recent trip to see 'A Woman in Black' was a great success, and students will be heading up to London this month to watch Dennis Kelly's contemporary production, DNA: a hard-hitting piece about a group of teenagers who make a terrible mistake.

The newly painted studio in G block is a fantastic space to learn and teach in. Lights have been repositioned and updated ready for future showcases. Alongside this, students have new drama uniforms, which make it easy for them to move around and experiment with different practical genres, such as physical theatre. Their t-shirts look fantastic and give them a sense of unity as a group, which is so important when building relationships and trust within this subject.

Look out for a review of DNA and for future showcases when you can come and see our GCSE drama students in action.



Amazing results for LAMDA students at TGS

LAMDA is one of the oldest drama schools in the UK and has been offering practical examinations in communication and performance subjects for over 130 years. It helps build students' confidence, self-esteem, communication skills and, in higher grades of the LAMDA syllabus, offers UCAS points, which can be used to help secure places at University making it extremely important for your future. Famous actors who studied LAMDA include Benedict Cumberbatch, Dominic Cooper and Hermione Norris. Some of the TGS students that attend LAMDA lessons on a Monday and Thursday have just taken examinations in which they performed monologues and duologues and the results were outstanding!

All sixteen students who took exams obtained at least a merit (scores of 70% or over) and there were ten distinctions, four of whom scored over 90 %. Impressive results indeed!

LAMDA classes are great fun and very rewarding and much of that is due to our amazing teacher - Thank you Mrs Lockwood!

Ella Keep



Gifted & Talented Dancers

On the 7th October GCSE and Gifted and Talented Dancers travelled over to Norwich Theatre Royal to see a collection of works by Rambert Dance Company. The first piece was a Transfigured Night, a dramatic love story, with intimate duets and spectacular ensemble dancing amplifying the beauty and romance of its Schoenberg score. This was a great piece to inspire the students with their choreography units this term. It also highlighted both the spectacular technical and performance skills of the professional dancers which will impact on the students' assessments later in the year.

After an ice cream filled interval, we were treated to Rambert's party piece, A Linha Curva. This percussion-fuelled dance helped the company win the Olivier Award for Outstanding Achievement in dance in 2010. The Times said, "Dancers pumping limbs like athletes, heavy duty percussion, exciting the blood, dramatic lighting effects and a whole lot of energy. Who can resist?"

The most exciting thing is that this incredible piece is one of the six professional works the students need to be able to critically appreciate for their written exam in 2017 and this experience has really brought the performance alive for them.

Mrs A Butcher



6th Form Essex University Visit – Sport Science

The Physical Education department took the A level PE students and the BTEC Sport Year 12 students to Essex University to take part in fitness testing with high quality equipment and to have a lecture about the effects on sport in the body.

The students met a highly qualified sport scientist who explained all of the fitness tests in detail and allowed the students to carry out some of the tests themselves. The students had the opportunity to test and take part in BMI, VO2 Max, body composition and a variety of strengths. The highlight of the testing had to be Harry Grimstead who was the lucky individual to carry out the VO2 Max test and performed very well.

The students also had the chance to take part in hydrostatic weighing and a shorter version of the Wingate test which the students found very interesting and useful for their studies at TGS.

The students had a great day and were a credit to the school. They gained lots of valuable information for their exams and assignments that will help them improve the quality of answers and work produced.



The Knitting and Stitching Show

The A level Textiles group had the privilege of going to the Knitting and Stitching show in London. We were amazed by the spectacular artwork that has been displayed around Alexandra Palace. One of the pieces that we liked the most was Indian Birds by Anne Kelly; we really liked the delicate detail and the intricate embroidery within her work.

We also got to see some of the work from artists that we are studying in Textiles now. We used ideas from their work to incorporate within our textile designs. We were fascinated and overwhelmed at the vast

majority of stalls that were selling equipment and demonstrating ideas that we could use later in our projects.

Lastly we saw an extremely large embroidered sculpture by the Embroiderers Guild of a “White Walker” from HBO’s critically acclaimed “Game of Thrones” television series. This piece was commissioned to mark the release of the series 5 box set. The detail and scale of it was incredible and mind-blowing. We hope to create something of a similar scale in our project as well.

We collected leaflets and wrote about the experience in our Textiles books explaining how fun and interesting the day was to us all. Overall we enjoyed the day out with Miss Bowman and found it an inspirational and eye-opening

experience. We thank Miss Bowman very much for taking us to the show.

Freddie Russell, Emma Carter, Georgia Warren and Hannah Davies

Thomas Gainsborough Zombie Day

On 31st October Sixth-Formers applied zombie make-up for the day, carved pumpkins and sold cakes. Over £120 was raised for the British Heart Foundation. Thanks to all who took part.

Ryan Furlong



Delphi Apprenticeship Awards Evening

The Apprenticeship awards event is held in the training suite at Delphi every year and apprentices are invited to attend with their parents. Representatives from companies who supply Delphi with materials, local school Careers Advisers and West Suffolk College Tutors are also invited. The evening provides the opportunity to celebrate the successes of ex Thomas Gainsborough students and to find out about the charitable work that the apprentices complete every year.

This year two Sixth Form A Level students volunteered to take the official photographs at the event. Imogen Mayes and Emily Sharp used their knowledge and expertise to provide a professional service.

Ex TGS student and Delphi employee, Daniel Swain, won a National Apprentice Award last year. He is now working for Delphi as a manager, after completing a full apprenticeship and gaining an HNC/HND degree.



MyKindaFuture

MyKindaFuture work with Nestle to help build sustainable long-term relationships with local schools in 6 different locations in the UK. Thomas Gainsborough School was selected from the other Sudbury schools to become involved with this exciting project to provide more young people with an insight into the career opportunities at Nestle as well as supporting the development of employability skills amongst young people aged 14-19.

The first workshop took place on 2nd November – This was focussed on sustainability and STEM based world of work challenge, for students to understand how STEM subjects are used within careers as well as develop their understanding of the role available at the local Nestle site. The challenge is called “Zero to Hero” and has previously been extremely successful with students. Students submitted challenge answers and students that have shown talent, creativity and a natural ability will be selected by Nestle to win an insight day at their local site.

The second workshop will take place on 7th December. This will be a workshop developing students’ knowledge of the key employability skills, with a focus on CV writing and mock interviews.

At Thomas Gainsborough school we provide a great number of opportunities for our students to engage with employers, to learn the importance of employability to ensure they are fully prepared for the world of work.

MyKindaFuture said, “This was a wonderful session with your lovely Year 12 students! Their attitude was positive, their behaviour was impressive and the work that they produced was excellent. Harmonious and considerate teamwork was demonstrated throughout the quiz section of the workshop. Participants applied innovative and enterprising thought whilst creating their submissions for the Nestle ‘Zero to Hero’ challenge. Stand out ideas include a ‘Eco Style’ - a t-shirt brand, ‘Smart Installation’ - an installation product for domestic use, and ‘Big Help’ - a boxed sensory garden for children

with disabilities, to name but a few! I cannot remember such a warm welcome; it really spoke volumes about the culture of your wonderful Sixth Form. We truly found our visit to be enjoyable, successful and highly rewarding. We very much look forward to our second Nestle session with you, and indeed hope to see a lot more of Thomas Gainsborough students in the near future!”



SPORTS NEWS

Oliver Sims signs for Colchester

As of 1st July 2017 Year 11 student Oliver Sims will be a Colchester United employee. He'll be training four days a week and spending one day a week on day release for a sports-related further education qualification. This will be on an initial two year scholarship deal.

He will be playing matches on Saturdays, initially with the u18's squad whose current league includes teams such as Crystal Palace, QPR, West Ham, Ipswich, Birmingham, Sheffield Wednesday and Cardiff. Other matches will be against teams such as Tottenham, Arsenal, Chelsea and Manchester City.

Oliver has been targeted with achieving a regular place in the U21's team as time goes on.



Alice Shoots to 7th

Year 13 student Alice Barlow finishes 7th in a National golfing event in Quinta Do Lago, Portugal.

The Telegraph BMW Junior event is the most prestigious event in Britain

with 40,000 juniors entering at club level and only 21 finalists - 12 boys and 9 girls qualifying for the final in Portugal at the start of November. Barlow qualified for the event when she carded a four under par round earlier in the year at the Under 18s Girls Championships at the Nottinghamshire Golf Club.

Alice was ecstatic when the phone call came to tell her she had qualified to spend the week in Quinta Do Lago, as it was going to be the final Junior event of her career, and what a fitting way to bow out of junior golf at such a spectacular venue.

Alice said, "The week was a fantastic experience with the sponsors and organisers filling every available minute with other activities including my favourite Sky Sports media training. Overall it was an amazing week with a great bunch of people. The course was set up to pro level and the greens were lightning fast. This is definitely a week I will remember for the rest of my life."

Alice returned scores of 77, 82 and 79 on the tricky and long North Course to finish in 7th place amongst a field of elite England golfers.



Macey Hinton selected for a National Talent Camp

Taking place at the iconic Loughborough University from 16th-19th December, the National Talent Camp (NTC) is a unique and fantastic opportunity for keen and talented young coaches and officials to improve their skills and learn from experts in numerous fields.

Over the course of the weekend over 350 young volunteers will come together in a multi-sport, multi-disciplinary environment which will help participants to reflect upon what type of official or coach they want to be and how to develop their skills.

Young volunteers will actively take part in a number of innovative workshops aiming to broaden their knowledge and really get them 'thinking outside the box', whilst learning from some of sports most talented innovators.

Football

U14 TGS v County Upper

The season started for the TGS under 14's boys vs. County Upper in the league. With a successful end to last year's cup, we had high hopes for this year. The game started with high pressure from County Upper. An early goal-mouth scramble was followed by a short corner leading to a goal: 1-0.

As the first half went on chances from Trent New and Ollie

SPORTS NEWS

Kirkpatrick came but didn't challenge the County Upper keeper. The second half came and TGS started strong; wind and sun playing a big part. More chances came through from the midfield but sadly not much came of it. Freddie Gillbanks made a few good clearances, but it wasn't enough and a pass from the middle put County Upper on goal 2-0. With little time left, TGS tried to force a goal but with no success. The third goal came from a well struck corner which eluded the defence who were blinded by the low sun. We seek revenge when we next meet them shortly in the cup!

U14 TGS v Newmarket

The game started with an early goal by Newmarket that made TGS wake up as they hadn't made a brilliant start. After that they started playing the ball around as a team and a through-ball from Kieron Judd set Callum Metson one-on-one with the keeper and he managed to make the score 1-1. Shortly after, a curling cross from Freddie Gillbanks and an excellent volley from Trent New put TGS 2-1 up. Chances for both teams came but no one could change the score line.

The second half started with all the team putting pressure on Newmarket and it came down to a free kick just outside the box that Euan Munford stood over. A shot on target didn't trouble the Newmarket keeper but Callum Metson followed up the rebound bumping the score up to 3-1. Time passed and opportunities came for TGS to finish the game off but they just couldn't seem to find the back of the net. A long ball from the New-

market keeper confused the defence and put Newmarket two-on-one with Josh Stokes pulling the score back to 3-2.

The final whistle blew and TGS won the game. Overall it was a good team performance from TGS and they look forward to the next game.

U12 TGS v Horringer

On Tuesday 27th October Thomas Gainsborough School played Horringer Court winning 11-1. At half-time it was 3-1 until Mr Richards thought about changing the formation from 3-3-1-1 to 3-4-1 and that was when goals started banging in from all angles. The goal scorers for this amazing victory were Kai (5 goals) Sam (2 goals) Tom (2 goals) Max (1 goal) and Louis (1 goal).

Ben Gooderham



TGS Year 7 v Stour Valley

On Tuesday 11th October the Year 7 Football Team hosted Stour Valley in the last match before half term. It was an exciting and evenly matched first half with both teams having plenty of chances but unable to break the deadlock with a 0-0 score at half time. As the second half kicked off, TGS got off to a great start with an amazing goal in the bottom left hand corner scored by Max Doyle. Max went on to score another three glorious goals.

Although Stour Valley defended well they struggled to keep up with the pace of TGS: we were fast!

The final goal was an own goal scored by a Stour Valley defender off a TGS corner. It was a good home win for TGS, maintaining our 100% record since this team started two months ago.

Bertie Keep

U14 Football v Castle Manor

TGS played Castle Manor full of confidence and with high hopes having won the last game, but this game was always going to be a challenge as they are a really strong team. TGS started strong and looked like they were on the edge of scoring but a quick counter attack put the hosts in the lead. Just before half time TGS had a corner, but once again the counter attack hurt them. In the second half TGS started strong, however it was Castle Manor that made the breakthrough after a great delivery. A difficult game but the boys did not stop trying.

U12 TGS V Thurston

On 9th November TGS played Thurston in our first cup match. It was a very wet away game for TGS but that didn't bring us down. As the first half kicked off TGS had a great early opportunity with Luke Spurling cutting in from the left; however, we were not able to convert. It was a very tight game until Spurling used his blistering pace to beat the last defender and score in the bottom corner. Luke went on to score another amazing goal from a similar chance early in the first half. Thurston were not easy opponents due to the fact that they

SPORTS NEWS

had a few quality chances.

The second half kicked off and TGS were straight on the score sheet again with Corrie Shields coming off the bench to score two great goals. A few minutes later Max Doyle scored a goal: he was on great form that day.

As the match was coming to an end, Louis Arnold had a shot from outside the box which deflected off one of the Thurston defenders.

Overall it was a great performance by TGS.

Bertie Keep

U12 Boys Football 5 a-side

We travelled to Bury to play a 5 a-side tournament. Despite very cold conditions the boys performed well winning two matches and losing three, resulting in 7th place. Man of the tournament was George Mustoe in goal, with many fine saves in every game. The team also scored some great goals at the other end. Fun had by all.

Sam Allen.

Suffolk Schools Golf

A 3 string team made the journey to Diss Golf Club. Excellent weather conditions greeted the team and none of the players disappointed. Some great golf played all day; Alice's round included 4 birdies and an eagle on a par 5!

Results:

Alice won the Girls Scratch Championship winning by 11 shots with a Gross 74 nett 72.

Alex won 3rd in the Boys Scratch Championship with Gross 75 nett 72.

Oliver shot a Gross 78 nett 68 just missing out on Nett 3rd place OCB.

Netball

U15 v Mildenhall

On 3rd November TGS played a netball match against Mildenhall at home. We started very strong, getting some early goals and defending hard being up by 15 at half time. The final score was 25:4 to TGS. Everyone played well working together as a team. Player of the match goes to Chloe Adamson (GD).

Year 7 v OSA

Tuesday 1st November
Year 7 girls Netball team had their first ever match together. This team is developing into a strong one. They performed well against our local rivals, OSA and brought home a 5-2 win. Player of the match goes to Choe Ecuyar who put in strong performance both as C and WD proving versatile with the positions available. A fantastic start for the girls; we look forward to our next game.

U14 v OSA

Thursday 3rd November
Our under 14 team showed a strong attacking force against OSA. Despite being down two players due to injury there was a great effort from all players, resulting in a 12-2 win.

U14 v Sybil Andrews

The match was very successful with the U14 Girls' team winning 11-0. In 14 minutes the team were very accurate with their passes and shots. Milly Watson, Saskia Walter and Sophie Hayward were effective in defence and Phoebe Studdy made an excellent centre. The team worked in good unison and made it very hard for the opposing side to compete with the level of netball that was played within this match. Going forward, our attackers were precise with their passing and shooting. Well done to Bella Turner and Jessica Griggs. The woman of the match was Eliza Betts who played in goal attack as the main shooter in the team.

U14 v Stour Valley

Despite failing light and freezing temperatures, the girls did fantastically against a team that did not want to give up. They showed strong team work throughout, with our attacking players holding onto possession most of the game. The girls won 14-1. Well done!

Western Area Netball Tournament

The U15s played exceptionally well for the Netball Western Area Tournament on the 12th October. The girls had a tough group round with Culford, Thurston and Stowmarket in the same group. The girls managed to win against Culford and Stowmarket and made it to double figures. However they just lost against Thurston by 2 goals. This enabled TGS to go through to the next round when we won against KEGS which put us through to the quarter finals against Finborough where we sadly lost. Overall TGS played amazingly and came 3rd across the tournament.

SPORTS NEWS

The U16 netball team played very well in this tournament. It was the first time that the girls had come together this year. Some great play in each game saw TGS score some goals. However, with the difficult teams in their group they did not progress to the knockout stages. Some promising signs for future games.

U19 Netball

On 6th October TGS played in the over 16 Netball Tournament hosted at home. In the first round TGS played against County Upper, St Benedicts, Stowmarket and Gt Finsborough. We won two games and lost two games which unfortunately meant we didn't get through to the semi-final. Lizzie Porter, Jess Gill, Alice Debono, Rebecca Judd, Ellie Day, Fran Dalton, Charlotte Burder, Majella O'Riordan and Jasmin Brooks made up the TGS team. Though our team didn't win, overall the tournament was fun and good practice for future matches. Lizzie Porter and Ellie Day

1. Blustery but bright conditions welcomed the runners, as well as the picturesque surroundings. Runners in all age groups, boys and girls, tried their best in their respective races and were a great credit to the school.

15 TGS runners qualified for the next round which is a great achievement. A special mention must go to the Year 7 Boys' team, who finished third in the team event, for the Western and North Schools; again a fantastic achievement.

The next round is taking place in the beautiful surroundings of Culford School on the 3rd December. Good luck Louis Arnold, Bertie Keep, Corie Shields, Ben Gooderham, Scott Stannard, Sam Wormington, George Mann, Ben Barton, Jared Ong, Bethany Chapman, Joe Robson, Ruby East, Sophie Jones and Drew Olley.

although it is a large room, it felt tiny with the amount of competitive children in there. The support was great and no doubt people in the TGS main building could hear the children's cheers! They never stopped supporting their friends and this led to brilliant dedication from everyone.

Some amazing scores came in from all events including the chest push, long jump and standing jump, the vertical jump and many more.



TGS Sports Leaders Year 6 Indoor Athletics

The sports event was a lot of fun. All the children who took part put in 100% effort and listened to what the leaders had to say. Some of the talent displayed at the event was amazing. The atmosphere in the sports hall was exciting and



Cross Country

Cross Country – Round 1 – RHS

TGS took a big team over to Royal Hospital School in Ipswich for the western area cross country, round

SPORTS NEWS



Basketball

Year 9 Boys' v Sybil Andrews

The Year 9 basketball team had their first game of the season against Sybil Andrews at home this week.

The game started slowly with both sides creating lots of pouty unities to score but not taking them, making the first quarter 4-4! After this the game was end-to-end with both sides finding their feet. It went down to the last 3 minutes of the last quarter and then TGS scored 4 baskets with no reply and pulled away to end the game as comfortable winners.

A great performance from the team and their new coach 6th former Alice Debono.



U12 Girls Basketball v Sybil Andrews

The U12 Girls tipped off their first ever experience of representing TGS at basketball against Sybil Andrews. After a shaky start, the girls started to find their flow and the score was level at half time. During the second half, Sybil Andrews scored a few baskets in quick succession and took the lead. TGS, unfortunately, was unable to catch up, but showed lots of dedication and passion and the girls' confidence really improved as the match went on. The final result was TGS 13 - 22 Sybil Andrews.

U12 Boys v Sybil Andrews

The Year 7 Boys played an energetic and passionate performance against Sybil Andrews. They started the game with the leading basket, and maintained this lead throughout the match. The highlight of the match came

from Kai Cowcher, who played exceptional defence and gained many steals against Sybil Andrews point guard. The boys did TGS proud with their fantastic attitude and work ethic. The final score was TGS 12 - 2 Sybil Andrews. Well done boys!

U12 Girls v Westley

The girls had their second fixture against a very strong Westley team. The opposition had many girls who play basketball outside of school. TGS worked hard to keep control of the ball and tried to get past a strong and aggressive defence from Westley, but unfortunately were unable to overcome this. The girls gave their all and were very mature and gracious in defeat. A special mention goes to Natasha Guy, who worked extremely hard against Westley's strongest player. The U12's next fixture will see them play against King Edwards at TGS.

Hockey

Year 10 student Rebecca Carter led her hockey team to victory last month when they won their match 7-0. All this hard work and dedication means that they are now 2nd in the league tables. Well done Rebecca and team – keep up the good work!



CAREERS

The Careers Hub has been a hive of activity over the past month, with well over 1,100 student visits recorded.

We have had a number of registration visits from tutor groups who have come along for Careers inductions and refresher sessions. It has been fantastic to see such a range of Year groups using the Careers Hub and taking time to ask questions and speak to the team, sign up for Workshops and add evidence of their accomplishments to their Record of Achievements.

A large number of Year 11 students have now completed their 1:1 Careers Pathways Interview with Mrs Baker. A reminder that students wishing to attend 6th Forms and Colleges should have attended open events and information evenings in preparation for their final choices and applications – for those Year 11 students who have not yet completed a Careers Pathways meeting with Mrs Baker, or have questions relating to applications, please make an appointment as soon as possible.

Year 10 students have also had a big presence in the Careers Hub. Lots of you have now filled in Work Experience request forms or have a Work Experience Placement planned. All Year 10 students wanting to complete a placement and apply for a position need to complete a letter of interest which will be sent to an Employer as part of the Work Experience process. Please come along and speak to Miss Brown with any questions relating to Work Experience, or if you need help to compose an initial letter of interest. Also, if Year 10's still have things to add to ROA's in preparation for the Mock Interviews on Wednesday, 7th December this needs to be done as soon as possible. There is now an Employer Interview Sheet to view in the Careers Hub, if you wish to see who will be conducting your interview. Please speak to us if you have any questions. We have hosted Workshops from the Police Force – conducted by Matt Newman and Mark Willis from Willis and Palmer held a Workshop discussing Social Care. Both Workshops were really well attended and represented from all Year Groups which was great to see.

The Mackman Group recently completed a tour of the school, the aim being to gain a fresh insight in to the running and ethos of TGS in order to help develop an informed working relationship with the Careers Department and prepare for helping students in the near future.

Forthcoming Events:

Wednesday, 7th December: PSHE Enrichment Day, Year 10 Mock Interviews.

Thursday, 8th December: British Airways (flight attendant) Workshop 1pm in the Careers Hub

Tuesday, 13th December: Future Life (financial planning) Workshop 1pm in the Careers Hub

Suffolk Skills Show - Careers Trip

With over one hundred employers exhibiting, the Suffolk Skills Show was bursting with opportunities for TGS students to explore a huge variety of industries and future career choices. Year 9 students could talk to representatives from a great many sectors, including Food and Farming, Health and Beauty, Travel and Leisure, The Armed Forces, Animal Care, Science, Environmental, Education, Media, The Police Force and Engineering.

Stands were offering a range of interactive activities for students to complete; from starring in a filmed news report, to exploring our Solar System and the world of Virtual Reality.

Students were also issued with 'Employer Passports' with which to record interaction with employers and enhance their networking skills. The Careers team were thrilled with the amount of completed passports and the level

of communication that clearly took place. Deciding winners therefore was a difficult task. However the two runners up, who will each collect 10 house points, are: Tim Cuthbert and Bethany Chapman.

The overall winner was Milly Wingate who will be awarded a £10 gift voucher.

A big thank you to all members of staff who supported on the day and helped to make it so enjoyable.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 3rd January	Non Pupil Day
Wednesday 4th January	First Day of Term
Thursday 12th January	Academic Review Day
Monday 6th February - Wednesday 8th February	Subject Surgeries
Monday 13th– Friday 17th February	Half Term
Wednesday 1st March	Year 6 National Offer Day
Tuesday 28th March	Academic Review Day
Friday 31st March	Last day of term
Monday 3rd April – Monday 17th April	Easter Holidays

TGS Working with Number 72

No 72 are a local Charity Organisation based in North Street Sudbury. Their vision is to provide support to families of all kinds, as they encounter highs and lows of parenting and family life.

The support provided reaches out to all in the community offering specialist services along the way.

I am delighted to announce that TGS and No72 are working together to provide help and support to our families and young people. So watch this space as we are developing an exciting new programme which we hope will be launched in January.

If you would like any further information please contact
The Team at No 72

01787 310610
info@no72.org

Feel free to pop in next time you're passing. All welcome.

Mrs Forster
Student Services



The parents' forum was a chance for parents to talk to teachers about KS3 English and Maths. 50 parents attended the meeting and talked to Miss Hilson and Mrs Wells. Both teachers talked through their scheme of work, how parents could help their children at home and about the support resources provided by TGS. Miss Hilson said that discussion with the parents was very positive. There is a copy of the PowerPoint on the school website for anyone who missed the meeting.



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Thomas Gainsborough School, Wells Hall Road, Great Cornard, Suffolk, CO10 0NH
Telephone: 01787 375232, Fax: 01787 377386
enquiries@tgschool.net, www.tgschool.net

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