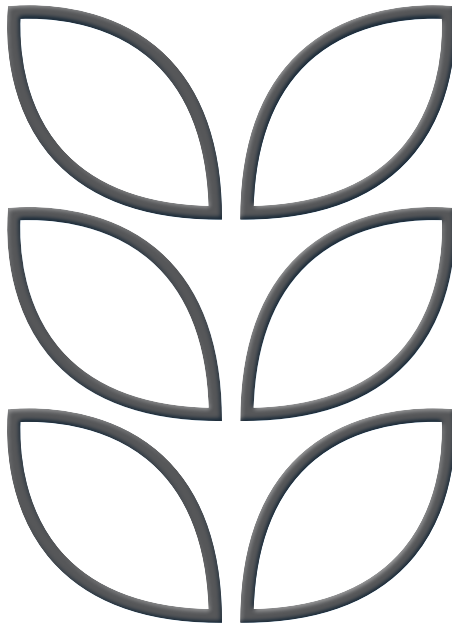


YEAR 7  
FAMILY  
GUIDE  
2024



THOMAS  
GAINSBOROUGH  
SCHOOL

*Excellence: for each, for all*



RESPECT , HONESTY

HAPPINESS , POSITIVITY

RESILIENCE , CONFIDENCE

# WELCOME

This booklet is designed to provide you with a range of helpful information to support you and your child as they join us at Thomas Gainsborough School.

Should you have any questions or would like further information please do not hesitate to contact us and we will be happy to help.

Telephone: 01787 375232  
Email: [enquiries@tgschool.net](mailto:enquiries@tgschool.net)  
Website: [www.tgschool.net](http://www.tgschool.net)



THOMAS  
GAINSBOROUGH  
SCHOOL



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# HEADTEACHER'S WELCOME

I am delighted that you have chosen Thomas Gainsborough School for your child. We take the responsibility that you have given us very seriously and are committed and determined to make your child's time with us as happy and successful as possible.

This guide aims to provide you with all the information you may need as we prepare to welcome your child to Thomas Gainsborough School. It marks the start of a process by which we will strive to ensure that their transfer is as smooth, seamless and as free as possible from the inevitable nerves that the children will feel at this time. We want your children to look forward to their time at Thomas Gainsborough School with excitement; excitement at the learning they will enjoy, the new friends that they will make and the experiences that they will have beyond the classroom.

So we begin the process of welcoming you to Thomas Gainsborough School. Very soon you will be contacted by our Student Support Team who will arrange a meeting with you and your child at your child's primary school. Please feel free to contact us at any time should you have any questions or concerns at any point during the transition phase.

Once again we are honoured that you have chosen our school for your child and I am very much looking forward to meeting you all very soon.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H Yapp', with a long horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the signature.

Helen Yapp, Headteacher





# SUPPORTING YOU & YOUR CHILD

Starting at a new school is a time when your child (and you) will naturally experience many emotions. From excitement to anxiety, everyone has their own perceptions of the step ahead of them in September. Our excellent Transition Programme builds on our successful integration of students to the school over a number of years.

## ENSURING A SMOOTH TRANSITION

We are committed to making sure that joining us at Thomas Gainsborough School is as easy as possible for everyone. Our transition process is tailored to the needs of individuals and sees us work closely with you, your child and their primary school.

Essential and helpful information will be communicated to you by email, at meetings and on our website. This booklet will provide you with a selection of essential information which we hope will answer any questions you may have regarding the transition of your child into Year 7 in 2024/25. Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us. All staff at Thomas Gainsborough School are here to help children learn and progress, and will be only too happy to answer the questions that you have regarding transition.



# NEXT STEPS

Your child's individuality is important to us. This is why we work in partnership with you from the outset to try to ensure a successful and happy experience at Thomas Gainsborough School for all involved. Over the coming months this partnership will be at the heart of our Transition Programme in order that we can make the transition process from primary school to Thomas Gainsborough School as smooth and easy as possible.

# WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

Parental support is an essential element in supporting your child's successes in education. You know your child best and your support, interest and encouragement will make a significant difference to your child's motivation and their ability to cope with settling in to their new school.

Communication with your child's Tutor, Head of House and Subject Teachers will help us support your child; write a note in their planner, send an email or call the school with any questions or concerns that you may have. Email addresses are available on the school website. Even if we are unable to talk to you immediately, we will respond as soon as possible.



# GETTING TO KNOW YOU & YOUR CHILD

Before your child joins us in Year 7, we will want to find out as much about them as we can. This will be achieved through a number of formal opportunities within our Transition Programme:

**A Family Meeting** in which you and your child spend time with a senior member of staff to discuss hopes, expectations and opportunities. This will take place from the week commencing 18<sup>th</sup> March and will be held at your child's primary school or at Thomas Gainsborough School.

**Liaison with your child's primary school**, allowing our Heads of House and Student Support Team to be guided as to your child's prior learning and progress. Children with diagnosed and formally advised needs will be given extra support with making the transition through a personalised programme to best suit their needs. Your child's primary school will also be happy to support you with any concerns you may have.

**Our Year 7 Transition Evening Meetings** will be either 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> June, where you will be able to meet your child's Head of House and Tutor before the Transition Week. There will also be the opportunity to meet our Student Support Staff and members of the Senior Leadership Team. (Further details will be sent to you).

**The Year 6 into 7 Transition Week** is an important part of our transition process. The week starts on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> July and finishes on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July. During their week as a Thomas Gainsborough student your child will be able to meet new teachers and find their way around the school.

# OUR FIVE HOUSES

Our Houses are named after historical local manor houses.

ABBAS



Head of Abbas House  
Mr J Oliver  
*joliver@tgschool.net*



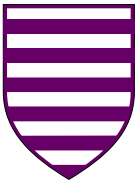
CHAMBERLAIN



Head of Chamberlain House  
Mrs E Jukes  
*ejukes@tgschool.net*



HOUGHTON



Head of Houghton House  
Mrs J Power  
*jpower@tgschool.net*



PEYTON



Head of Peyton House  
Mr W Ponsford  
*wponsford@tgschool.net*



TOLLEMACHE



Head of Tollemache House  
Mr B Richards  
*brichards@tgschool.net*



# HOUSE MOTTOS



Each House has its own Motto

ABBAS



*Neither rashly  
nor timidly*

CHAMBERLAIN



*To do good rather  
than be conspicuous*

HOUGHTON



*Honour is the  
reward of valour*

PEYTON



*I persevere,  
I enjoy*

TOLLEMACHE



*I trust and  
am contented*



# VERTICAL TUTORING

As they start at Thomas Gainsborough School, your child will join a Tutor Group and become a member of a House. There are five Houses each containing 12 Tutor Groups.

Each House is led by a Head of House who is responsible for the monitoring of students' progress in all aspects of the curriculum. They work alongside the Student Support team to ensure the academic progress of every student.





# 7 YEAR JOURNEY AT TGS



The individual Tutor Groups are organised vertically and consist of students from Year 7 through to Year 11. This promotes a sense of smaller communities and belonging within school. The Tutor will remain with the student for their entire journey through school, from Year 7 into Year 11, ensuring consistency in the monitoring of progress. Their tutor will change when they reach Year 12 but their Tutor Group remains vertical as they join Year 13's within the Sixth Form Centre.

Tutor Groups follow a programme in Tutor Time in order to promote relationships between students of different years including mentoring, competitions and a Theme of the Fortnight. All contributions made by students to the life of the school, such as gaining merits and achievements in competitions, lead to the awarding each term of the Chelsworth House Cup to the House with the most points.





# CHOOSING A CURRICULAR PATHWAY



The curriculum at Thomas Gainsborough School is broad, ambitious and inclusive. As outlined at our Open Evening in September, our Year 7 Curriculum has four distinct pathways for you to consider. Your child will follow one of the four pathways through Year 7 and experience stretch and challenge through the subjects they study.

Each pathway offers excellent progression through Year 7 and then beyond, through Key Stages 3, 4 and 5.

Consider what your child enjoys and the skills they would like to develop for the future. We will also advise you and discuss with you the opportunities that each pathway provides for personalising your child's learning. Your child's curricular pathway will be a key topic at the family meeting.

The four curriculum pathways are each designed to meet the needs of all ability levels.

Our **Access**, **Arts**, **Grammar** and **STEM** pathways are outlined in the following pages.

All Pathways have at their core a thorough grounding in English, Mathematics, Science, Arts, Humanities, Technology, Physical Education and Personal, Social and Health Education.

## ACCESS



Our **Access** Curriculum provides a wealth of social, emotional and literacy support. It is an experience which will develop a child's access to the wider curriculum.

We will seek the advice of primary schools as to the suitability of this curriculum for specific students and will meet with parents to discuss this further. Places are restricted in this pathway and TGS will make the decision on which students work within this pathway.

# CURRICULUM PATHWAYS



As a fully comprehensive school, serving the needs of our community, we are proud to offer a broad, inclusive and highly ambitious curriculum for all students.

Alongside a small rigorous and creative core of subjects, students can also personalise part of their fortnightly timetable. Irrespective of their background or ability, students and families are able to choose a pathway which reflects their developing talents and interests.

Each of the three pathways, Arts, Grammar and STEM has a common core of 27 lessons a fortnight out of 30 comprising of:

English  
Mathematics  
Science  
History  
Geography  
Computing  
Technology  
Food Technology  
Religion, Philosophy & Ethics  
Physical Education  
Music  
Drama  
Art  
Personal, Social & Health Education  
Languages (French, German or Spanish)

# CURRICULUM PATHWAYS



The other 3 lessons each fortnight are tailored as follows:

In the **Arts** pathway, over three years, students have additional Drama, Arts, Music and Dance lessons.

In the **Grammar** pathway, each year, students have a lesson in Classical Civilisations and Latin, and study a second modern foreign language.

Choosing Grammar provides your child with the opportunity to select which modern foreign language to study in Year 10.

In the **STEM** pathway, over three years, students will have more time studying Science, Computing, Design and Technology.

## KS4 OPTIONS



Our range of subjects to choose from in Year 10 is extensive and students can choose 4 subjects to study in addition to Mathematics, English and Science. Whichever pathway students choose for Years 7, 8 & 9 they are still able to choose from the full range of subjects in Years 10 and 11.

Full information about our range of options in Year 10 please see our website at [www.tgschool.net/ks4-options](http://www.tgschool.net/ks4-options)

It is the School's policy that most students in Years 10 and 11 will continue to study a language to GCSE. Choosing the Grammar pathway provides students with a choice of language or Latin to study at GCSE.

Students in all pathways may have a preference to study French, German or Spanish. Where possible we will try to provide your child with the opportunity to study the language of their choice.

Every pathway provides students with the full range of opportunities and curriculum content to prepare for future success, including at Sixth Form, university, apprenticeships, work, and life as a responsible citizen.



# HOW YOU CAN HELP

There are a number of specific ways in which families can help, encourage and motivate their children through their time at Thomas Gainsborough School:

**Encourage your child to be ready to learn** by having the correct equipment every day, such as pens, pencils, an eraser, a ruler, a calculator and a maths set.

**Help your child understand the importance of attendance and punctuality.** Good attendance leads to success. Please let our Attendance Officer, Mrs Griss, know as soon as possible if your child is unwell.  
[attendance@tgschool.net](mailto:attendance@tgschool.net)

**Sign your child's planner each week** and so keep an eye on information regarding homework and events. Discuss their priorities for the week ahead. It is a useful line of communication between us at school and you, so feel free to jot a note to us in the planner and ask your child to make sure the appropriate member of staff is shown it.

**Encourage your child to discuss their school work with you.** Help them find space and time to complete homework. Showing this interest in your child's learning helps underline the idea that you think it is as important as we do. You will also be able to log onto our 'Go4Schools' system which will enable you to track your child's homework, merits and progress.

**Attend your child's Academic Review Day and Subject Teacher meetings** and get involved in helping your child set targets for their own improvement. Your support at this stage will be really motivating and help set your child on the road to success. The dates for these are always published before the start of the new school year.

**Make contact with your child's teachers;** as well as being able to make arrangements to meet them at any stage of the year, you can contact them via telephone or email.

# UNIFORM



## What uniform will I need? Where & when can I buy it?

We expect all children to take pride in their appearance and wear the Thomas Gainsborough School uniform.

School uniform can be purchased online from [www.yourschoolwear.co.uk](http://www.yourschoolwear.co.uk). To assist you, we will also offer you a uniform fitting and sales evening in conjunction with the Transition Evening Meeting.

Abbas, Chamberlain & Houghton House will be held on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June

Peyton & Tollemache House will be held on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June

If you have any doubts about items bought from other stockists, please contact the school before purchasing them.

Uniform is available to order online throughout the year.

There is also a limited stock held at school which is available for purchase.

If you are unable to access the online shop, or require further assistance please contact Student Services 01787 375232 .

## What uniform is to be worn for the Transition Week?

During their Thomas Gainsborough School Transition Week

(Monday 15<sup>th</sup>– Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July) students will be asked to wear their House PE top with their primary school skirt or trousers.

This ensures that students immediately feel part of their House and Thomas Gainsborough School.





# UNIFORM PRICE LIST



From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024

## UNIFORM

TGS Tie	£4.25
TGS Blazer (up to 36" chest)	£32.25
TGS Blazer (from 38" chest)	£41.25
TGS Jumper (up to 38" chest - optional item)	£16.00
TGS Jumper (from 40" chest - optional item)	£23.00

## PE KIT

TGS PE Sweatshirt (up to 34" chest)	£17.00
TGS PE Sweatshirt (up to 36" chest)	£19.75
TGS PE Sweatshirt (up to 40" chest)	£23.50
TGS PE Socks	£6.50
TGS PE House shirt (up to 36" chest)	£14.00
TGS PE House shirt (up to 40" chest)	£16.75
TGS PE Black shorts (up to 28" waist)	£6.50
TGS PE Black shorts (up to 36" waist)	£8.00
TGS PE Black shorts (up to 40" waist)	£8.25
TGS PE Skort (up to 28" waist)	£18.50
TGS PE Skort (up to 40" waist)	£24.00
TGS PE Tracksuit bottoms (up to 30" waist)	£17.25
TGS PE Tracksuit bottoms (up to 40" waist)	£24.00

## ALSO AVAILABLE

Plain TGS style black trousers (up to 28" waist)	£19.25
Plain TGS style black trousers (from 29" waist)	£23.00
Plain TGS style black skirt (up to 26" waist)	£15.00
Plain TGS style black skirt (from 28" waist)	£18.00

## ITEMS PURCHASABLE FROM OTHER STOCKISTS

- Plain white buttoned long or short sleeved shirt
- Plain black trousers - not skinny fit or jeans/chinos
- Plain black skirt - straight and non stretch fabric
- Plain black socks or tights
- Plain black shoes - not canvas, trainers or any visible logos

# TRANSPORT



## How can I find out about transport to school by bus?

A significant proportion of our students travel to school on buses. At the end of the day, staff are on duty at the bus bay to support the well-established routine for ensuring students get on the right bus!

Late buses run each evening between 4.30pm and 5:00pm. Full details are available on the school website. These enable children to attend our diverse Extra and Co-curricular Programme. Buses run to most village locations through this provision.

Suffolk County Council or Essex County Council manages applications for most bus passes. Applications are made online via the following websites:

[www.suffolkonboard.com](http://www.suffolkonboard.com)

[www.essex.gov.uk/Education-Schools/Travel-School](http://www.essex.gov.uk/Education-Schools/Travel-School)

Children from out of our Transport Priority Area (such as Acton, Long Melford, Lavenham and Great Waldingfield) can access transport arranged by Chambers or Beestons. Families living in Essex (Great Horkesley) are also able to benefit from an alternative bus service.

Should you wish to find out more about either of these schemes or have any other questions about bus routes or school transport please contact Mr Will Ponsford ([wponsford@tgschool.net](mailto:wponsford@tgschool.net)) and/or check the school website <https://tgschool.net/transport>



# CATERING



What food is available from the school during the day?

We have two dining rooms for children to enjoy, one in the main building and one in the Sixth Form Centre plus take-away outlets Snack Shack and The Deli. They both serve a wide range of freshly made food at break and lunchtime including, vegan, vegetarian and gluten-free. Our kitchens are run in-house by our excellent catering team.

Should your child wish to bring their own packed lunch they are welcome to eat this in a number of places from the dining rooms to our outdoor tables. In the interests of hydration, we ask that any drinks brought in to school are either fruit juice based or plain water. Students are able to drink water from their bottle during lessons should they wish, however we insist that their bottles are filled at break or lunch.

We now offer cashless catering at TGS. We will still accept money at our tills, but families will also be able to use our cashless facility for payment using the same system we have for trips and visits.

Here are just a couple of examples of our menus:

		<b>PRICE LIST</b>	
<b>Breakfast</b>		<b>Main Meals</b>	
Six item breakfast	£3.00	Full salad	£2.00
Extra items	£0.50	Hot pasta pot	£1.50
Bacon or sausage bagel	£2.00	Plain Jacket	£1.00
Bacon or sausage baguette	£1.50	Jacket with 1 filling	£1.50
Breakfast wrap	£2.00	Jacket with 2 fillings	£2.00
Breakfast muffin	£1.50	Meal deal	£2.50
Extras		Dessert	£1.00
Jam Portion	£0.20	with custard	plus £0.50
Butter Portion	£0.10		
<b>Snacks</b>		<b>Sandwiches &amp; Subs</b>	
Cakes/cookies/donuts	£1.00	Sandwiches	from £1.00
Waffles	£1.20	Sub	£2.50
Popcorn/Popchips/crisps	£1.00	Sub (half)	£1.50
Sausage roll small	£1.00	Sub (GF)	£2.00
Sausage roll large	£1.40	Bagel	£2.00
Vegan sausage roll	£1.50	Extra filling	£0.50
Pain au chocolat	£1.30		
Croissant	£1.00	<b>Drinks</b>	
Cheese on toast	£0.60	Radnor water	£0.70
Steak/chicken slice	£1.30	Smart water	£1.20
Bacon sandwich	£1.00	Flavoured water	£1.20
Sausage/bacon baguette	£1.50	Sun magic	£1.40
Sausage/bacon bagel	£2.00	Appletiser	£1.20
Breakfast muffin	£1.50	Milkhakes	£0.70
Chicken/beef burger	£1.50	Hot drinks	£1.30
		Gluten free, Vegan & Vegetarian options available	

	
<b>PIZZAS</b>	
Whole pizza	£5.50
Build your own 10"	£9.00
Pizza wrap	£2.00
Margarita	£1.20
Farmhouse	£1.30
Hawaiian	£1.30
Texas BBQ	£1.30
Chicken Royale	£1.30
Chicken Feast	£1.30
Vegetable Supreme	£1.30
Pepperoni	£1.30
<b>SNACKS</b>	
Pasta pots	from £1.50
Cakes	£1.20
Fruit pots	from £0.80
Fruit	£0.50
Crisps	£1.20
Drinks from	£1.00
Gluten free, Vegan & Vegetarian options available	



# HELPFUL INFORMATION



## KEY DATES FOR TRANSITION

**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June & Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2024**  
**Year 6 into 7 Transition Evening Meeting, 4-6pm**

**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June & Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2024**  
**Uniform Sales 4-7pm**

**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2024**  
**Year 6 into 7 Transition Week**

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2024**  
**First day of Autumn Term for Year 7**

## KEY STAFF DURING TRANSITION

### **Senior Leadership Team**

Mrs H Yapp, Headteacher email: [hyapp@tgschool.net](mailto:hyapp@tgschool.net)

Mr C Appleford, Deputy Headteacher email: [cappleford@tgschool.net](mailto:cappleford@tgschool.net)

Mrs N Gilligan Assistant Headteacher email: [ngilligan@tgschool.net](mailto:ngilligan@tgschool.net)

### **Heads of House**

Mr J Oliver, Abbas

Mrs E Jukes, Chamberlain

Mrs J Power, Houghton

Mr W Ponsford, Peyton

Mr B Richards, Tollemache

### **Learning Support**

Mrs N Wilby, SENCO Manager

### **Student Support**

Mrs Alison Hunt, Student Support Manager



# TERM DATES FOR 2024/2025



## **Autumn Term 2024**

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September - Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2024

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September - Year 7, 11, 12 & 13 return

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September - All Years return

*PD days on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> & Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September*

## **Half Term**

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October - Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November

## **Spring Term 2025**

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January - Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2025

## **Half Term**

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> February 2025

## **Summer Term 2025**

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April - Tues 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2025

## **Half Term**

Monday 26<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> May 2025

*Disaggregated PD Days on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> & Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July*

# TIMINGS OF THE SCHOOL DAY

08:45	-	09:15	Registration
09:15	-	10:55	Lesson 1
10:55	-	11:15	Break
11:15	-	12:55	Lesson 2
12:55	-	13:35	Lunch
13:35	-	15:15	Lesson 3
15:15	-	16:15	Extra and Co-curricular activities



Thomas Gainsborough School  
Wells Hall Road  
Great Cornard  
Sudbury  
Suffolk  
CO10 0NH  
Telephone 01787 375232  
Email [enquiries@tgschool.net](mailto:enquiries@tgschool.net)  
[www.tgschool.net](http://www.tgschool.net)