



Candidate Pack Head of Science 2023

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Excellence: for each, for all

Welcome

Many thanks for taking the time to enquire about Thomas Gainsborough School. We are very proud of our school and the opportunities that it provides for our wonderful students, staff and our wider community.

Our school motto is 'Excellence: for each, for all' and this encapsulates our values and ethos. It is a school where every single individual matters. We strive to personalise a young person's education, putting them at the centre of their own learning, to ensure that each student achieves his or her full potential enjoying an education that focuses on their own individual skills, strengths and aptitudes. Each student has a voice here – it is their school and their education. Yet each student is also part of a community, locally, nationally and globally. We want our students to become outstanding citizens and contribute greatly to the society in which they live.

The values and the ethos apply to our staff also. We have excellent staff and we endeavour to make every individual, whatever their role in school, feel valued, respected and cared for. Your voice will be heard and you will be part of a supportive staff body where we have high expectations and standards but we also have the conditions and systems in place to help staff to be successful. Being part of the Unity Schools Partnerships also enables us to access wider opportunities and support for our staff and we have an active and effective governing body. We also ensure that we laugh together and have an on-going supply of cakes and biscuits for those more challenging days.

We pride ourselves in being an open school: one in which parents feel they play a full and proper role in their child's education. We encourage parents to come into school regularly and welcome their views, thoughts and opinions. We are providing a service, the singularly most important service a family can receive, the education of their children and that education is most successful when the school, the students and their parents form a strong partnership. However, we also provide outstanding student support to ensure that we remove students' barriers to learning.

Our school is oversubscribed; it has a growing Sixth Form and staff turnover is low. We are proud of all that we have achieved but we are not satisfied and eager to continue to improve and as a leader within our school you will play an integral role in this.

Please come and see our school; we will happily make time to answer your questions and take you on a tour.

I am certain that you will be impressed.

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

Helen Yapp (Headteacher)

Our Committed Science Team & Facilities

There is a strong team ethos and staff work collaboratively, within the school and the Unity Schools Partnership, to move the department forward and support each other in our teaching and learning. The team are highly committed to the success of our students and supporting each other.

All staff are well supported by an excellent CPD programme throughout the school.

In September 2015 the school moved into an award-winning new building, where Science is taught in specialist rooms across two floors, with an additional laboratory in the Sixth Form building. Science is one of the larger departments within the school in terms of team size, budget and qualifications offered, offering courses across all key stages. The team is made up of 15 subject specialists, covering the full range of experience, supported by two full time experienced technicians.

Within the teaching team there are 6 experienced AQA examiners, a lead practitioner and one member of staff who coordinates the national STEM funded Norfolk and Suffolk Learning Partnership. There is currently a TLR holder who supports leadership of courses in Key Stage 4 and 5.

Outcomes at KS4 and KS5 are strong with some exceptional performances from different groups of students. The curriculum is ambitious for all and students are supported to excel across the full ability range. The level of improvement and success has been maintained for several years.

With 280 students in a year group there are 10 sets and at KS4 some students will experience triple science whilst others will experience the higher and foundation double science award. At KS5 we offer Biology, Chemistry and Physics A levels with an additional offer of BTEC Forensic Science. TGS subscribes to AQA except for

Pearson's BTEC. TGS follows the National Curriculum and at KS3 the topics are taught using booklets to ensure consistency, reduce workload and allow us to emphasise the disciplinary literacy needed for success. In Year 7, some students choose to follow the STEM pathway, rather than the Arts or Grammar pathway. Those students following the STEM pathway have additional science lessons in their curriculum to enrich their science experience.

There is an excellent enrichment programme to accompany science at TGS. We work with local businesses such as the Wellcome Trust who provide our students with lectures into the cutting edge work they perform, as well as using the CREST award and Faraday Challenges.

The school is the hub school for the Norfolk and Suffolk Science Learning Partnership which brings with it access to a wide range of enrichment and CPD opportunities. On a smaller scale, the department runs numerous science competitions and a science club to feed their fascination in the subject.

As a member of Unity Schools Partnership, the department has strong links to other schools across the region. Teachers and leaders from TGS meet colleagues from other schools regularly and often have the opportunity to visit them to network and share best practice.



Supporting You

Professional Development

The success of our school is built on the dedication of our staff, and at Thomas Gainsborough School we are passionate about promoting professional development and training and are always looking for innovative ways to provide CPD as well as developmental and leadership opportunities for staff.

At the core of this is an extensive CPD offer which caters for the needs of our staff and students in terms of developing subject knowledge, pedagogy and the wider responsibilities that go with serving our community.

We are a leading school for a local ITT provider, and working closely with the Unity Teaching School Hub, are able to support career progression through our bespoke middle leaders' programme in addition to being able to offer the full range of NPQs.

Key Elements of our CPD offer:

- Instructional Coaching linked to developing pedagogy, supported by lead practitioners
- Members of the National College portal
- 'Praxis' – our in-house half-termly CPD magazine
- Strong links with the Unity Teaching School Hub and the Unity Research School
- Support for NPQs



Staff Wellbeing

Staff Wellbeing is prioritised to ensure that all of our colleagues feel valued and supported in the work they do. As a school we adhere to the DfE Wellbeing Charter and are pleased to be able to offer a range of employee wellbeing benefits, which include:

- Free use of Great Cornard Leisure Centre (including gym and swimming facilities)
- Access to 'LifeWorks' mental health support
- Face to face wellbeing sessions
- Self-care resource pack
- Annual staff wellbeing survey and wellbeing group
- Clear and well-established systems to support behaviour
- Consideration of staff wellbeing and workload as a strategic priority

Our School & Community

Thomas Gainsborough School is a consistently high performing, well resourced, and truly comprehensive school, with a firm belief in excellence for each and every student, placing students at the heart of their curriculum. Our school has remained incredibly popular with a growing Sixth Form of more than 200 students.

We are close to the vibrant and beautiful market town of Sudbury. The town has great independent shops, well preserved mediaeval town houses, a nationally significant art gallery and some of the finest scenery in Suffolk. The River Stour runs through the town, with extensive water meadows providing easy access for walking & rowing. We are close to beautiful villages and within easy reach of Bury St Edmunds, Colchester, Ipswich.

We work hard to ensure that all our students have meaningful experiences which bring them closer to their local community, while also embracing national and global opportunities.

Our school is fully inclusive, our comprehensive careers provision is award winning and our arts programme has been recognised by the Platinum arts award three times.



Finding Out More & Joining the Team

We always welcome visitors and are happy to talk about this opportunity before you visit.

If you would like further information or to arrange a visit please contact Mr Chris Ryall, cryall@tgschool.net or call the school to speak to Mrs Kerry Fuller, the Headteacher's PA, on 01787 375232.

Information about the school is available at www.tgschool.net and the application process is supported by our Multi-Academy Trust careers website www.unitysp-careers.co.uk/

