



Teacher of English 2026 (Maternity Cover)

Welcome	2
Our Committed English Team & Facilities	3
Supporting You	4
Professional Development	4
Staff Wellbeing	4
Our School & Community	5
Finding Out More & Joining the Team	5

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 stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke at the bottom.

Craig Lewis (Headteacher)

Our Committed English Team & Facilities

The English team is an excellent group of people to work with. More than anything else, we are very supportive and collaborative, we all have high expectations of ourselves and the students, and we all highly appreciate a good sense of humour.

English is largely taught in purpose built classrooms on the top floor of our award winning main building, with sixth form classes being taught in the sixth form block. We are one of the larger teams within the school in terms of team size and budget, teaching as a core subject in all three Key Stages. The team is made up of fifteen subject specialists, covering a wide range of experience, age and interests, supported by an experienced instructor and the wider Learning Support team.

Nine members of the team have experience as examiners across GCSE and A level in both Language and Literature. As well as a subject leader, there are currently two Teaching and Learning Responsibility holders and a Lead Practitioner who support leadership of Key Stages 3 and 4.

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 team are innovative in their approaches to learning and improvement and are proud in curating a high quality experience for students and each other.



With 280 students in a year group there are ten sets per year in Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4. Thomas Gainsborough School follows the National Curriculum and we have worked as a team to design our own English curriculum for Key Stage 3. At Key Stage 4 all students currently study both Language and Literature GCSEs (AQA).

At Key Stage 5 we offer Language (AQA) and Literature (OCR) A levels and enjoy healthy class sizes. We are very proud that our curriculum reflects our shared investment in improving students' expertise in expression, highly valuing empathy every step of the way.

The enrichment offer that accompanies English is varied and valued, offering support for students in all Key Stages working towards a range of academic goals, as well as various creative writing groups, writing periodicals, debating and public speaking competitions. We run trips to the theatre each year, and are annually visited by a theatre group who perform to year 11s.

The English team at Thomas Gainsborough School is well connected across the wider trust, regularly collaborating with and supporting English teams in a range of schools, and benefiting from shared practice throughout the academic year. We have connections beyond the trust too, and are proud to share practice with educators from a variety of settings.

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, and Teaching & Learning podcast
- 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 and coaching available
- 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 Miss Gail Forster, Assistant Headteacher for English gforster@tgschool.net or call the school to speak to Mrs Mel Griss, Human Resources Manager, 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/

