



THOMAS  
GAINSBOROUGH  
SIXTH FORM

*Your Sixth Form, Your Future*

## WELCOME TO YOUR SIXTH FORM

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

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

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


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

Our Sixth Form is characterised by teachers who know their students well. They are able to provide regular and highly effective feedback in students' learning. They share information regularly and effectively with parents and students so that parents are involved in the learning journey.

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

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

**Mr Kenny Alexander**  
Director of Sixth Form



**Personalised learning,  
support and experiences  
to meet every single  
student's needs.**



## EXPLORING YOUR EXCELLENCE

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

Meeting these aspirations that you have for yourself is a challenging task. You are about to undertake two years of difficult study. Your success will be based upon your own endeavours but the support that you will get from Thomas Gainsborough Sixth Form will ensure that, with every challenge that you meet, people who know you, understand your learning style and care passionately about seeing you do the best, will be with you every step of the way.

There is a wide range  
of courses, Elite Sports  
and amazing facilities.





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

## LEADING YOUR COMMUNITY

You are the leaders of this community. Every student at Thomas Gainsborough Sixth Form is a future leader. We place high value on developing these skills throughout your time with us.

Whether you are on a Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme activity, taking part in the Sixth Form Challenge event, enjoying work experience with business and industry leaders, or playing a lead role in student politics; we encourage all our students to see the development of the skills needed to prepare for positions of responsibility and authority, as an integral part of your time in our Sixth Form.

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

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





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

## EXCEEDING YOUR EXPECTATIONS

This is an exciting time and decisions, plans, ideas and subjects you commit to now will help forge the bright future that is ahead of you. Thomas Gainsborough Sixth Form will provide you with an outstanding environment to help you meet and exceed your potential.

We will have high expectations of you both academically and personally and we will expect you to work hard, aim high and seize all the opportunities that will be provided for you. Above all, we expect our Sixth Form students to be courageous and creative thinkers, able to meet challenges and to care about others within their community.

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



## CREATING YOUR CURRICULUM



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

State of the art computer and media suites, including the use of iMacs, supplement well-resourced teaching rooms and an outstanding library. Our Physical Education facilities include a four court sports hall, gymnasium, fitness suite, swimming pool, dance studio and floodlit Astroturf. The Media Studies suite comprises a fully working TV studio including a fifty foot green screen. Science, Technology and the Arts also enjoy specialist facilities ideal for post 16 learning. Dark rooms, photography studio and dedicated Sixth Form art studio complement well resourced laboratories, workshops and IT support facilities. The Wayman and Long Law Suite, and Walter Wright Accountancy Suite offer a unique opportunity to access exclusive work placements, as well as the possibility of higher apprenticeships or a potential Law training contract.



To support and enhance your experience, students will have independent use of the teaching and sports facilities; four dedicated Sixth Form study areas, including our reading room; prioritised access to the dining areas before the lower school and, if students are meeting the required academic standards in Year 13, home study agreements can be arranged.

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



**You will enjoy greater independence in managing your own learning and time in the Sixth Form.**



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

We are ideally located near Great Cornard in Suffolk within close proximity to Sudbury, Long Melford, Lavenham, Clare, Bures, Nayland and Hadleigh.

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.





## ENRICHING YOUR STUDY



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

Sixth Form students organise and run their own clubs and activities ranging from whole school charity events, their own in-school business and visits to cities such as Paris and London. They take an active part in the many whole school House Competitions which include sporting events and the Sixth Form University Challenge. They participate in the BASE challenge, the annual essay writing competition, the Duke of Edinburgh award, the TGS Media Team and the annual school production. They attend and lead the numerous after school activities such as film club, go-kart racing, dance, cipher challenge and poetry.



During the academic year there are also three de-timetabled enrichment days during which Sixth Form students are able to experience a range of activities including: cooking on a budget, self defence, financial management, health awareness, team building and interview skills. The Sixth Form also benefits from very close links with the University of Cambridge and University of Suffolk, who regularly provide our students with opportunities to raise their aspirations through talks and visits, as well as practical help and guidance in completing UCAS forms and preparing for interviews.

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



**Opportunities will provide you with additional skills, new challenges and an enriched curriculum vitae which will benefit you considerably.**



## ELITE ATHLETES SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME AND STEPP ACADEMY



The Elite Athletes Scholarship Programme is an exciting opportunity for young people between the ages of 16-18 to continue their academic, athletic and career development.

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

The Scholarship Students can study for a Level 3 BTEC Extended Certificate in Sport which will follow a carefully planned pathway of modules to provide them with a broad range of knowledge and experience, whilst remaining linked to potential career pathways, OR they can select a combination of A levels, OR a combination of A levels and Vocational subjects.



Carrying a potential of 56 UCAS points, it provides the perfect opportunity for university progression. There are direct links to the University of East Anglia.

The experience of the programme and the carefully chosen module pathway is designed to form a clear route into employment within the sports and active leisure sector. Potential career pathways include, but are not limited to: sports coaching, sports nutrition, sports science, fitness instructor, performance analyst.

Our STEPP (Suffolk Technical Elite Player Programme) Academy programme includes 6 hours of football per week and the chance to play in the British Colleges league. Visits are arranged to partner clubs to view facilities, meet back room staff and see how a professional club runs. BTEC and A level courses are available. All coaches are UEFA qualified and registered. Pathways include careers in professional sport, university and American/European scholarships.



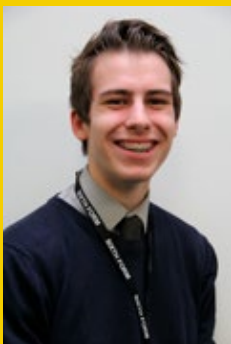
**An exciting opportunity  
for young people  
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career development.**



SPORTSMAN'S  
LODGE OF SUFFOLK

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# MEET OUR STUDENTS



**Connor Palmer**

I'm Connor and currently the Head Boy at Thomas Gainsborough Sixth Form. I am in my second year studying A-levels in Biology, Chemistry and Geography. I decided to study at Thomas Gainsborough Sixth Form because I felt a sense of being supported by the teachers to help me succeed. They're friendly, encouraging and always trying to help move you onto the next level, so you can achieve your dreams. If at any point you don't understand an area, or begin to feel overwhelmed with the workload, they are more than happy to lend a helping hand to get you back on course to achieving your potential.



**Jacob Micolub**

I am currently in my first year of Sixth Form studying A Levels in Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics and French. Choosing to study here at Thomas Gainsborough Sixth Form has made me feel confident that I have made the right decision for me. The support we students receive from our teachers is very insightful, and because of the strong relationship between students and teachers here, they acknowledge our strengths and weaknesses. They always strive to push for me to achieve my best. The extra-curricular here is also encouraged and paramount; not only does Thomas Gainsborough Sixth Form help us succeed academically, but they encourage our personal hobbies and interests. Everything Thomas Gainsborough Sixth Form offers is about us, the students.

Thomas Gainsborough Sixth Form is a place of study where I know I can feel confident to ask questions, be successful, and most importantly, be myself.



**Gemma Deacon**

I'm currently in my first year of Sixth Form and am studying History, French and Drama. I am also interested in Extended Project Qualification later in the year, as I believe this will improve my independent study skills in preparation for university. I chose to stay on to Thomas Gainsborough Sixth Form as I knew that they have a brilliant support system and would continue to help me throughout my studies and any other worries that I may have. The environment is really welcoming and calm, which creates a great place to work. The teachers are fantastic and very friendly and interactive within lessons. I feel as if I can talk to them easily if I have any concerns. There are also lots of different opportunities available, for instance we have lots of committees and clubs for anything you may be interested in. I would recommend Thomas Gainsborough Sixth Form for anyone who is looking for a hard-working environment which isn't too crowded.



**Fran Perkins-Taylor**

I'm Fran, the Head Girl at Thomas Gainsborough Sixth Form and I'm currently in my second year of Sixth Form studying Mathematics, History and Philosophy and Ethics. I'm really enjoying my subjects as well as the opportunities the Sixth Form provides, such as mentoring in the lower school and the Reading Ambassador scheme, as well as all the trips, visits and speakers that are organised by the Careers department.

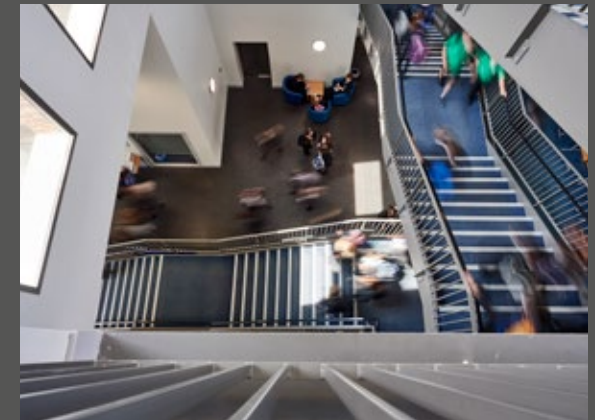
In the future I hope to study Philosophy as part of a joint honours course or as a major and minor, alongside either Maths or Modern History at St. Andrews University. Part of why I chose to go to Thomas Gainsborough Sixth Form was because of careers links and university application support, as well as facilities and teaching. Due to our relative size compared with other local colleges, we're a smaller and more friendly environment and therefore learning can feel more personalised and I feel like a valued individual and a part of our school community.



**Daisy Adams**

I am currently in my first year of Sixth Form and studying Business Studies, IT and Economics. At Thomas Gainsborough Sixth Form you are treated as an individual with all teachers being behind you and wanting to help you reach your full potential. Part of the attraction was the smaller class sizes, with all my classes being more personal it allows the teacher to get to know you and makes you more confident to get involved throughout. Having come from an external school, I felt I instantly fitted into Thomas Gainsborough Sixth Form with the friendly atmosphere it provides. It also gave a smooth transition from GCSE to A Level and accommodated my educational requirements.

Being at Thomas Gainsborough Sixth Form has allowed me to reach the next step in my future, if not further, with the endless motivation that they provide.



# SPOTLIGHT ON SUCCESS

## Thomas Gainsborough Sixth Form Alumni



**Matt Chambers**

Coming from Thomas Gainsborough School to the Sixth Form was an easy transition for me as I knew the staff within the Sixth Form as well as my teachers who would take the A Level subjects.

The only thing I knew about my career choice was that it has to do with transport in some way and Thomas Gainsborough Sixth Form supported me in exploring all avenues to try and find the right career choice. It was after attending a networking event held by the Sixth Form that I spoke to someone connected to Transport for London (TFL). This connection gave me valuable work experience with TFL themselves and led me down the career path I am now in. After applying for TFL's Project Planning Apprenticeship, I went back to TFL to get more of an insight into the company. This helped my interview in the biggest way possible.

After accepting my position as a TFL apprentice, I have been able to work on many projects which include major station upgrades and upgrading some Underground lines with new trains and signalling. When compared to university, this has definitely been the best path for me, from a practical and learning point of view and well as an enjoyment one.



**Ross McCrory**

Post-sixteen education is an exciting time, characterised by a wealth of opportunities. At Thomas Gainsborough Sixth Form, we have a very committed teaching staff who will provide you with the independence that comes with this level of study but also ensure that they create active, dynamic and varied learning experiences. The chance to take an Extended Project Qualification was really beneficial to me as somebody who was looking to go to university but, in general, this epitomises the idea that Sixth Form is all about doing the things you enjoy and having the freedom to engage with them on a higher level.

Outside of the classroom, one finds yet more opportunity in the enormous number of enrichment activities on offer: from sport to the arts, to attending conferences and going on trips. I was even able to organise my own enrichment activities.

My own time at Thomas Gainsborough Sixth Form was incredibly well rounded and rewarding. Teaching has always been my dream job and so I was very pleased to be able to take advantage of the lower school mentoring scheme whilst I was still a student. Indeed, the school have continued to support me in my goals and provide me with further insight and experience. The Careers and UCAS teams are both excellent and their input is another fundamental way in which these next two years can be specifically tailored to you.



## Lucy Root

One of the things that I feel is particularly unique about Thomas Gainsborough Sixth Form is the ‘personalised touch’ of the learning experience. The smaller class sizes was something which appealed to me as I found the idea of large sixth forms a daunting prospect at the end of Year 11. Even though technically attached to the main school, the Sixth Form strikes the perfect balance between being the necessary step up from the lower school whilst maintaining the sense that you are still part of the wider school community. In addition, the staff are exceptionally passionate about their craft and really care for the students and their success. There is always a vast array of exciting opportunities which people can get involved with, both academic and extracurricular. One I found to be distinctly invaluable was the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) which allowed me to develop the fundamental skills of independent research and writing; necessary not only for my progression into higher education, but for my A-Levels as well. The EPQ allowed me to explore my own interests whilst giving my personal statement an added dimension and I felt that it complemented my studies immensely well. The skills acquired during my time at Thomas Gainsborough Sixth Form have carried me far beyond simply completing the exams and collecting the results, and I found my two years to be especially enjoyable.



## Katharine Rose

I am currently studying a History degree at Glasgow University and I am hoping to go into Law or the probation service after university. A levels are difficult and I think the best thing to help you get through that is to feel as comfortable and supported as possible. My subject teachers were fantastic at getting me through the two years and were always there to help me whenever I needed it.

I was also able to get involved with other aspects of the school such as President of the Student Parliament. These kind of roles make you feel like you are part of a community and can afford you lots of different opportunities. The Sixth Form also really encouraged you to do an Extended Project Qualification (EPQ). I was so grateful for this as my EPQ was one of the highlights from my time at Sixth Form. I was able to put together my interest in History and Dance to produce a project that was enjoyable and gave me another qualification.

When applying for university it’s also so important to have people to help you who are experts on the system. Dr Talbot gave this unique experience which helped my personal statement and overall application be the best it could be when applying.

# DESTINED FOR SUCCESS

We have a proven track record in preparing our students successfully for their post-18 pathways. All of our Year 13 from 2016-2017 successfully moved on into Higher Education, Apprenticeships or employment.

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

## Universities

Anglia Ruskin  
Bath Spa  
Bolton  
Bournemouth  
Brighton  
Essex  
Exeter  
Herts  
Lincoln  
Nottingham Trent  
Reading  
Salford  
Sheffield  
Southampton  
Sussex  
University of Suffolk

## Subjects

Abnormal and  
Clinical Psychology  
History  
Law  
Media Production  
Social Work  
Sports Science  
Engineering  
Journalism  
Law  
Forensic Science  
Mathematics  
Film Production  
Psychology  
Aeronautical  
Engineering  
Music Technology  
Fine Art

## BURSARIES

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

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

## TRAVEL

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

## DRESS CODE

### Guide Lines

Clothing should be professional attire, not casual wear. Male students must wear a tie, formal/tailored shirt, trousers and smart shoes, no trainers please.

Female students should wear smart business dresses or separates. Any cropped trousers should be formal and tailored. Skirts and dresses should be at least halfway between hip and knee. Shirts, blouses, knitwear and other smart tops may be worn, plus smart shoes or boots.

Hair should be neat and tidy.

Visible piercings should be restricted to the ears (a small nose piercing is allowed) and wherever possible, tattoos should not be shown.

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

No denim

No shorts

No combat or cargo trousers

No leggings unless under an appropriate length skirt or dress

No low cut or strappy tops

No sweat tops/hoodies

No inappropriate footwear e.g. flip flops, backless sandals, casual boots and trainers including Vans which may contravene Health & Safety guidelines.

## FINDING OUT MORE

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

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

We look forward to welcoming you to our Sixth Form.

### **Thomas Gainsborough Sixth Form**

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