



THOMAS
GAINSBOROUGH
SIXTH FORM



Prospectus **2026**

Welcome



I am delighted to welcome you to Thomas Gainsborough Sixth Form

Welcome to Thomas Gainsborough Sixth Form

Excellence is at the heart of everything we do at Thomas Gainsborough Sixth Form. Over the past decade, we have grown to nearly 250 students and established ourselves as one of the most successful and rapidly developing Sixth Forms in Suffolk. Our students consistently achieve top results and progress on to outstanding destinations; from Oxbridge and Russell Group universities to competitive apprenticeships and thriving careers.

Excellence | We are committed to the highest standards of teaching, learning and support. Our dedicated staff ensure that every student is stretched, challenged and inspired to achieve their full potential.

For Each | Every student is valued as an individual. Through small class sizes, personalised tutoring, iPad-enabled learning,

and our Enrichment+ programme, we tailor opportunities to match personal ambitions, strengths and future goals.

For All | As part of the Unity Schools Partnership, we provide a wide curriculum, collaborative opportunities across Unity6, and a community ethos that ensures no student is left behind. We celebrate diversity, nurture talent, and prepare our students to thrive in life beyond Sixth Form.

We warmly invite you to visit us, meet our students, and experience our culture of ambition, care and success.

At Thomas Gainsborough Sixth Form, excellence truly is for each, and for all.

Mr K. Alexander

Director of Sixth Form at
Thomas Gainsborough Sixth Form



SCAN THE QR CODE TO FIND OUT MORE



Why choose Thomas Gainsborough Sixth Form?

The transition from school to Sixth Form and beyond is an exciting time and one which brings many opportunities and challenges. At Thomas Gainsborough Sixth Form, we will support you to embrace the change, offering you the opportunity to develop your independence and succeed.

Because we will understand your individual needs

Former students have again and again said that the thing they missed most about Thomas Gainsborough Sixth Form was the care and support of their teachers.

Your teachers will fully understand your learning needs. We know that, when you feel safe and well cared for, you are able to achieve your full potential.

Our community ethos is a key strength, we have strong links with our main 11-16 school (promoting our 7-Year Journey and providing opportunities to volunteer), strong links with the wider Unity Schools Partnership and we are delighted to welcome students from other secondary schools each year.

In terms of academic success, recent results have placed us in the Top 3 Sixth Forms (in Suffolk) for A-Level progress; Oxbridge and Russell Group destinations.

Because we'll support you every step of the way

We will support you every step of the way, from your Sixth Form induction to your leavers' celebration. We'll teach you how to use your study time effectively and will keep in regular touch with you and your parents about your academic progress. We'll continue to do anything and everything to help you to achieve.

In order to support you to succeed, Thomas Gainsborough Sixth Form provides you with:

- ▶ An Academic Tutor and access to our Student Support Team
- ▶ A timetabled Supra-Curricular programme of enrichment, student futures guidance and personal development
- ▶ Regular opportunities for one-to-one subject support
- ▶ Post-16 Bursary (for students who meet the criteria)
- ▶ iPad learning through the Unity6 project (digital literacy, independent learning, modern study)

What do our students say?



“

“TGS gave me the confidence and preparation to apply to York. The support from my tutors was exceptional.”

Former Head Student,
now studying Law

”



“

“Thomas Gainsborough Sixth Form has been more than just a stepping stone towards university, it has been a guiding light.”

Former Student, now studying
Philosophy at Cambridge University

”



“

“The community is what makes TGS special – you feel known, supported and part of something bigger.”

Year 13 student

”



Creating your study programme

Thomas Gainsborough Sixth Form offers a range of A-Level and other courses to give you the freedom and flexibility to build an individualised study programme that reflects your priorities and ensures that you maximise your Post-16 experience and realise your ambitions.



Your chosen subjects will sit at the heart of your study programme, which will then be enhanced by adding enrichment, personal development and additional studies opportunities.

Subject lessons

18
periods

Tutor periods

10
periods

Independent study

12
periods

Fortnightly Year 12 study programme*

Learning hours based on three A-levels, with a total of 30 periods per fortnight

* dependent on 3 or 4 subjects.

At Thomas Gainsborough Sixth Form, our day begins with registration at 8.45am. Following registration, there are three teaching periods (of 100 minutes), with period 1 starting at 9.15am and period 3 finishing at 3.15pm. We have a 20 minute morning break and 40 minute lunchtime.

Every student's timetable will be different, reflecting your individual subject choices, enrichment options and time with your tutor.



The TGS Experience – Supra Curricular

Sixth Forms in the Unity Schools Partnership offer students a Supra-Curricular programme of activities alongside their chosen academic subjects. This “Supra” programme aims to go above and beyond specific academic course content, enhancing the curriculum through subject based stretch and challenge, while also enabling our students to be “Future ready”, by offering timetabled personal development and enrichment opportunities along with support for post-18 choices.

Supra-Curricular is different to an opt in extra-curricular programme (we still have these clubs and societies), as it combines and timetables different strands of activities and opportunities to offer students life skills and better prepare them for university life, apprenticeships and future employment.

At TGS, our students have multiple opportunities to develop their leadership skills (Head Students, Subject Ambassadors, Charity Committee, Student Council) as well as participate in voluntary and community work (World Challenge, local schools, charities, Race for Life).

We offer numerous trips and visits to support your future choices, such as visits to Cambridge and other local universities along with local and regional employers like Jaguar Racing. Our A-Level and AAQ subjects offer a variety of activities and educational visits to support the curriculum.

Our courses

We strongly encourage you to be realistic about your abilities and choose subjects where your forecast or predicted grades meet our entry criteria, and where the route of study matches learning preferences in terms of coursework and examination performance.

A-Levels

We provide a range of A-Levels at TGS. You have the unique opportunity to start your studies with four A-Levels, dropping down to three A-Levels, if preferable, during Year 12. This trial approach can really aid subject decision making, as many students find it hard to select three subjects initially. Equally, you may decide to select three A-Levels (which is the norm), or a combination of A-Levels and Alternative Academic Qualifications. Assessment for A-Levels can be examination and / or coursework based, but is typically dominated by marks from examinations at the end of the two year course.

Level 3 Diplomas & Alternative Academic Qualifications

The Level 3 Diplomas / AAQs we offer qualify for points on the 'UCAS Tariff' for entry into higher education, in the same way that A-Level qualifications do. These subjects can be taken alongside A-Level courses to build up an individual programme of study. A significant proportion of the course content is assessed internally through the completion of coursework / Non-Examined Assessment, which means you can keep improving and do not need to rely solely on exam results.

Additional Studies

Additional studies courses aim to deepen your understanding of a subject or broaden your knowledge in a particular field. By selecting this option, you demonstrate not only your commitment to learning but also your intellectual curiosity and passion. Universities and employers often value these activities as they showcase your dedication to going above and beyond the standard requirements, and contribute to a well-rounded and intellectually vibrant educational experience.

Maths / English GCSE Resits

These are compulsory courses for all students who achieve a Grade of 3 or less in their GCSEs.



Scan the QR code
for up-to-date course
information



How to choose your courses

PATHWAY

01

Academic Excellence

3-4 A-Levels +
Additional Studies
(EPQ / Core Maths)

You will also have
Supra-Curricular, work
experience in Year
12, and personalised
independent careers
guidance.

Entry requirements

5 GCSEs at Grade 5+,
including English &
Maths (Grade 6+ for
Science subjects and
Grade 7 for Maths)

PATHWAY

02

Mixed Programme

Combination of
A-Levels + AAs

You will also have
Supra-Curricular, work
experience in Year
12, and personalised
independent careers
guidance.

Entry requirements

5 GCSEs at Grade 5+,
including English &
Maths* or BTEC
Merit/Pass

*You will re-sit GCSE
Maths or English
Language (if required)

PATHWAY

03

Vocational Focus

Primarily AAs
(equivalent to 3
A-Levels)

You will also have
Supra-Curricular, work
experience in Year
12, and personalised
independent careers
guidance.

Entry requirements

5 GCSEs at Grade 4+,
including English &
Maths* or BTEC
Merit/Pass

*You will re-sit GCSE
Maths or English
Language (if required)

Please check individual subjects
for specific Grade entry criteria

Your application journey

There are many opportunities to find out more about studying with us and to decide if Thomas Gainsborough Sixth Form is right for you.

BEFORE YOU APPLY

POST-16 EVENINGS SEPT – OCT 2025

Our Director of Sixth Form will attend a number of Post-16 events and information evenings hosted by partner schools.

These events allow students and their parents or carers to find out about the Sixth Form centres in the area.

OPEN EVENING 13th NOVEMBER 2025

The TGS Open Evening will enable students, parents and carers to tour our site, see our facilities and attend introductory talks. You will be able to speak to our current students and staff to find out more.

TIME TO APPLY

OFFERS FROM DECEMBER 2025

Offers are emailed individually to confirm your subject choices and the specific entry requirements.

GUIDANCE MEETINGS FROM NOVEMBER 2025

These 1:1 meetings (parents or carers are welcome to join you) aim to discuss your application, subject choices and how these decisions support your wider future plans. No verbal offers are made at this stage.

APPLICATIONS OPEN 13TH NOV 2025

APPLICATION DEADLINE 19TH DEC 2025

AFTER YOU APPLY

TASTER DAY 1ST JULY 2026

Join us for this important transitional step. You will find out more about studying at Thomas Gainsborough Sixth Form and meet key staff and your fellow students.

RESULTS AND ENROLMENT 20TH AUGUST 2026

We hope you gain the GCSE Grades needed for your programme of study and offer, but if this isn't the case, you will be invited to a guidance meeting.

FIRST DAY 3RD SEPTEMBER 2026

Your first day as a student in our Sixth Form! You will meet your tutor, find out more about the year ahead, enrichment options and expectations before your timetabled lessons begin.



Our lives and world are rich in complex visual imagery.

Studying A-Level Art and Design will give you the knowledge and skills to read and interpret visual language from a range of contexts and cultures, both contemporary and historical. Many of the skills you will learn as an artist are transferable; creative decision making, self-discipline, reflection and collaboration are all extremely useful across a range of careers.

At TGS, students may choose from the following A-level Art specialisms/courses; Fine Art, 3D Design, Graphics or Textiles.

Biology is the study of living organisms and how these interact with each other and their environments.

It literally means 'the study of life'! Students will learn about the natural world and all of the living things within it. Biology is an ideal choice if you are interested in the rapidly changing fields of genetics and biotechnology. There has never been a more exciting time to be studying Biology.



Businesses are all around us, with the majority of people working for or running their own business at some point in their lives.

The AAQ Business course is designed to provide an insight into the world of business and will enable students to develop a holistic appreciation for business concepts and strategy.

LEADING TO FUTURES IN:

Creative industries are thriving in the UK. Studying Art and Design at A-Level is a perfect platform for continuing onto foundation and specialist degree courses. Many students go on to study and pursue careers in diverse fields such as fine art, illustration, animation, fashion, digital design, photography, graphics, illustration, textiles, interiors, architecture, theatre and film.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN:

- ▶ Media and materials?
- ▶ Fine art and print making?
- ▶ Graphics and illustration?
- ▶ Artists and museums?

ADDITIONAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

Grade 5 or above in GCSE Art & Design

COURSE DETAILS:

AQA A-Level Art

LEADING TO FUTURES IN:

Biology can equip students to pursue a degree and career in many fields such as medicine, research science, zoology, marine biology, pharmacy, ecology and many more. Studying A-Level Biology not only provides routes into specific subjects and careers for the future but also gives each student opportunities to gain a wide range of transferable skills such as researching, working with a team, evaluating information and carrying out data analysis.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN:

- ▶ The human body?
- ▶ How science contributes to modern society?
- ▶ Disease risk factors and medical developments?
- ▶ Our environment, plants, animals and human impacts?

ADDITIONAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

Grade 6 in GCSE Maths, Grade 6 in GCSE Biology or Grade 6/6 in GCSE Combined Science or BTEC Level 2 Merit

COURSE DETAILS:

AQA A-Level Biology

LEADING TO FUTURES IN:

Many AQA Business students go on to study at university, including reading business related subjects such as finance and marketing. Advanced apprenticeship programmes are also a popular option for those completing this course. Careers in finance, marketing, human resources, management and other 'business related' areas are all possibilities for students.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN:

- ▶ How the economy, political decisions, social trends, and technology impact on business?
- ▶ Setting up a business of your own?
- ▶ Understanding why businesses make the decisions they do?
- ▶ Learning more about finance and financial decision making?

ADDITIONAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

Grade 5 in GCSE Maths and English or Grade 5 in GCSE Business Studies

COURSE DETAILS:

AQA in Business

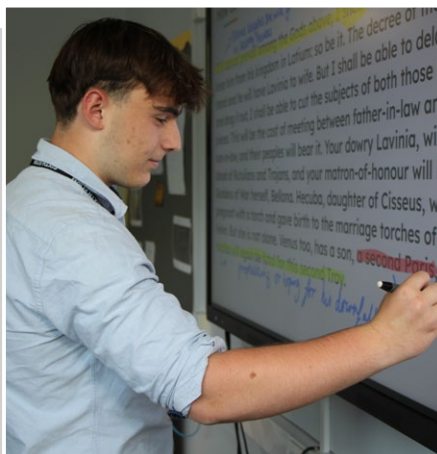


From the moment of birth, we are surrounded by Chemistry.

The air we breathe, the food we eat and the clothes we wear; they're all Chemistry. Chemistry is the study of substances: what they're made of, how they interact with each other and the role they play in living things. From research in space to the depths of the oceans, Chemistry helps students understand the world around us.

A-Level Classical Civilisation provides learners with a broad and rewarding study of classical literature, visual/ material culture, and thought.

The qualification emphasises understanding the social, historical, and cultural contexts of classical works. Students will engage with various sources and ideas, developing analytical skills that are transferable to other subjects and further studies.



A-Level Computer Science is designed to provide students with a deep understanding of computer science principles, programming, and the impact of technology on society.

The course covers a range of topics including programming, algorithms and data structures, computer systems, networks, along with the ethical implications of technology and its impact on society. This course will develop your technical understanding and ability to analyse and solve problems using computational thinking.

LEADING TO FUTURES IN:

Future pathways can cross over to the other sciences or venture into biochemistry, geochemistry, chemical engineering or physical chemistry, medicine, chemical engineering, veterinary science, anatomy and physiology. Future careers and sectors include government agencies, environmental agencies, consultancy, hospitals, universities, public health laboratories, testing companies, manufacturers (pharmaceuticals, food, energy sources, materials, polymers, biotechnology, paint or chemicals).

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN:

- ▶ Practical Chemistry?
- ▶ Applications of science?
- ▶ Problem solving?
- ▶ Scientific research?

ADDITIONAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

Grade 6 in GCSE Maths, Grade 6 in GCSE Chemistry or Grade 6/6 in GCSE Combined Science

COURSE DETAILS:

AQA A-Level Chemistry

LEADING TO FUTURES IN:

A-Level Classical Civilisation is a gateway to many university courses including latin, classics, and ancient history. It is also popular amongst law students and students of philosophy. It is unique in that it equips you with a range of skills which are even applicable to the history of art, architecture and archaeology. This qualification equips individuals with strong writing and critical thinking skills, leading to careers in the Civil Service, teaching, research, publishing and more.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN:

- ▶ History?
- ▶ Government and Politics?
- ▶ The development of societies and cultures?
- ▶ Archaeology?

ADDITIONAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

Grade 5 or above in GCSE English Language

COURSE DETAILS:

OCR A-Level Classical Civilisation

LEADING TO FUTURES IN:

Many students go on to study computer science, software engineering or a web applications course at university. Other options might be digital forensics, robotics, game design or remote sensing. The list of possible areas of study is long and growing all the time as new applications for technology are invented.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN:

- ▶ Computer programming?
- ▶ Engineering?
- ▶ How the Internet works?
- ▶ Mathematical thinking and problem solving?

ADDITIONAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

Grade 5 or above in GCSE English Language, Maths, Science and Computer Science

COURSE DETAILS:

AQA A-Level Computer Science



A-Level Dance is an active, physically demanding, intellectually stimulating and, most importantly, fun course to study.

The curriculum offers an in-depth exploration of professional works by a diverse range of choreographers, fostering a deep understanding of their techniques and encouraging students to apply them in practice. Emphasizing hands-on learning, the course focuses on refining technique, broadening movement vocabulary, and enhancing performance skills through regular practice. Students also benefit from numerous opportunities to attend live professional performances and engage in workshops led by visiting industry practitioners.

A-Level Drama and Theatre Studies offers a highly practical and challenging course which fully prepares students for the rigors of Higher Education.

The specification is designed to promote an excellent balance between practical devising and theoretical exploration. While there is a considerable focus on practical theatre, students should be aware that this combines with analytical and written components.



Economics explores how the forces of demand and supply allocate scarce resources across individuals, businesses, and entire nations.

The subject addresses real-world issues such as sugar taxes, minimum alcohol pricing, strategies to reduce unemployment, changes to income tax, and the global impact of rapidly expanding markets such as India and Nigeria. Students develop strong essay-writing skills alongside solid numeracy. Quantitative skills are a vital component of the course, including the ability to calculate and interpret ratios, fractions, percentages, index numbers, averages, and graphical data.

LEADING TO FUTURES IN:

A natural progression would be to study dance, choreography or musical theatre at university or a vocational college. Other pathways include creative industries, analytical courses, and those that require teamwork, confidence and listening skills.

* Students with a strong dance or gymnastics background would also be considered

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN:

- ▶ Performance - Working in groups in a creative context?
- ▶ Choreography and/or musical theatre?
- ▶ Creating original movement and compositions?
- ▶ Understanding cultural and historical contexts of dance?

ADDITIONAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

Grade 5 or above in GCSE Dance or a Merit or above in a Level 2 Performing Arts course*

COURSE DETAILS:

AQA A-Level Dance

LEADING TO FUTURES IN:

Drama students progress into a diverse range of further education, apprenticeships, and employment opportunities. These include joining professional drama companies, working in theatre, television, or film production, and pursuing careers in stage management, lighting and set design, or arts administration.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN:

- ▶ Performance - Working in groups in a creative context?
- ▶ Developing strong communication skills?
- ▶ Musical theatre?
- ▶ Learning about how plays are structured?

ADDITIONAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

Grade 5 or above in GCSE English Language and GCSE Drama (although not essential)

COURSE DETAILS:

Eduqas A-Level Drama and Theatre Studies

LEADING TO FUTURES IN:

A-level Economics can be a gateway to numerous future employment, apprenticeship and further education options, ranging from business management, the Financial Services sector, economic analysis, marketing, the Civil Service and politics.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN:

- ▶ The financial impact of rising energy costs?
- ▶ Worldwide poverty and inequality?
- ▶ Current affairs and politics?
- ▶ Mathematical reasoning?

ADDITIONAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

Grade 5 or above in GCSE English Language, Maths and Science

COURSE DETAILS:

AQA A-Level Economics



English Language challenges students both to analyse texts and to write their own.

In doing so, students develop their own original writing skills and the ability to analyse both written and spoken language varieties. Students are also encouraged to collect their own research data for highly rewarding individual projects. Students develop a greater understanding of the ways in which we use language, widely increasing their communication skills for future roles.

An A-Level in English Literature enables students to develop their ability to analyse, evaluate and make connections.

The course is academically challenging, highly rewarding and extremely popular. Students follow a lively and varied programme of study, with opportunities to read and discuss a wide range of texts, issues and authors. This ability to read and articulate complex concepts will always be valuable in a wide range of contexts.



In an era marked by escalating environmental challenges, it is essential to develop practical solutions that promote the long-term sustainability of our planet.

Studying Environmental Science plays a vital role in this endeavour. Through this course, students will gain a deeper understanding of the current state of Earth's ecosystems and the pressing issues we face. By engaging with real-world case studies and hands-on experiments, they will learn to collect and analyse data effectively, applying principles from biology, chemistry, and physics to investigate environmental problems and devise informed, science-based solutions.

LEADING TO FUTURES IN:

As well as English at university, the course provides an excellent foundation for numerous other courses and career opportunities including linguistics, journalism and the media, teaching, publishing, advertising and the legal profession.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN:

- ▶ Reading?
- ▶ Developing your own editorial and writing skills?
- ▶ Analysing texts and exploring the effective use of language?
- ▶ Learning about grammar and its usage?

ADDITIONAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

Grade 5 or above in GCSE English Language

COURSE DETAILS:

AQA A-Level English Language

LEADING TO FUTURES IN:

Being able to read and articulate complex concepts will always be valuable in a wide range of contexts, from journalism, publishing, teaching, advertising and the legal profession.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN:

- ▶ Reading widely?
- ▶ Exploring and sharing ideas?
- ▶ Developing your analytical skills and essay writing?
- ▶ Discussing literary texts?

ADDITIONAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

Grade 5 or above in English Language and English Literature

COURSE DETAILS:

OCR A-Level English Literature

LEADING TO FUTURES IN:

Students can pursue roles in environmental consultancy, conservation, and sustainability, working with governments, NGOs, or private companies to address pressing ecological issues. Opportunities also exist in research and academia, where individuals contribute to scientific understanding and innovation. Alternatively, environmental law provides a route to advocate for stronger legal protections for the planet. Students with a passion for problem-solving and technical skills may also transition into science or engineering, applying their knowledge to renewable energy, pollution control, or climate modelling.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN:

- ▶ The sustainability of our planet?
- ▶ Investigating real-life case studies?
- ▶ Learning more about climate change?
- ▶ Researching the biological environment?

ADDITIONAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

Grade 5 in GCSE Maths, Grade 5/5 in GCSE Combined Science or Grade 5 in Biology, Grade 5 in GCSE English plus a Grade 5 in GCSE Geography (if studied)

COURSE DETAILS:

AQA A-Level Environmental Science



Film Studies explores the dominant art form of the 20th Century.

Students have an opportunity to develop a detailed knowledge and appreciation of how film makes meaning and generates responses. The course provides opportunities to experience aspects of practical film making, including cinematography, editing and sound design, whilst encouraging appreciation of Hollywood cinema, silent film, experimental cinema, and key historical movements.

This Food Science and Nutrition course is ideal for students interested in the science behind food and its impact on health and well-being.

This course combines theoretical knowledge with practical skills, covering areas such as food safety, nutrition, food production, and the relationship between diet and health. Students will explore real-world issues like food sustainability and dietary needs, while developing skills in research, analysis, and food preparation.



The A-Level French course develops essential language skills, including listening, speaking, reading, and writing, while also broadening students' understanding of the cultures and societies where French is spoken.

These skills are strengthened through in-depth research and discussion of various topics in both written and spoken French, making the course ideal for students with a keen interest in international cultures and linguistics.

LEADING TO FUTURES IN:

The UK hosts a thriving film and production industry, with those who study Film Studies going on to study the subject further or move into employment or apprenticeships in film, radio, television and journalism.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN:

- ▶ Film?
- ▶ Documentaries?
- ▶ Cinematography?
- ▶ Editing and sound design?

ADDITIONAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

Grade 5 or above in GCSE English Language or English Language

COURSE DETAILS:

Eduqas A-Level Film Studies

LEADING TO FUTURES IN:

This course can lead to a wide variety of careers across the food, health, and education sectors, including roles such as dietitian, nutritionist, food scientist, food technologist, product manager, environmental health officer, supermarket food buyer, and scientist for the Food Standards Agency.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN:

- ▶ Understanding how food affects health?
- ▶ Scientific exploration?
- ▶ Healthy lifestyles?
- ▶ Food innovation?

ADDITIONAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

Grade 5 or above in GCSE Food Nutrition and Preparation (not Food Technology)

COURSE DETAILS:

WJEC Level 3 Diploma in Food Science and Nutrition (AAQ)

LEADING TO FUTURES IN:

Studying a language can be beneficial for those that have an interest in international business, travel and tourism, interpreting and translating, Law, international relations and diplomatic work.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN:

- ▶ How language works?
- ▶ Living or working abroad?
- ▶ Social and cultural issues?
- ▶ Studying the literature and films of foreign cultures?

ADDITIONAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

Grade 5 or above in GCSE French or substantial experience of speaking the language either at home or while living abroad

COURSE DETAILS:

AQA A-Level French



Further Maths is ideal for students with a strong interest in mathematical thinking and a desire to explore it beyond A-Level.

If you choose to study Further Maths, you must also study A-Level Maths. The Maths and Further Maths courses are taught in separate classes, giving you the equivalent of two full subjects' worth of teaching time. Further Mathematics extends the Pure Maths content from A-Level Maths and introduces new topics such as matrices and complex numbers

A-Level Geography is a fascinating course that covers a wide range of perspectives, from the local to the global.

This means that Geographers develop in-depth knowledge of the processes and interactions in the physical and human worlds that shape our Earth. This discipline suits those who are curious, who like to travel and explore, and those who wish to become more aware and engaged global citizens. Learning in Geography is underpinned by a huge range of source materials: magazines, news media, documentary and film. Teaching is broad and varied and includes regular and routine practice of vital geographical skills such as producing digital maps, data analysis, planning and undertaking fieldwork.



The A-Level German course provides students with the opportunity to build strong communication skills across listening, speaking, reading, and writing.

Alongside language development, students explore the history, traditions, and contemporary issues in Germany. Through interactive discussions and independent study, learners gain valuable insights into European culture and enhance their ability to express complex ideas. This course is an excellent choice for those interested in languages, global affairs, and cross-cultural communication.

LEADING TO FUTURES IN:

Degree courses that benefit from A-Level Further Maths include economics, medicine, architecture, engineering, accountancy, teaching, psychology, physics and information technology.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN:

- ▶ The language of the universe?
- ▶ How real-life situations are modelled with Mathematics?
- ▶ How organisations make decisions based on statistics and modelling?
- ▶ Computer programming?

ADDITIONAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

Grade 8 in GCSE Maths

COURSE DETAILS:

Pearson Edexcel A-Level Further Maths

LEADING TO FUTURES IN:

The study of A-Level Geography can lead to the study of a wide range of related courses, from disaster management to volcanology. Universities value the global perspectives that A-Level Geography students gain. Careers in geography include the law, public services, Geographical Information Systems, data analysis, international relations, business, finance, and environmental research.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN:

- ▶ The challenges facing the environment?
- ▶ Understanding the concept of place?
- ▶ The pressures and opportunities of populations?
- ▶ The impact of natural hazards on society?
- ▶ Fieldwork and research?

ADDITIONAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

Grade 5 in GCSE Geography

COURSE DETAILS:

AQA A-Level Geography

LEADING TO FUTURES IN:

Studying a language like German opens the door to a wide range of careers where multilingual skills are an asset (especially in today's increasingly globalised world). These include fields such as accounting, public relations, journalism, advertising, law, international marketing, and administration. Additionally, more traditional language-based careers such as translation and interpreting remain in high demand, offering further opportunities for those with strong linguistic abilities.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN:

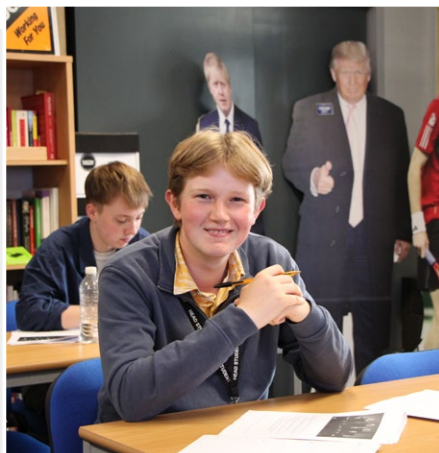
- ▶ How language works?
- ▶ Living or working abroad?
- ▶ Social and cultural issues?
- ▶ Studying the literature and films of foreign cultures?

ADDITIONAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

Grade 5 or above in GCSE German or substantial experience of speaking the language either at home or while living abroad

COURSE DETAILS:

AQA A-Level German



Students study the workings of government and political culture in the United Kingdom and the United States.

Political ideas such as liberalism, conservatism, socialism and nationalism are analysed, along with current events, issues, controversies and scandals in conjunction with political theory and historical developments. Every day, Downing Street and the White House, Parliament and Congress, Fleet Street and Wall Street will raise important issues for debate.

This course introduces the knowledge needed by practitioners in the Health, Early Years Education and Social Care sectors.

Students explore settings and services, analyse how these meet the needs of client groups, and analyse how legislation protects the rights of vulnerable groups. Students also discuss current social problems and learn how historic cases have helped inform modern provision.



History is a fascinating subject which encourages students to consider the role of individuals, events and key themes and their contributions to our past.

It offers parallels with our society today, helping us to explain current events and issues. Everyone has a connection with the past; it is about discovering which aspect of the past unlocks an individual's interest.

LEADING TO FUTURES IN:

This course supports multiple higher education and future career pathways including finance, the media, international relations, Civil Service, local government and planning.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN:

- ▶ Politics and Law?
- ▶ Civil Service?
- ▶ Local Government?
- ▶ Media Management?

ADDITIONAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

Grade 5 or above in GCSE English Language

COURSE DETAILS:

Pearson Edexcel A-Level Government and Politics

LEADING TO FUTURES IN:

A Health and Social Care qualification will not only enable access to Higher Education courses ranging from midwifery to social policy, but also health sciences such as biomedical science. It will also provide a route to large number of healthcare roles such as health care assistant, pathology laboratory assistant or youth worker.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN:

- ▶ Who is responsible for the quality of care in public services?
- ▶ The importance of individual needs and choice in care provision?
- ▶ Supporting people to live with long-term conditions?
- ▶ Ensuring equal and fair access to health and social care services?

ADDITIONAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

Beneficial if BTEC Level 2 has been studied

COURSE DETAILS:

AAQ Health and Social Care

LEADING TO FUTURES IN:

Many students go on to study History further at university, but a variety of other options are available due to the transferable skills students develop. These include communication skills (both written and verbal) and the ability to critically evaluate evidence, arguments, and interpretations. History is highly regarded by employers and will equip students for many different occupations, including teaching, law, journalism and working in the Civil Service.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN:

- ▶ Analysing information?
- ▶ Discussion and debate?
- ▶ Research and the evaluation of evidence?
- ▶ Independent reading?

ADDITIONAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

Grade 5 in GCSE History

COURSE DETAILS:

Pearson Edexcel A-Level History



This is a practical, career-focused qualification designed for students interested in the digital world.

This course provides a strong foundation in key areas such as IT systems, data management, cybersecurity, and website development. Through hands-on projects and real-world scenarios, students develop valuable skills in problem-solving, digital communication, and project management.

Studying Law provides students with a deep understanding of the legal system and its role in modern society.

It also increases awareness of individual rights and responsibilities. Through exploring legal principles and their application to real-life situations, students develop valuable skills in analysis, decision-making, critical thinking, and problem-solving. These transferable skills are highly regarded by universities and employers alike.



A-Level Mathematics is a highly regarded qualification and most importantly, when studied with enthusiasm and determination, this course will be a great deal of fun.

The focus throughout the course will be on problem solving, developing resilience and logical thinking as well as exploring the links between the various aspects of mathematics. A-Level Mathematics supports a wide range of other A-Level courses such as Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Psychology, Geography and Business studies.

LEADING TO FUTURES IN:

The qualification is ideal for those aiming to pursue further study or careers in IT, software development, business technology, game or website design or digital media.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN:

- ▶ How computers are used in the business environment?
- ▶ How social media works in the business world?
- ▶ Website development?
- ▶ Understanding the use of cloud technologies?

ADDITIONAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

Grade 4 and above in GCSE Computer Science or Grade 4 or above in GCSE ICT or Merit in BTEC IT

COURSE DETAILS:

AAQ in Information Technology

LEADING TO FUTURES IN:

Students could go on to take many degree courses in subjects such as law, history, english, sociology, criminology, business, politics, government and accounting, and economics. There are many other future pathways including “fast-track” Policing programmes.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN:

- ▶ Understanding how society works?
- ▶ Justice and fairness?
- ▶ Current affairs and politics?
- ▶ Debating and arguing a case?

ADDITIONAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

Grade 5 or above at GCSE English and in at least one source-based subject i.e. Geography or History

COURSE DETAILS:

AQA A-Level Law

LEADING TO FUTURES IN:

Students with an A-Level Mathematics qualification find the skills and knowledge gained from the course useful when pursuing careers in areas such as medicine, engineering, veterinary science, finance, accounting, computing, science, law and marketing.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN:

- ▶ How real-life situations are modelled with Mathematics?
- ▶ How decisions are made based on statistics?
- ▶ Computer programming?
- ▶ Mathematics for its own sake?

ADDITIONAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

Grade 7 in GCSE Maths

COURSE DETAILS:

Pearson Edexcel A-Level Mathematics



A-Level Music is a subject rich in transferable skills, making it highly valued by both universities and employers.

In this course, students will develop their creativity and technical ability through composing, performing, and analysing music, deepening their understanding of how music works across different styles and genres. A wide range of performance opportunities are available to suit all interests and skill levels.

This dynamic and industry-relevant course is designed for students who are passionate about music and eager to develop their creative and technical abilities.

Through practical, hands-on learning, students explore key areas such as performance, composition, production, and the wider music industry. The course encourages individual expression, collaboration, and a deeper understanding of music in a contemporary context.



This course is designed to inspire learners with a deep interest in ethics, philosophy, and religion, while exploring how these disciplines shape and influence the wider world.

Rooted in the Christian tradition and its impact on Western society, the curriculum examines both classical and contemporary developments in Christian thought. Students will engage with some of the most significant debates in Christian theology, ethical studies, and the philosophy of religion.

LEADING TO FUTURES IN:

Students often go on to pursue roles in performance, composition, music production, sound engineering, and music education. The course also supports progression into specialist fields such as music therapy, arts management, music journalism, and music technology. Whether aiming for a career on stage, in the studio, or behind the scenes, A-Level Music provides a valuable stepping stone into the creative industries and beyond.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN:

- ▶ Performing music?
- ▶ Composing and creating?
- ▶ Listening and analysing?
- ▶ Music technology?

ADDITIONAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

Grade 5 or above in GCSE Music and approximately Grade 5 standard on their chosen instrument or voice

COURSE DETAILS:

Eduqas A-Level Music

LEADING TO FUTURES IN:

This music course opens pathways into roles such as music producer, recording engineer, composer, front of house sound engineer, health and safety officer, and touring technician. Whether working behind the scenes or in creative production, students gain the foundation to thrive in the dynamic and evolving music industry.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN:

- ▶ Music technology?
- ▶ Composing music?
- ▶ Recording techniques?
- ▶ Demonstrating your musical understanding?

ADDITIONAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

Grade 5 or above in GCSE Music, or a Merit or above in a BTEC or RSL Level 2

COURSE DETAILS:

RSL Level 3 Diploma in Music (AAQ)

LEADING TO FUTURES IN:

This course links well to many undergraduate options, including law, psychology, education, philosophy, literature, politics and economics, to name just a few. Students move into a variety of future careers such as law, medicine, public services, the police, NHS, teaching and politics.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN:

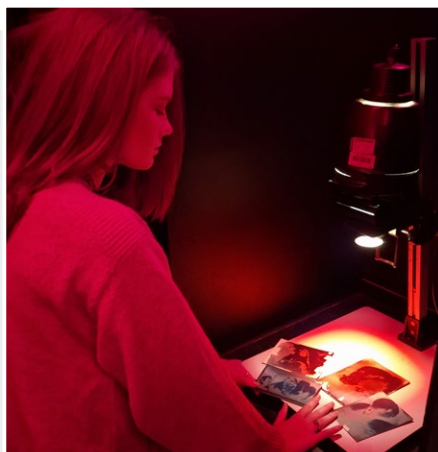
- ▶ The role of ethics and religion in contemporary issues?
- ▶ Why there are conflicting views on morality?
- ▶ Whether we have the right to end human life?
- ▶ Can we prove that God exists?

ADDITIONAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

Grade 5 or above in GCSE Religious Studies is recommended

COURSE DETAILS:

OCR A-Level Religious Studies



If you have vision, are creative, self-motivated and love photography, then this would be an excellent course for you to develop your skills.

The digital world is developing at such a rapid rate, with images at the forefront of everything. This course enables students to learn how to create this content professionally. It is an incredibly exciting time to study the subject, whether focussed on documentary, commercial or artistic in terms of style. The combination of creative brief, small group work, computer editing and on shoot location provides a great balance to the course, enabling the development of a variety of roles and skills.

By studying PE, students will discover how the body works, learn about the health benefits of physical activity and how performance can be enhanced, analysed and monitored.

Topics include, sports psychology, nutrition, fitness, injury prevention, injury management and the sports industry. PE goes well with other subjects; for a career in a PE related area, you might also consider taking Biology or Psychology.



Do you enjoy independent problem solving and working things out for yourself?

Do you enjoy practical science and want to learn how to use advanced scientific equipment like oscilloscopes, lasers and radioactive materials? Do you enjoy thinking about the big questions of life, time and the universe? Then Physics is for you! Physics is all about the fundamental laws which govern how the world works. Through careful experimentation, research and analysis you will come to understand these laws, and in doing so enhance your appreciation of the world around you.

LEADING TO FUTURES IN:

A-Level Photography can support a huge number of career paths. This can include film, graphics, advertising, marketing, fashion, illustration, fine art and web design. Specific careers in photography could involve portrait, photo-journalism, scientific, editorial, fashion, sports photography, publicity and freelance work. The creativity and independent idea development will also support a wide range of careers.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN:

- ▶ Using a 35mm film camera and digital SLR?
- ▶ Using a darkroom?
- ▶ Photoshop digital skills?
- ▶ Studio lighting and photography on location?

ADDITIONAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

Grade 5 in GCSE Photography (if studied)

COURSE DETAILS:

AQA A-Level Photography

LEADING TO FUTURES IN:

There are multiple career opportunities including sport science, physiotherapy, personal trainer, leisure management, sports journalism, coaching and teaching.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN:

- ▶ Sport in all its forms?
- ▶ Analysing and improving performance?
- ▶ Performing practically?
- ▶ Coaching and/or improving health and fitness in the community?

ADDITIONAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

Grade 5 or above in GCSE PE. Students must be playing a competitive sport regularly outside of school.

COURSE DETAILS:

OCR A-Level Physical Education

LEADING TO FUTURES IN:

Physics A-Level is an excellent preparation for a broad range of higher education study and scientific apprenticeships. Many students follow this course with a physics related degree. The course also has clear links with a range of other subjects which are popular degree courses such as mathematics, medicine, computing, engineering (electronics, mechanical) and architecture.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN:

- ▶ Fundamental questions?
- ▶ Intellectual challenge?
- ▶ Experimental work?
- ▶ Problem solving?

ADDITIONAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

Grade 6 in GCSE Maths, Grade 6 in GCSE Physics or Grade 6/6 in GCSE Combined Science

COURSE DETAILS:

AQA A-Level Physics



This course is designed to inspire and challenge students with a passion for creativity, innovation, and problem-solving.

Through a dynamic mix of theory and hands-on experience, students gain a strong understanding of product design principles, materials, processes, and emerging technologies. Learning takes place through classroom teaching, practical workshops, and independent project work, encouraging both technical skill and creative thinking.

Psychologists try to understand people through careful controlled observation.

All sciences rely on rigorous scientific methods and in this way, A-Level Psychology is no different to Biology, Physics or Chemistry. However, Psychology does not study molecules or plants, it studies people, their behaviour towards themselves and each other and how they learn and think. Most of the research that psychologists do falls into one of five general areas; developmental, social, physiological, cognitive and individual differences. Students will consider each of these in turn, using previous studies to help them understand the different approaches, and how these lead to different theories and explanations.



Sociology is the study of people in society.

Sociology looks at how our identities and behaviour are shaped by society and by social groups such as our families, friends, schools and mass media. Sociology also tries to explain how and why society is changing. Studying sociology will give students a better understanding of the society we live in and the social influences shaping our lives. Sociology encourages students to look at the social world in a critical way and to answer questions about the society based on evidence rather than just opinions.

LEADING TO FUTURES IN:

A-Level Product Design leads to a wide range of creative and technical careers. Students often go on to study or work in industrial design, architecture, engineering, interior design, and product development. It also supports careers in fashion, furniture design, and sustainable innovation.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN:

- ▶ Applying mathematical and scientific principles in a practical way?
- ▶ Using CAD software?
- ▶ Traditional drawing techniques?
- ▶ The working properties of materials?

ADDITIONAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

Ideally, students will have studied GCSE Design & Technology, Engineering or Art (Graphics/3D Design), gaining a Grade 5 or above

COURSE DETAILS:

Eduqas A-Level Product Design

LEADING TO FUTURES IN:

Many students go on to study a psychology related degree, but it will also prepare students well for other degrees and careers in areas such as biology, sociology, philosophy, maths, counselling, medicine (particularly psychiatry), nursing, nutrition, policing, criminology and forensics. The skills you will develop during the course will be useful for you no matter what field you choose to enter.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN:

- ▶ How the mind works?
- ▶ The relationship between mind and body?
- ▶ Individual differences and mental disorders?
- ▶ The scientific study of the human being?

ADDITIONAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

Grade 5 in GCSE English, Grade 5 in GCSE Biology and Grade 5 in GCSE Maths

COURSE DETAILS:

AQA A-Level Psychology

LEADING TO FUTURES IN:

A-Level Sociology could lead on to further study in a range of subjects and be useful in a multitude of careers. Many students could follow the course with a degree in philosophy, sociology or psychology, but there is always a huge diversity here. Students find the skills and knowledge gained from sociology useful in areas such as medicine, law, human resources and journalism.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN:

- ▶ Social issues?
- ▶ Current affairs?
- ▶ Diversity and difference?
- ▶ Understanding society and social change?

ADDITIONAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

Grade 5 in GCSE English Language or a Humanities Subject at GCSE

COURSE DETAILS:

AQA A-Level Sociology



The A-Level Spanish course enables students to develop confident and effective communication skills in one of the world's most widely spoken languages.

Through studying a range of contemporary themes and cultural topics, learners gain insight into the societies of Spanish-speaking countries. Regular practice in reading, writing, listening, and speaking helps students express themselves clearly and fluently, making this course a strong foundation for those interested in global communication, travel, or international careers.

Students interested in the sports and exercise industry should look no further than this course.

It will provide the knowledge, skills and understanding of how to go far in the sports industry. The course has been designed for students who have a real interest in the theoretical and practical aspects of anatomy and physiology, physical and psychological sports performance, coaching and fitness. It will give the opportunity to develop your knowledge and investigate a wide range of sport, exercise and coaching aspects.



EPQ

The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) offers Sixth Form students the opportunity to study a topic of their choice in depth. It is a free-standing qualification and its purpose is to add a further dimension to Sixth Form studies and to stretch and challenge. It is widely welcomed by universities, with some altering entry requirements for those with a high grade in this qualification. One of the key features of the EPQ is its flexibility, as students are required to produce a substantial piece of work, which can take the form of a research paper, an extended essay, or even a creative project. You can choose to study an EPQ alongside three other subjects.

LEADING TO FUTURES IN:

Language skills are highly sought after in today's global job market, opening doors to careers in international business, translation, diplomacy, tourism, education, and beyond. Through engaging discussions and research in both written and spoken Spanish, students gain practical communication abilities that enhance their employability and global outlook.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN:

- ▶ How language works?
- ▶ Living or working abroad?
- ▶ Social and cultural issues?
- ▶ Studying the literature and films of foreign cultures?

ADDITIONAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

Grade 5 or above in GCSE Spanish or substantial experience of speaking the language either at home or while living abroad

COURSE DETAILS:

AQA A-Level Spanish

LEADING TO FUTURES IN:

This course is aimed at students who have a passion for sport and are looking to follow a career in sports performance, nutrition, coaching/teaching, officiating, journalism, sports psychology or sports medicine. This course can lead on to a range of sports related jobs direct from school, but can also earn UCAS points allowing students to continue their studies at university.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN:

- ▶ Sport in all its facets?
- ▶ The role of sport in the community?
- ▶ The leisure and fitness industry?

ADDITIONAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

Grade 4 in GCSE PE, or VCERT PE Merit

COURSE DETAILS:

AAQ in Sport

CORE MATHS

Core Mathematics is an exciting Mathematics qualification. It is the Maths you need to move on to independent living, as you think about leaving home and getting a job. Core Mathematics makes you more mathematically aware, more employable and less susceptible to the mathematical pitfalls of life. This course is ideal if you enjoy Maths (but are not taking the A-Level), and will support your other A-Level studies. It is widely welcomed by universities, with some altering entry requirements for those with a high grade in this qualification. You can choose Core Maths alongside three other subjects.

ADDITIONAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

Available to students on pathway 1 or 2

COURSE DETAILS:

AQA Extended Project Qualification

AQA L3 Certificate in Mathematical Studies

Finding out more

You are always welcome to come and visit Thomas Gainsborough 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 contact the Sixth Form either by phone **01787 375232** or email: **sixthform@tgschool.net**

If you wish to find out more about Thomas Gainsborough Sixth Form and the school as a whole, you will also find useful information on our website. **Scan the QR code below.**



DISCLAIMER

Every effort is made to ensure the information contained in this Prospectus is accurate at the time of publication. However, due to potential future changes to qualification systems or staffing specialism, Thomas Gainsborough Sixth Form may occasionally need to provide alternative courses to some students.

Transport details



Bus Routes

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

Please be aware that all Post-16 transport is payable, however families may be eligible for a bursary payment to help with the cost.

Scan the QR code below for a full bus route summary.



Walk and Cycle

As a Sixth Form that serves the Great Cornard/Sudbury community, many local students will walk or cycle.



THOMAS
GAINSBOROUGH
SIXTH FORM



Unity Schools Partnership is a family of secondary, primary and special schools located in Suffolk, Essex and Norfolk as well as Romford in East London.