

*Excellence: for each, for all*

# PORTRAIT

THOMAS GAINSBOROUGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER . JULY 2016 . ISSUE 06

## CELEBRATING *Excellence*



THOMAS  
GAINSBOROUGH  
SCHOOL

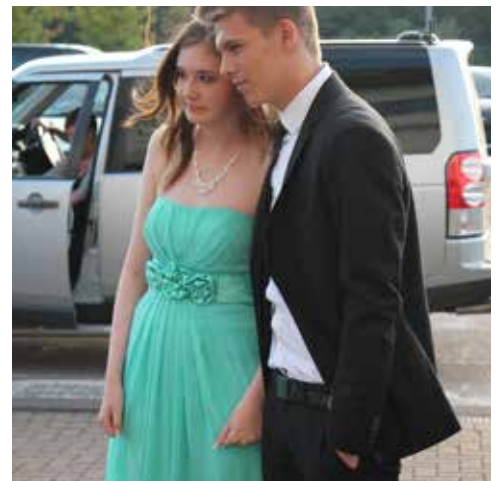
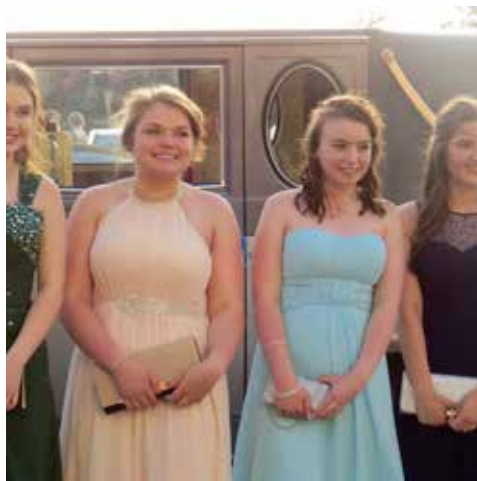


# Graduation . . . . .





# ..... & Prom





# Enrichment Day

Our final Enrichment Day of the school year was a fabulous event with enthusiastic students fully engaged in a wide range of activities. Year 7 students in their Anam Cara (Gaelic for 'soul friend') Workshop spent time reflecting on what it means to be human; this was a stunning experiential learning experience. They also considered e safety, discussed British values and were treated to a rousing rap performance.

The highlight of the Year 8 programme was the Gainsborough Workshop which enabled students to work with staff from Gainsborough's House, helping them to connect with the life and work of Thomas Gainsborough. An informative study skills workshop and the chance to learn vital first aid skills completed the day's programme.

Year 9 students spent the day preparing for their Year 10 work experience placements and were delighted to welcome employers into the classroom for support and advice. They also examined British values and enjoyed the rap performance.

Employability was also on the agenda for Year 10, as students began to think about their Record of Achievements and graduating with full honours at the end of Year 11. Keeping with the reflective theme they examined prejudice and discrimination and discussed how to challenge them.

A massive thank you to all our visitors for their terrific support and for assisting to broaden our students' horizons and aspirations.

## A Focus on Anamcara

The whole of Year 7 had the unique opportunity for a chance to reflect and be still. Our wonderful TGS Chaplains, and a team of volunteers from the local community, helped to turn five of our classrooms into a quiet environment with over a dozen various interactive activities.

The activities were designed to inspire a sense of awe and wonder in students, allowing them time and space to engage with life's 'big questions' in the quest for purpose and meaning, and in the development of a sense of identity, self-worth and personal insight. This session was part of a national initiative called Prayer Spaces in Schools. These spaces allow students of all faiths, and none, to reflect on the nature of the Christian concept of prayer.

In the open area there was a fantastic display that prompted students to reflect back to their previous enrichment day and further consider the struggle and plight of migrants making the dangerous journey across the Mediterranean, fleeing civil war and oppressive regimes, often risking their lives in the endeavour.

Students created thought provoking displays and their questionnaire responses were overwhelming positive with comments such as:

"I found the reflection helpful because I felt I was able to express my feelings without speaking"

"It helped me reconsider the idea of God"

"It helped me realise how important everyone is and we should always care for people and animals"

"The refugee rucksack activity helped me put myself in their shoes and think how they feel"



## Gainsborough exhibition and workshops

Over the last half term our school has been privileged to be able to exhibit a series of pieces of work from Gainsborough House's permanent collection. These pieces represent the work of Artists who have responded to or imitated the work of Thomas Gainsborough in different media.

As part of Enrichment Day, these pieces of work were used as a starting point for the development of work by Year 8 students and were joined by an original drawing by Thomas Gainsborough, which was brought to the school for the day by Steph Parmee, who works at Gainsborough House. It was an enormous privilege to have such a valuable and historically significant piece of Art here at the school, and it formed the basis of a large series of workshops throughout the day for Year 8.

During the day, all Year 8 students were able to view the work, learn more about Thomas Gainsborough and his roots in Sudbury and ask questions about the context of the drawing and the other work on display. Students also created their own pieces in various drawing and printing media as they responded to the Gainsborough work and techniques they had learned about. These activities were phenomenally successful and will be continued with other year groups later in the year. The best responses by students will be exhibited at Gainsborough House in the Autumn.

Ed Clark



## History



Higher  
Education  
Field  
Academy



UNIVERSITY OF  
CAMBRIDGE  
Beacon School

TGS is participating in the annual archaeology dig with Cambridge University Archaeology Department in the last week of term. A group of Year 9 students will spend two days of excavation in Long Melford and then a day at Cambridge University writing up their findings.

The Higher Education Field Academy (HEFA) programme aims to raise the aspirations, enthusiasm and attainment of 14-17 year-olds with regard to higher education by making a valuable contribution to current academic research at the University of Cambridge.

The HEFA programme is endorsed by the University of Cambridge and the OCR exam board in recognition of the level of cross-curricular challenge it offers young people to achieve in three distinct areas (1) practical fieldwork, (2) personal, learning and thinking skills and (3) data analysis and report writing. Participants receive feedback in recognition of their attainment in each of these areas which will be of considerable value in supporting their future application to university, enabling them to demonstrate exceptional achievement across a wide range of skills.

Carl Talbot





## Ypres

On Thursday 23rd June, 40 students from Year 9 travelled to Ypres in Belgium for a two day tour of World War One battlefields.

We left TGS at the crack of dawn (4am) for Belgium, via Dover, the Channel Tunnel and France.

We visited old German Trenches at a site called Bayernwald. This was really interesting as we had never experienced a real front-line trench before and it was very sobering to reflect on the conditions the soldiers had to endure.

Next we visited several British Commonwealth cemeteries and one German cemetery. The first cemetery was quite a small British one, and it proved to be a very moving experience. We also found the grave of 'Private Peaceful' the subject of the novel by Michael Morpurgo. In contrast, Tyne Cot cemetery is the largest World War 1 cemetery in the world with the names of 40,000 men and 32,000 lost men recorded there.

The final cemetery provided another contrast, a German cemetery, as this was a lot more compact, gloomy and not held in such esteem because Germany had lost the war.

We finished the day with a visit to the Menin Gate Service, paying our respects to the 50,000 soldiers that lost their lives in WW1, but whose bodies were never found. Sam Tolput, Tom Gage and Gemma Deacon laid a wreath from TGS in remembrance; an extremely poignant moment.

After a night in a rather nice hostel we travelled to France and the battlefields of the Somme, learning about the little known underground warfare.

We then made quite a trek up to a large Canadian Memorial Park to learn about the 'blue putties' from the Newfoundland regiment (they weren't part of Canada back then) on the first day of the battle of the Somme, in which 800 men were deployed but only 67 came back.

After that we went to see a massive shell hole from one of the exploded mines and a memorial about soldiers of the Irish regiment, who were the only British troops to break through on the first day of the Somme.

Finally, we visited one more British Commonwealth cemetery, reflecting on what we had learnt and taken away from this trip.

Gemma Deacon



# Lamda Success



LAMDA at TGS is going from strength to strength. The most recent examinations were extremely successful, with outstanding performances from a range of students. Congratulations to the following LAMDA students:

## Distinctions:

Georgia Higgins - Grade 6 Acting

Francesca Perkins-Taylor – Grade 6 Acting

Jessica Lee-Rimmer – Grade 6 Acting

Lois Pilgrim – Grade 1 Acting

Caitlin Redfern- Grade 2 Acting

Niamh Duffy – Grade 6 Acting

Jasmine Rogers - Grade 6 Acting

## Merits:

Millie Prime – Grade 2 Acting

Freya Casey –Grade 2 Acting

Maia King – Grade 1 Acting

Catilyn Tills-Line – Grade 2 Acting

Jemma Slade –Grade 6 Acting

Mia Hoy –Grade 6 Acting

Our LAMDA teacher also offers a wide range of courses to help students develop different skills, such as communication, public speaking and enhancing students' drama work.

Acting  
Devising Drama  
Speaking of Verse and Prose  
Public Speaking  
Reading for Performance

We currently have a few spaces so please see Mrs Arrow if you are interested in starting some LAMDA sessions.



## Art

**O**n 6th July 2016, 227 Year 8 students were presented with their Bronze Level 1 Award. This is a massive achievement and well deserved as they have been working on this since September.

The Arts Award is a unique qualification that supports anyone aged up to 25 to grow as artists and arts leaders, inspiring them to connect with and take part in the wider arts world through taking challenges in an art form.

Offered at five different levels, young people get to:

Discover the enjoyment of creating and participating in any art form

Develop their creativity and leadership skills

Learn new skills and share them with others

Get to work with or experience working with creative arts professionals

Gain experience and knowledge to progress into further education and employment.

To achieve their Arts Award, young people take on challenges in an art form, participate in arts activities, experience arts events, get inspired by artists and share their arts skills with others. Young people create a portfolio to keep a record of their creative journey.

The assessor was 'particularly impressed by the students' understanding and the emphasis on creativity in the presentation of evidence through all sections. All students were fully engaged in the process.'

Well done Year 8. You are a credit to the school and will no doubt inspire others.

Lucy Nichol



## Media

**O**n Thursday, 23rd June a group of Year 6 students from Bures Primary School took part in an Animation day. They arrived with their plasticine models and backdrops and produced some of the best stop frame animations I have seen. They were supported by the 6th form Media Team and lots of fun was had all round. They finished off the day in the TV studio. Well done to all!

Sue Crawte





## Music

On 22nd June over 60 students took part in Our Summer Concert, 'A Night at the Movies'. The evening saw an extravaganza of performances from the world of music, drama and dance all centred on the theme of film. The Ensemble and Choir played a central role in the concert, treating the audience to a range of classic songs and soundtracks from the silver screen.

The evening culminated in a mass ensemble from the Choir and Ensemble performing 'Don't want to Miss a Thing' by Aerosmith. Other highlights included Millie Kirkpatrick's performance of 'Nobody Does it Better' and Jacob Miculob's and Sebastian Crayford's poignant performance of the theme tune to 'Schindler's List'.

Catherine Pipe



On Monday 27th June, TGS welcomed Year 5 students from Boxford, Pot Kiln, Wells Hall and Nayland Primary Schools. The session was led by Tracey Rayner who is a vocal tutor at the Suffolk County Music Service. The theme for the morning was 'Transport' and students learnt two songs about trains where they mimicked sounds and sung in parts and harmonies. Year 5 students were also able to watch the TGS Choir perform three songs that they had sung at 'A Night at the Movies'.

Catherine Pipe



### Flo enjoys double musical success

Flo Redmonds playing the tenor saxophone, for which she received partial funding from the EMI Charitable Foundation, won the West Suffolk Young Jazz Musician of the year at the Hunter Club in Bury St Edmunds; a fantastic achievement. She also had reason to celebrate again, on learning that she has passed auditions to become a full member of the Aldeburgh Young Musicians, a Centre for Advance Training for exceptional musicians.



# Science Fair

More than 600 primary school children came to experience science on a completely different level at Thomas Gainsborough School's annual science fair on Tuesday 21st June and Wednesday 22nd June.

For the first time the fair was held over two floors in the brand new TGS building with its state of the art design; allowing us to reveal science to children like they've never seen before.

Pupils from primary schools across the Sudbury area spent the days learning all about science and how it is used in the real world through over 20 demonstrations from not only the resident scientists at TGS, but also businesses and organisations from the area: including Delphi, Anglian Water, Royal Horticultural Society, Philips Avent, Suffolk Police and so many more.

The children encountered everything from explosive bubbles to miniature lightning bolts, 3D printing to laser speed guns and DNA to dancing fire.

The purpose of our science fair is to stimulate an interest in science and engineering to show how important it is, not just in schools but in the outside world. We like to promote all three sciences and get the children involved as they are very enthusiastic at that age.

The whole event is supported by the Royal Society of Chemistry and is the only one of its kind in the UK. It was a massive success, and it is our goal that the primary schools involved will be able use some of the demonstrations they have experienced to help teach their curriculum, as science resourcing in primary schools is more limited.

Ryan Furlong





# Maths UKMT Junior Challenge

As reported in the last Maths corner 90 students from Years 7 and 8 took part in the UKMT Maths challenge. And the results are in! Students won 2 gold, 8 silver and 25 bronze certificates between them. Well done!

## Year 10 Maths Revision

This half term has seen Maths revision sessions for Year 10. It has been great to see our students getting used to the routine that will continue next year. All year 10 students are welcome

## TGS Weekly Maths Challenge

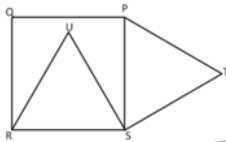
The Maths challenge has continued to be closely fought with the winning house to be announced during the celebration assembly. Meanwhile here is an example of the type of challenge that students have been undertaking.

Just for fun

### Internal - External

Stage: 3 and 4 Short ★

The diagram shows a square  $PQRS$  and two equilateral triangles  $RSU$  and  $PST$ .  $PQ$  has length 1. What is the length of  $TU$ ?



Ben Mills



## MFL

### German Link School receives a film about TGS

Mrs Young's Year 8 class has worked hard to make a fun film tour of TGS for our link school in Germany. Many thanks in particular to Jack Ecuyer for his excellent linking of all the various media to create a fun, informative film with an accompanying music

soundtrack and visual effects. Our link school has already reported how much they enjoyed receiving this, watching the tour and finding out about life at an English school. We are making progress towards an exchange visit next year.

Kath Young



## English

90 pupils were treated to an excellent New Wolsey Theatre production of William Shakespeare's comedy, A Midsummer Night's Dream. Students, from Years 7, 8 and 9, fully embraced the opportunity to experience a live theatre performance. All had a fantastic time and were a credit to the school. Members of the public commented on how well-behaved and polite our students are. A fabulous time was had by all. The English Department can't wait to do it again.

Kate Wells



## Year 7 Bushcraft Visit to Hatfield Woods

When we arrived it was pouring with rain although a fire quickly warmed us up and boosted our morale. We sang fun songs that brightened our spirits, were given fruit and delicious biscuits, and played great games including some new ones.

When it finally stopped raining, we painted our faces in camouflage paint and gave the tribe leaders nicknames like Shrek and Poppins and Dinosaur. We loved the beef fajitas for lunch which the jolly chef, Ed, made for us.

During the afternoon we did some wooden peg making, learning how to use cutting tools. The whittling was hard work but we kept at it with determination.

The tribe leaders then took us to our overnight accommodation. After we had unpacked, Barney, the dinosaur, showed us different shelters around the wood to inspire us when we made our own. We made our shelters with rope, canvas and anything that we could find on the forest floor. The walls at the side were built up with sticks and leaves and we made a garden with stumps and moss. For supper we had delicious bolognese and brownies that were cooked in Dutch ovens. At bedtime we settled into our tents and shelters. The people in the shelters, like me, were really comfortable because the ground was dry and the roof was lower to the ground so it trapped the heat. We effortlessly dozed off after such a busy day.

The next day was even better, I woke to a squirrel which was hammering a nut against the side of a stump, not the best start but it was nature's





alarm clock! At seven the dinosaur came round, getting us up and ready for an action-packed day. Our breakfast was a full English breakfast with all the best stuff there is. Then we packed our bags and started the day with another game of predator, definitely the best game of the lot. We had a demonstration of some different traps and afterwards we had a shot at making some ourselves. It was great fun and several of us trapped Barney using bourbons. Then we split back up into our tribes and discussed what we'd do next over a tunnok. We went out into the woods (after applying some more camouflage paint) and collected materials to build a fire. Our group got it done pretty quickly and even had some spare wood left over. We then roasted lamb kebabs with vegetables over our fires and ate them with some of Ed's scrumptious rice. Once we had eaten our fill the leaders took apart our fires and we dismantled our shelters. The work was fast and only a tad challenging. Just before we left the final exciting challenge, the mystery competition, was set. We had to build a mini shelter with a marshmallow man inside and it had to be watertight and keep the marshmallow man dry when the dinosaur poured water over the shelter. Bushcraft was an inspiring and great experience.



## Raising the Bar

Have you ever heard of the term 'Suffolk-ated'? It is the, I think, very inaccurate, word used to describe the fact that, apparently, children and young people living in Suffolk are complacent and do not feel motivated to achieve highly in school.

Like everyone here at TGS, the Suffolk Raising the Bar scheme aims to combat this myth.

As we do, they believe that every child has the potential to succeed and so far, the statistics prove that this initiative is working: more than 80% of our schools are now rated 'Good' or 'Outstanding' by Ofsted.

A large part of what Raising the Bar do involves simply recognising the students, teachers, school staff and even general school environments that deserve special commendation, in the hope that it will inspire others to emulate them. This is encapsulated by the annual Raising the Bar Awards Evening.

Nominees for various awards that fit into the broad categories I have mentioned above are invited to an evening of celebration and have the opportunity to meet their colleagues and peers who are also working hard to change this misconception of Suffolk...and the winners are announced!

This year, Suffolk County Council wanted very much to allow students from its schools the chance not only to receive but also to present the awards.

So, having been nominated for an award last year, I was very keen to get involved in some way and entered the competition that would decide who the co-presenters would be. Three young people (two main hosts and one reserve) would be chosen to present alongside the CEO of the Suffolk based sports charity 'Inspire' and former BBC Radio presenter, Terry Baxter.

After two rounds of auditions, one via video and one in person, I was lucky enough to be selected. I was initially the reserve co-presenter but, after the Public Speaking training we received as part of our prize, the four of us had come to know each other so well that I was honoured to be able to take part in the main event. I said at the time that, as a prospective teacher, I really connect with the Raising the Bar ethos.

The evening ran smoothly and it was excellent to hear some of the inspiring stories from the nominees, student performers and Keynote speakers (this year including Suffolk-born Doctor, and founder of the Nigerian Air Ambulance Charity 'Flying Doctors Nigeria', Ola Orekunrin.)

However, of course, the presenters were not the focus of the event. We were there to facilitate the recognition of the amazing achievements across the board in Suffolk education. Whether you won or were a runner up, it didn't matter. The take home message was that we should be proud of what we've managed to do and continue to strive for further success on



a personal level but also because we have helped to dispel the 'Suffolk-ated' feeling I mentioned earlier.

So, here at TGS, let's follow in their footsteps and keep 'raising the bar' (after all, our school motto couldn't be more apt) and we're certain to be nominated next year.

Ross McCrory

## TGS D of E group complete their qualifying expedition

Over the weekend of 18-19 July, 22 students took up the challenge of completing a 24 kilometre route over two days including an overnight camp in the Saxmundham area. Their meticulous planning would be put to the test.

The walk began at 9am in slightly overcast conditions with each group, not only concentrating on navigating their route, but having a task to complete: examining land use or recording wildlife or producing a video diary.

After minimal navigational errors the groups arrived at the camp site at staggered times, tents were erected and evening meals created with pasta the main stay.

However, Mr (4 star Michelin star) Ian Reading set about feeding himself and other members of the D of E team, Anna Bevan-Smith, Lucy Nichol and Gordon Bird, with an amazing chicken stir-fry.

A lovely sunny, warm evening was spent playing games and watching the sunset.

Sunday morning saw the groups create more culinary delights for breakfast to sustain them on their second leg of their journey.

During the sunny and very warm day the groups were in high spirits and found their way to Sizewell Beach successfully completing their expeditions.

Students all worked very hard, were impeccably behaved and an absolute credit to the school.

Gordon Bird



## Houghton News

This has been an amazing half term with lots of interesting activities. Here are some of the great achievements of Houghton students who have made us very proud.

**R**ebekka Bryant in LMa helped an Elderly man who had fallen over on the bus. Milly Wingate and Oli Hughes gave great performances in Assembly. Alice Locke volunteered extra hours at Leavenheath Beavers, Cubs & Scout Group. Amelia Moule came first in women's junior 16 doubles at Peterborough Spring regatta - this was in the age group above her age. Archie Bennett Bonner took part in a British Championship of Jujizstu and came 2nd. Ruby East took part in a Boxing tournament in Ireland. And these are only some of the great things that you are doing in and out of school, so please keep on sharing your successes and making us all proud.

We also welcome our new Houghton Committee: Zinzan Forster JWk, Amelia Moule TBa, Ruby East SCr and Teia Yule LMa. They are very committed Houghton students who are looking forward to making Houghton the best House at TGS. They meet every Monday during registration in the Light Well so should you have any suggestions, make sure you pass on your comments to them.

Have a great summer when it comes.

Liliana Hurtado







# 30 Days Wild



**3**0 Days Wild is organised by the Wildlife Trusts to get people inspired to enjoy the nature that surrounds us. The aim is to do one wild thing every day for the month of June and 109 TGS students really took on the challenge. A total of 510 wild activities took place ranging from nature walks to wildlife photography and from gliding with buzzards to watching the filming of Springwatch.

Miss McAndrew's tutor group was officially the most wild with every student getting involved and even making some bird feeders for the school garden.

Heather Goodwin

## My Springwatch Unsprung Visit

**I**visited RSPB Minsmere with my mum and grandad to do some bird watching. I watched a wild otter swimming in the scrape, and also saw a bearded tit from the hide. I was lucky enough to see a bittern in the reeds; these are very rare birds and it was the second time I had managed to see one at Minsmere. I also saw a greater spotted woodpecker feeding its young in a hole high up in a tree.

The highlight of the day was being a part of the audience on the BBC Springwatch's programme 'Springwatch Unsprung.' The show which was broadcast live was hosted by Chris Packham who is a very knowledgeable naturalist. It was fascinating to watch the show from inside the very small hut that was the studio and to see how the show is produced and watch the camera men rushing behind Chris. It was a brilliant experience. #30daywild

Connor Wade

## Model United Nations (MUN)

**F**uture politicians, world leaders and diplomats met together at the Royal Hospital School by the River Orwell. It was the third time Thomas Gainsborough's and the Royal Hospital's Year seven students have come together to take part in a simulation of the United Nations. Both schools' students debated and worked together to solve issues that face the world today: Climate Change, Torture, HIV and AIDs and Nuclear disarmament. They were assisted by older students from both schools' Model United Nations (MUN) enrichment clubs.

The first day started in the decorative Jellico room where RHS' Assistant Headteacher Mr Christmas divided students from both schools into the thirty three different countries that make up the United Nations. Then the research started. Students wrote a policy statement on their country's views on the topic which they would deliver the next day. All researched their countries in depth, learning things about foreign and home nations that they never knew.

The second day the MUN enrichment club members of TGS and the Royal Hospital School chaired the Year 7 delegates' debate. Firstly the delegates





read their speeches to their respective committees, outlining the issues and how, as their country, they would resolve them. Then the debates began. The raw enthusiasm of the students, their confident speeches and the qualities of some arguments were outstanding. Thomas Gainsborough students and the RHS students made their schools proud.

The MUN enrichment club at Thomas Gainsborough meets every Wednesday, after school, in Room 202 and is open to anyone. Members are able to develop their research, debating and public speaking skills.

Josef Thompson



## The Bavington Centre

Mrs Bavington started her career at Thomas Gainsborough School 36 years ago, she has seen five head teachers and worked through numerous school titles, but now Mrs Bavington is retiring. Her first job in teaching was in Huddersfield and then she taught in Kuwait for three years. In 1980 she joined Thomas Gainsborough and rose up through the ranks from an English teacher to Work Experience Coordinator to Head of Careers to Assistant Head teacher and Head of House. Mrs Bavington will continue to teach English at Thomas Gainsborough.

“Employers like reliable employees, young people should rise to the challenge of doing the job well and take pride in doing the job well. So being reliable is what you should aim for.”

Her time as Newsletter editor has shown that she will always go above and beyond what is required of her and it was my pleasure to work with her on Portrait.

Mrs Bavington was sent off with a party where the renaming of the library to the Bavington Centre was revealed. The Library's name change was unknown to Mrs Bavington, who was led through the library by Mr Lloyd before her party, she turned around to find out that she was standing in front of the Bavington Centre. Mrs Bavington's retirement party was held in the marquee after graduation with a literary theme where Mr Kiely gave a speech. Instead of gifts for Mrs Bavington donations were given to the Befriending scheme, a charity that was close to her daughter Sophie's heart.

Josef Thompson



# Summer Reading Challenge – The Big Friendly Read



17



# Sixth Form Challenge

Sixth formers from Thomas Gainsborough, Samuel Ward and Newmarket battled it out in the second Wardale Williams Sixth Form Trust Challenge.

The event, held at Thomas Gainsborough School, was hosted by Dominic Tyler Lovett, chairman of Colchester Mind and Howard Lay, Chief Executive of the Samuel Ward Trust.

Students competed in different activities with the competition fierce in all challenges. Students from the three schools performed brilliantly and Samuel Ward just beat Thomas Gainsborough to retain the Cup.

The University Challenge was won by Thomas Gainsborough.

The Physical Challenge was won by Thomas Gainsborough.

The Creative Challenge was won by Samuel Ward Academy.

The Engineering Challenge was won by Samuel Ward Academy.

The Public Speaking Challenge was won by Samuel Ward Academy.

Kenny Alexander, Director of Sixth Form at the Thomas Gainsborough School, said: "Although I am gutted, this has been a great opportunity for the three academies to get together and compete. The idea of the competition is to give the students the opportunity to test their skills in a competitive environment. The competition is aimed at helping our students to develop their personal skills and give them an experience of dealing with a pressure situation, which we hope will benefit them in their future lives and careers."

Wardale Williams Sudbury practice manager Amanda Skinner, said: "We are delighted to be sponsoring this event for the second year as last year's challenge was such a success. It was great to see how enthusiastic the students were and their ability was very impressive."

Students and staff are already looking forward to the competition next year.

Kenny Alexander





## Sixth Form Induction Day

We were delighted to welcome back a large number of our ex-year 11 students, joined by 35 students from other local schools to our recent sixth form induction day. Students attended A level and BTEC taster lessons in their chosen subjects. They also had the opportunity to experience other facets of sixth form life in interactive activities with our careers team, current sixth form students and Mr Alexander. It was a very informative and enjoyable day giving our new Year 12 students a very realistic taste of sixth form life. It was gratifying to receive a great number of positive comments on the day. We wish all students success in their GCSE results and look forward to welcoming them to TGS sixth form in September.

Kenny Alexander







## Higher Education Convention and Evening

On Thursday 30th June, Year 12 students travelled to University Campus Suffolk (soon to be the University of Suffolk) to attend the UCAS Higher Education Convention. This gave students a unique opportunity to access over 300 exhibitors, such as universities, colleges, charities, gap year companies, recruiters and organisations from across the UK, united in their aim to inform and advise young people on their future options. It proved to be an invaluable experience, helping our students begin the process of making informed decisions on what and where to study in higher education.

Students returned to TGS, and were joined by their parents, for our Higher Education Evening. There was a presentation, delivered by a representative from UCS on the whole process of applying to university, including the financial implications. This was followed by two excellent firsthand accounts of university life by our ex students Callum Bloys, studying Sports Management at Central Lancashire, and Stephanie Poole, studying Countryside Management at Harper Adams. Stephanie's mum, Tracey Poole, also shared her experience of sending her child to university.

Kenny Alexander

## Georgia Triumphs in the Holmes and Hills Essay Writing Competition

Year 12 students tackled emotive and topical subjects such as 'Is social media a force for good?' and 'Is freedom of speech a right or privilege?' in the Holmes & Hills sponsored Thomas Gainsborough School's 2016 essay writing competition.

20

Deborah Abbott, Senior Legal Executive at Holmes & Hills Solicitors in Sudbury had the difficult task of selecting the winners.

She said "The essays were of a very high standard and I have to say it was very difficult to pick a winner. The students have clearly put a great deal of effort into researching their subject of choice and have been able to present well-reasoned arguments whilst also communicating their own opinions on the matter. It has been a pleasure to work with the school on this project."

Georgina Thornton won the first prize for her essay "Are Genetically Modified Foods Dangerous or Necessary?" When commenting on the reason why she chose this essay as the winner, Deborah explained that the writer produced a reasoned argument for both sides of the debate, came to a firm conclusion and included a bibliography that demonstrated good research but still retained an authenticity of authorship. Georgina was presented with £75 book vouchers for Wroderly.com.

Second prize was presented to Alexia Gortsilas whose essay addressed "Is Freedom of Speech a Right or a Privilege?" Feven Habtezghi's essay explored "Is Social Media a Force for Good?" and was awarded third prize. I am extremely proud that all of our Year 12 students took part and were able to express themselves to such a high standard.

Kenny Alexander



## A Level Psychology visit to Colchester Zoo

A level Psychology students had an opportunity to study animal behaviour first hand on a visit to Colchester Zoo.

They attended a 90 minute animal behaviour workshop, exploring the basics of animal behaviour. Students learnt how to distinguish between an unconditioned response and a conditioned response. They also observed and explained the differences between classical conditioning and operant conditioning.

Theory was put into practice as students, developing their observation skills, explored the differing animal behaviours throughout the Zoo.

The trip was a great success with many students learning about new species and how classical conditioning can be used to train animals to make administering medication a lot simpler and without psychological harm to the animals. The only criticism of the trip was that it was too short.

Claire Buller



## Sixth Form Enrichment Trip to Cambridge

Enrichment day was spent in Cambridge, giving Year 12 students an opportunity to experience the cultural history of the city and its colleges.

We started with a relaxing punt down the River Cam, expertly guided by Cambridge University students. They shared the history of the colleges and surrounding buildings, the famous people that attended them, and various myths and stories about the antics of past students.

This was followed by a guided walking tour of the city, a chance to learn even more about Cambridge from our guides.

All in all it was a thoroughly informative and enjoyable day, with the bonus of sunny weather.

Lynne King







# CAREERS



## Careers News

Enrichment Day saw the Careers Team work closely with both Year 9 and Year 10 students.

Year 9 students were joined by representatives from Nestle Purina, Ipswich Building Society, Delphi and The Best of Sudbury.

In preparation for their mock interviews in Year 10, students and employers explored successful interview techniques and discussed issues surrounding Health and Safety in the work place.

Year 10 students completed tasks to develop and enhance skills required for their employability award next year.



## Work Experience

Again, another busy month for TGS students.

Well done to students who completed work experience.  
Year 10 – Josh Martin: P Tuckwell, Agricultural Ltd. Jasmine Honeyball: Pot Kiln Primary School. Amy Gibbons: The Bishop William Ward C of E Primary School. Aspen Bloomfield: Suffolk Life Pensions. Bobby Farr: NJF Decors. Daisy Hansell: Hillside Primary School. Maria Grumman: Stoke By Nayland Primary School. Amelia Moule: WH Smith. Hannah Scott: The Swan Hotel. Peter Rose: Boxford Primary School.

Year 12 – Aiden Griggs: The Kingfisher. Alex English: Cobra, Puma Golf.

## Optimum Architecture Employer Workshop

We recently hosted the Optimum Architecture Employer Workshop for students considering possible careers in this sector.

Mr Stuart Davis, the guest employer, delivered an interesting and engaging presentation to 14 students. He talked about career opportunities in architecture and qualifications needed to enter the profession. He also showed the students plans that had been drawn up by employees of Optimum Architecture Ltd.

Congratulations to former student Henry Day, on securing an apprenticeship with Optimum Architecture Ltd.

Karen Perkins



## Food and Farming trip to Hollow Trees farm

Even the gloomy weather could not dampen the spirits of TGS students attending the Food and Farming day at Hollow Trees Farm. The day was packed with opportunities to learn about many aspects of the Food and Farming industry.

In addition to listening to expert speakers - students were given demonstrations of agricultural machinery and equipment, spent time with various livestock and farm animals, developed their advertising skills and most importantly, were allowed to hold tiny day old baby ducklings.

Overall, the day was highly enjoyable and informative.

As always, TGS students behaved wonderfully and were a credit to the school.

Rachael Brown



# SPORTS NEWS

## Sports Gala Dinner 2016

Thomas Gainsborough School PE department hosted their 3rd sports gala dinner on Tuesday 28th June, but it was a night filled of firsts. It was the first time we had held this evening in our new school and also the first time that guests and students were sat at tables, which made the evening feel special and much more formal. We were blessed to have two guests at our evening; Jamie Warner who sponsors the male and female sports performer of the year awards and also donates prizes to the raffle. Our guest of honour was Lindsey Keable, England and Hertfordshire Mavericks netball goalkeeper who presented the awards to the winners on the night. Lindsey gave the students an inspirational speech, which has since inspired our young athletes to become even more involved in the sporting opportunities TGS has to offer.

Lindsey Keable tweeted:

'Great evening @tgschool great to meet an inspiring sports department and some amazing athletes #starsofthefuture'

From a student's perspective the evening was a huge success and was a great way to celebrate this year's sporting achievements.

The winners of the awards:

Cricketer of the year – Alex Quin  
 Dedication to sport – Jack Prentice & Rebecca Judd  
 Hockey player of the year – Rebecca Carter  
 Rugby player of the year – Robert Bray  
 Dedication to dance – Emily Griggs  
 Athlete of the year – Oscar Edwards  
 Most progress in sport – Darrien Murray  
 Most progress in dance – Kyle Nowak  
 Netball player of the year – Chloe Adamson  
 Boys' footballer of the year – Harry Mansell  
 Girls' football of the year – Jessica Gill  
 Boys' basketball player of the year – Darrien Murray  
 Girls' basketball player of the year – Ella Pearson  
 Team of the year – U13 Boys' football  
 Dancer of the year – Katharine Rose  
 Female sports performer – Ella Pearson  
 Male sports performer – Oscar Edwards  
 Sports personality – Olivia Greaves

Towards the end of the evening, following the highly contested awards ceremony, we moved on to the raffle. Students were given the opportunity to win one off prizes, these ranged from a signed Ipswich Town ball to a signed Cricket bat. Well done to all the winners.





# SPORTS NEWS

## Oscar Jumps into the English Schools

Three TGS students, Adam Crawford, Freddie McCracken and Oscar Edwards were selected by Suffolk Athletics Association to represent Suffolk at the Anglian Schools Competition at UEA, Norwich. All 3 students performed to the best of their ability and represented, not only Suffolk, but TGS very well. Adam having a very hard steeplechase, finished 3rd, Freddie won his discus event, but unfortunately after putting on a brilliant performance did not manage to throw the qualifying standard for the English schools. Oscar jumped 1.7m and came 3rd on count back, which resulted in him securing a place at the English Schools Championships. A fantastic effort. Well done to all three students!



## Eavan Sings at Suffolk Youth Games

Eavan Taylor-Willis was asked to sing at the Opening ceremony of the Suffolk Youth Games in Bury St Edmunds. Eavan delivered a wonderful performance and represented the school brilliantly.



## Golf

The TGS golf team ventured to Haverhill Golf Club to compete in the Western Area Golf Championships. This is an individual event. It wasn't the best start for Alex, as his tee off time was changed on the morning of the competition giving his opponents a psychological edge. The other three competitors were all feeling confident that some silverware could be brought back to TGS. Unfortunately, even though Alex put in a great performance, things did not go his way. Ben and Oliver had solid starts but tailed off during the back 9 holes. Alice,

enjoying a very successful year, after being named Suffolk Ladies Captain, carried the TGS flag. Alice played well considering the windy conditions. She scored a Gross 75 Nett 72, 1 over her handicap. Her round included 14 pars and 4 bogies, winning the Girls Gross and securing 2nd place in the Nett.



## Lord's Trip

Our first TGS cricket trip was a really fun experience. It was awesome that we got to go to such an amazing ground like Lords to watch the T20 game between Middlesex and Somerset. In a rain curtailed 9 over a side game Middlesex triumphed. We witnessed some aggressive batting which was really exciting to watch. Even though the burger and chips were £10 each, they were still very nice.

Daniel Soberg



# SPORTS NEWS

## Sue's Great East Open Water Challenge Success

I am really pleased to say that I recently successfully completed the Great East Open Water Mile Challenge at Alton Water in a very respectable 40 minutes.

I had prepared for this event by learning how to swim front crawl properly and for endurance in a 12 week training course offered for the over 50s by Suffolk Sport. I went to Gosfield Lake to try open water swimming a month before the big swim and was completely shocked by how different and restrictive it is swimming in a wet suit. The water in the lake is rather murky, so you can't see much at all. However, the great thing about Gosfield Lake is that you can touch the bottom of the lake, so if you get tired you can just stop. At Alton Water you cannot do this, you just have to keep going! I wore wet socks, so that I didn't touch any fish or slimy stuff.

The morning of the day of the challenge was grey and windy but the water at 18 degrees was warmer than outside. I really enjoyed the event and appreciated the richly deserved food and drinks provided in the VIP tent at the end. Next year I may even do 2 miles.

The photo shows some of the over 50s who did the training with me. I am second in from the right.

Sue Crawte

## Race for Life

On Friday 1st July more than 400 students and staff took part in the Race for Life on the school field in aid of Cancer Research UK. After a wet morning the sun started to shine on the competitors dressed in a sea of pink from top to toe; from crazy pink wigs to fluorescent socks. Inspirational music completed the fantastic atmosphere motivating all whether they walked, jogged or raced their way around the 5K course. Congratulations to the joint winners Ian Clift from Year 10 and Year 8 Jared Ong, although everyone could be proud of their achievements.

Some students wore poignant messages to loved ones recognising the importance of what they were doing. It is a great way for us to show our support for students and staff who have been affected by cancer and to know that we can make a difference through charitable giving. We are optimistic that we will surpass the £4000 raised last year. Events on such a large scale could not take place without the support of staff and sixth form helpers, so a massive thank you to them.

The Race for Life has firmly established itself as an annual event and we are excited by the prospect of raising thousands of pounds for this very worthwhile charity over the next few years.

Amie Butcher





# SPORTS NEWS

## Sports Fortnight

For the first time the PE department organised a sports fortnight for all students to experience the enjoyment and benefits of a wide range of sporting activities: from rock-it-ball to volleyball, and triathlon to Tchoukball and golf.

A big thank you to all the volunteers from the local Triathlon club, volleyball, Tchoukball and Stoke-by-Nayland golf club for all their help.

### Swimming Gala

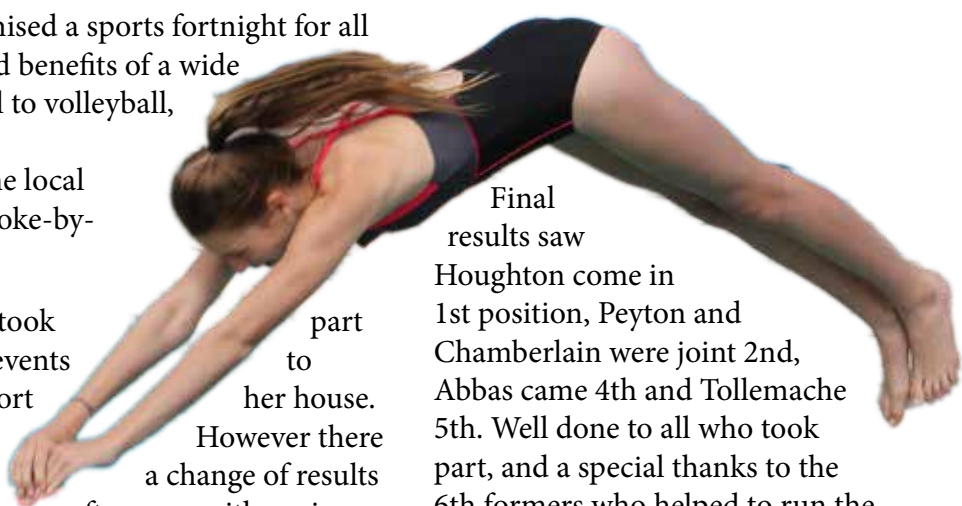
Monday 27th June started off grey & cloudy but gave way to glorious sunshine ready for our annual House Swimming Gala. The morning started with Year 7 races where a special mention must go to the depleted Tollemache team of Shannon Johnson, Harry Gregory and Fergus Dark. These students bravely put themselves forward, for as many races as possible, to make up for absent team mates. Well done to the students who ended up gaining an overall 3rd position for their house. First place was won by Abbas closely followed by Peyton. Lesson 2 saw Years 9 & 10 competing in their races where there was a great display of techniques from Charlie Harman, Maria Grumann, Megan Bailey, Georgia Hodgson & Nathan Alexander. Along with great efforts from Thomas Dudden, Jack Wiffen and Matthew Riddle who completed the 4 length individual medley. First place went to Peyton with a lead of 2 points from Abbas and then Chamberlain in 3rd place. Finally Year 8 came out to race, another session of fabulous commitment and team spirit with a special mention to Lauren Martin

who took part in 6 events to support her house. However there was a change of results this afternoon with a win from Houghton, closely followed by Chamberlain and then Peyton in 3rd place.

A huge well done to all the competitors who took part, especially those who signed up for additional events at such short notice. The atmosphere was supportive and fun with a huge amount of competitiveness between the houses. Our overall congratulations must go to Peyton for final winners, with Chamberlain in 2nd place, Abbas in 3rd, Houghton 4th and Tollemache were 5th.

### Highland Games

Students from Years 7 and 8 were selected to represent their house in the TGS Highland Games. The activities included tug-o-war, sprints, an obstacle course, shot putt, throwing a vortex and a sack race. Students participated extremely well and represented their individual houses fantastically. With lots of support and cheering from the students for their fellow housemates, it was a great afternoon.



Final results saw Houghton come in 1st position, Peyton and Chamberlain were joint 2nd, Abbas came 4th and Tollemache 5th. Well done to all who took part, and a special thanks to the 6th formers who helped to run the event.



### Leadership

On the 30th June we took 16 sport leaders, ranging from Year 7 to 8, to Bures Primary School to help with their sports day. TGS students lead a range of activities on the day which included: welly throw, parachute, hockey dribbling, javelin, agility ladders and track events just to name a few. The leaders had to adapt their leadership style as they were now teaching children as young as nursery all the way up to Year 6. They did this extremely well and were heavily praised by all attending the sports day: "A massive thank you to the young leaders

# SPORTS NEWS

for attending our sports day on Thursday. It is always lovely to see you all from TGS. The young leaders are always a pleasure to have leading the activities and gain so much confidence as the day goes on". We are pleased to say the sport leaders all enjoyed the day so much they all volunteered to lead at future sports days.

More TGS Sports Leaders made the short journey to Wells Hall Primary School for 3 days' worth of Sports days. All leaders should be very proud of themselves as they represented themselves and the school perfectly.



## Year 7&8 Trust Games

The inaugural Trust Games were held at Samuel Ward and were contested by the hosts, ourselves and Castle Manor. The aim of the tournament was to get people together who don't necessarily have the opportunity to represent their schools.

Teams from Year 7 and 8 competed in rounders and dodgeball. Our rounders team comfortably won their first game against Samuel Ward as a result of lots of good play, particularly in the field. Lots of fun was had by all and we look forward to being involved in the expanding games over the coming years.



## S p o r t s D a y

Heats for the track events took place in lessons this year, so we had the 2 quickest runners from each house competing against each other in the 100,200,300 and 400 metres. The field events were also carried out in lessons and the results were added to the final scores.

A beautiful sunny day, a fresh cut and marked track welcomed the whole school to watch and support in the sports day afternoon.

Very competitive races took place in all age groups for both boys and girls.

Each house had winners and reasons to cheer throughout the afternoon. At the end of the afternoon after the relays finished the crowd were kept in suspense to hear who the winners were.

Houghton won by the narrowest of margins.



# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



## **WANTED:**

**FEMALE**

**HOCKEY GOALKEEPERS**



Suffbury Hockey Club needs goalkeepers for our u14 and u16 Girls sides. (u14/16 on 21 Aug 2016)

Qualities:

- Brave
- Athletic
- Slightly crazy (optional, but definitely helps! See picture above!)

Full training will be given and kit supplied.

Suffbury Girls Hockey is a very friendly, sociable and highly successful section of the club. We play in local matches, the national u14 and u16 championships and regularly go on tour into Europe. We also play indoor hockey.

Contact Mark Bentley on 01947508144 or speak to Miss Bartfield at school.



**Last day of Term 2016- July 22nd**

**Sixth Form Results Day- 18th August**

**GCSE Results Day- 25th August**



TGS's next production, taking place in February 2017, is going to be a big one. Big in every sense: musically, vocally and the size of the cast. The biggest thing of all will be the **PLANTS**. So there will be plenty of opportunities for everyone.

We are going to put on the fabulous musical show **Little Shop of Horrors**. It is a comedy, but with some elements of horror and most importantly it is great fun.

**AUDITIONS:** Week 2 of the first term back in September. Please listen out for more details nearer the time.

I look forward to working with you.

Jo Arrow

## **Autumn Term 2016**

Thursday 01 September 2016 – Monday 19 December 2016

Years 7 and 12 begin on Monday 5th September

All other years begin on Tuesday 6th September

Half Term: Monday 24 – Friday 28 October 2016

## **Spring Term 2017**

03 January 2017 – Friday 31 March 2017

Half Term: Monday 13 – Friday 17 February 2017

## **Summer Term 2017**

Tuesday 18 April – Friday 21 July 2017

Half Term: Monday (Bank Holiday) 29 May – Friday 02 June 2017

## **Non Pupil Days**

01 September 2016

02 September 2016

21 October 2016

19 December 2016

03 January 2017



**THOMAS  
GAINSBOROUGH  
SCHOOL**



[www.facebook.com/  
thomasgainsboroughschool](http://www.facebook.com/thomasgainsboroughschool)



Twitter  
[@tgschool](https://twitter.com/tgschool)

Thomas Gainsborough School, Wells Hall Road, Great Cornard, Suffolk, CO10 0NH  
Telephone: 01787 375232, Fax: 01787 377386  
[enquiries@tgschool.net](mailto:enquiries@tgschool.net), [www.tgschool.net](http://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**