



Thomas Mills High School
Prospectus 2022/2023

“It's cool to
learn here.”



Welcome to Thomas Mills High School

Thomas Mills High School is consistently one of the county's highest performing schools.

A flourishing 11-18 high school situated in the pleasant and historic town of Framlingham, Suffolk, we set high expectations of our pupils and, together with our well-qualified staff, this leads to excellent teaching and learning. Our pupils make very good progress during their time here and move successfully to university (including Oxbridge), college, training or employment.

There is a thirst for learning amongst our pupils and as a parent once remarked "It's cool to learn here."

Expectations are high and there are excellent working relationships between staff, pupils, parents and Trustees.

Pupils travel to Thomas Mills from across east and central Suffolk, as well as south Norfolk, to experience an academic education of high quality. The school provides a curriculum with a range of options and a site with excellent facilities.

There is an impressive range of extra-curricular activities which supports our pupils as they become confident learners and active members of the community. Visitors often remark on the calm, purposeful and self-disciplined atmosphere. Our school ethos is shaped by our Charter of Values which blends tradition with innovation.

The experience at Thomas Mills High School can truly enrich pupils' lives. Pupils can genuinely deliver and excel in their talents. A bright future starts here!

I hope this prospectus gives you a glimpse of the exciting opportunities on offer at this busy and successful school. We hold an Open Day in the first half of the Autumn Term and two Sixth Form Information Evenings in November. Should you wish to view the school at any other time, please do not hesitate to get in touch. We will be delighted to meet you and show you what we have to offer as a 'World class school'.

Philip Hurst
Headteacher



Our Vision

Our main goal is simple but challenging and enshrines our determination that our pupils have the very best: "We aspire to ensure that all our pupils, irrespective of ability and regardless of anyone's doubts, achieve their potential in full; and we aspire in this way to make Thomas Mills High School the best in the country." Throughout this prospectus you will see our Charter of Twelve Values, which we regard as a central guide to life at Thomas Mills.

Founded in 1979, Thomas Mills High School follows in the tradition of two earlier schools associated with the same name and foundation - the Mills School of 1751 and Mills Grammar School (1902-1979). It is on the site of another forerunner, Framlingham Area Modern School (1937-1979).

Following in their footsteps, we continue to provide a first-class education for the young people of the area, with an emphasis on high standards of achievement in all aspects of school life and the wider world.

Our pupils live up to our expectations of being well mannered, well dressed and well behaved, to work hard and to the best of their ability - and not to be satisfied with less – an ethos passed from old to new pupils created by the special atmosphere at Thomas Mills.

These high expectations lead to a strong culture of success; our examination results at every level are impressive and are matched by our achievements in music, drama and sport as well as our concern for and involvement in the wider community. Overwhelmingly, our pupils are happy and well-motivated.

Our teachers are a key resource; you will find that the Thomas Mills team is made up of dedicated, hard-working, high calibre staff.

Our over-arching aim is to make Thomas Mills a great place to learn, a great place to teach and work and a great school for our whole community.

A young man and woman in school uniforms are sitting at a table in a library. The man is on the left, looking down at a book. The woman is on the right, smiling and looking towards the camera while holding a book. The background is filled with bookshelves.

Meet Hayley

Cellist, Artist and Wolf enthusiast.



‘My year 7 experience of high school has been great. I have enjoyed the diversity of subjects and attending a library club. I enjoy science experiments because there is always an excited buzz around the room. I would like to learn more about science and biology to hopefully study wolf behaviour in the future.’

Hayley only joined Thomas Mills High School in September but has already made the most of every opportunity available to her. Coming from a small local school allowed her to make new connections while strengthening old friendships. She has a wide range of interests and has enthusiastically pursued these in the classroom and through participation in extra-curricular activities like cello lessons, Mindful Mondays, and sport. Hayley already beautifully demonstrates many of the school values such as “a love of learning for its own sake” and “courtesy, self-discipline and respect.”

The Curriculum

We believe in and provide a broad and balanced curriculum in Key Stage 3, with an increasing degree of choice as pupils mature. Our aim is to provide high-quality teaching across a range of established and recognised subjects, which have both educational merit and credibility in the world beyond school, giving our pupils the best possible start to their futures.

Although enjoying academy freedoms, the school largely conforms to the requirements of the National Curriculum (including those for Religious Education). All our resources are carefully allocated, but we endeavour to make extra provision for pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, and to improve literacy skills in Key Stage 3.

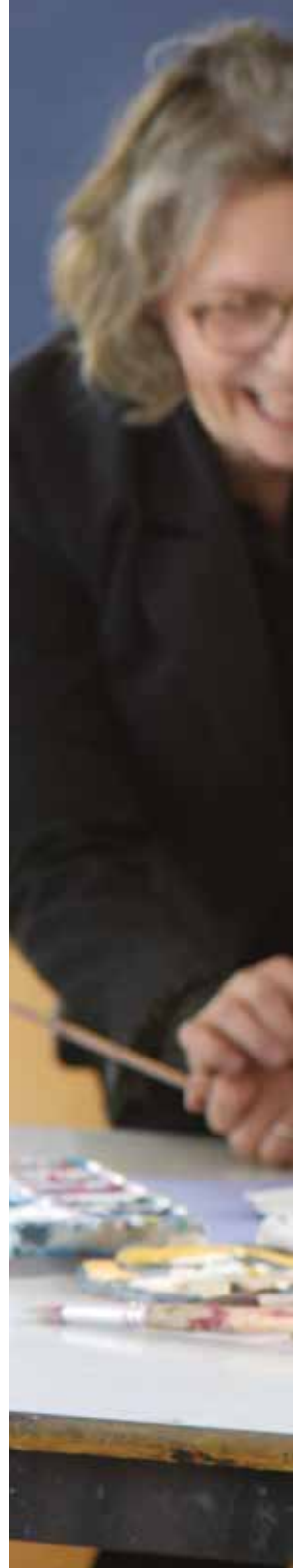
Personal, Social and Health Education is provided across the curriculum and this includes Sex and Relationships Education.

Pupils at Key Stage 3 (Years 7 and 8) follow a common curriculum: English, Mathematics, Science, French, German, Design Technology, History, ICT, Geography, PE, Art, Music, Drama and Religious Studies.

In Key Stage 4 (Years 9, 10 and 11), pupils are able to experience a balance of core and option subjects, with GCSE examinations offered in 13 subjects. The Core subjects are: English (Language and Literature), Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, a Modern Language and History or Geography. Pupils then have a wide choice of other options, which are detailed on our website. All our pupils follow non-exam courses in Religious Studies, PE, Health Education and Careers Education.

Many of our pupils continue into the Sixth Form, where 25 subjects are offered at GCE Advanced Level, including Computer Science, Classical Civilisation, Psychology, PE and Politics. Technical Awards are offered in Business, ICT and in Health and Social Care.

We encourage students, whether from our school or other establishments, to negotiate their courses individually with Sixth Form staff and they are supported in this by their dedicated form tutors.





Our Values

1. A love of learning for its own sake.
2. Vigour and optimism in embracing the future.

We aspire to ensure that all our pupils, irrespective of ability and regardless of anyone's doubts, achieve their potential in full.





Extra-Curricular Activities

Our programme of extra-curricular activities is rich and varied and very much part of the Thomas Mills ethos. Many of our staff are generous contributors to this in some way.

There is a very strong tradition of competitive sport, with over 200 matches and tournaments each year at inter-school and inter-house level. Clubs are run at lunchtimes for both competitive sports and social activities throughout the year. School fixtures take place after school and house fixtures culminate with a Sports Day in July. The PE Department also organises regular trips to watch elite level sport as well as the annual ski trip.

The school Drama productions are always one of the highlights of the year for pupils, parents and staff and have earned an excellent reputation.

We are particularly proud of the quality and variety of extra-curricular Music. Five choirs, two orchestras



and numerous other instrumental ensembles provide opportunities for young musicians to perform at various concerts, competitions and on the biennial music tour abroad. Whilst we have watched many talented pupils progress through the school and go on to further musical education and careers, our ethos is that music and drama is for all and the skills learned from performing are great life lessons.



There are plenty of opportunities for pupils to exercise responsibility in leadership at many levels. This may include taking on the role of Head Boy or Head Girl, being a member of one of the school councils, helping to organise Charity Day or being part of the paired reading and literacy schemes. Undertaking Language Leader and Sports Leader courses are also ways in which pupils learn to engage with their peers.



A large number of pupils work towards the bronze, silver and gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award with weekend expeditions in the local area and further afield. Pupils can begin the bronze award in Year 9, silver in year 10 and gold across years 12 and 13.

There are numerous educational trips, some of which are local, and others, which include two well-established language exchanges, enable pupils to experience life and culture not just in Europe. There have even been expeditions to places as diverse as Botswana, Peru, Borneo and Madagascar in recent years.



Our Values

3. The intrinsic virtue of persistent hard work.

4. Acceptance of personal responsibility.

5. Equal value accorded to all persons.

A young man with short reddish-brown hair and blue eyes, wearing a dark blue school sweater over a light blue collared shirt and a green and blue striped tie, is leaning on a library shelf. He is smiling slightly and looking towards the camera. The shelves are filled with books, including chemistry textbooks and general interest books. The background is a library with more bookshelves and a blurred figure of another person.

Meet Tom

**Confident, country enthusiast
and aspiring farmer.**



‘I’ve been at Thomas Mills High School for almost three and a half years, joining mid-way through year 7 and have had some awesome experiences and challenges. I am very much enjoying my GCSE studies and I was privileged to be involved in the small group of students who helped with the world class schools award which the school gained in 2019. This was an experience I’ll never forget.’

Tom is an outstanding pupil at Thomas Mills High School who is making the most of his time here. He is conscientious and wants to learn and improve, in keeping with the school’s ethos. He played a huge role in the school gaining World Class Schools Status and should be commended for this. There is much more to Thomas Mills High School than just lessons and Tom is making the most of all the wonderful opportunities there are on offer.

Our Facilities

We are incredibly proud of the facilities on offer to our pupils and staff. When you study at Thomas Mills High School you really do benefit from the creative environments spread across our grounds. With a real campus feel, the school has acres of green space for our students to excel in, whether its playing sport or simply enjoying the outdoor seating areas and gardens.

Thanks to the support of The Framlingham Foundation, alongside our excellent team of Music Teachers we provide the next generation of musicians with first class facilities to showcase their talents.

Superb sporting facilities



First-class performance spaces

Green and spacious campus



Modern learning spaces

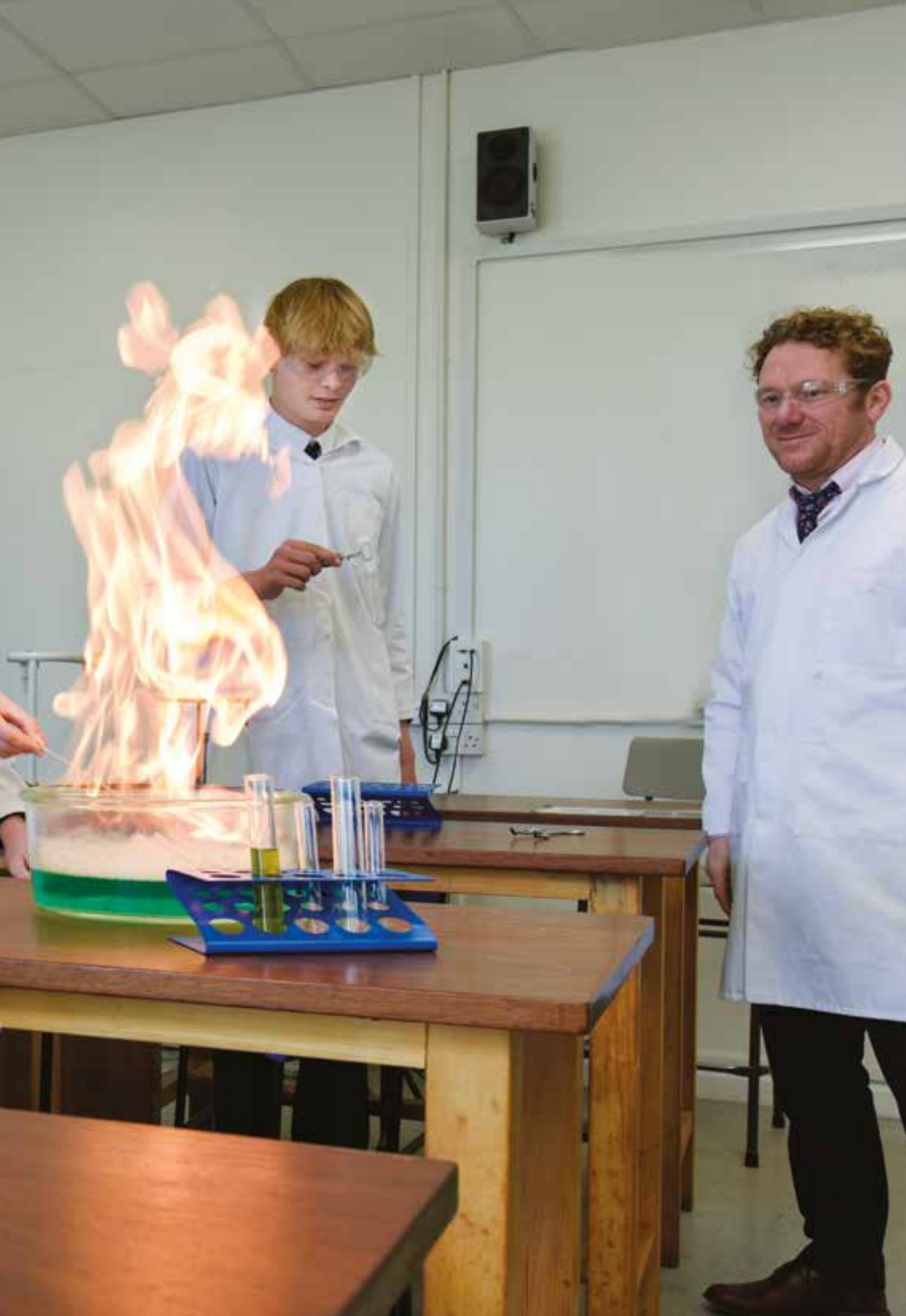
Our Values

6. Courtesy, self-discipline and respect for others.

7. A determination to achieve excellence in all we do.

Our pupils live up to our expectations of being well mannered, well dressed and well behaved, to work hard and to the best of their ability.





A first-class
education for
the young people
of the area.





The Sixth Form

Since 1979, over 5000 students have passed through our Sixth Form, with a high proportion proceeding to undergraduate study or apprenticeships. Those years of experience as a successful centre of Sixth Form education, first as a grammar school and then as a comprehensive school, lay the foundation for a challenging and rewarding education.

As an 11-18 school our Sixth Form is large enough to offer a wide range of courses but retains that key understanding - to value, know and encourage each and every individual.

Our experienced team of GCE Advanced Level and Technical Awards teachers is complemented by a qualified pastoral team who advise students. We know that, at this stage of their education particularly, young people need balanced, knowledgeable advice on a wide range of issues: which course to choose; how to adapt to a new style of teaching; how to organise their time to maximum effect; how to secure the right place in Further or Higher Education or move successfully into employment. Our dedicated team of form tutors has an excellent track record of guiding and supporting students through these important decisions.

There is a strong pastoral emphasis in the Sixth Form and we firmly believe in maintaining a close partnership with parents. We keep parents informed of their son's or daughter's progress by means of regular reports and at least one Parents' Evening every school year.

We are proud that our very successful outcomes are not the result of selection by ability: our open entry policy means that there are students who come into our Sixth Form and achieve success at A Level who would not be given the chance at many other post-16 centres. We believe that it is possible for students of all abilities to achieve excellence – whatever that is for them - and leave the Sixth Form as confident, well-rounded individuals.

There are numerous opportunities to enhance, acquire and develop new skills in leadership, readiness for employment, mentoring and volunteering. Our sixth form students run the school's House System and take an active role in all areas of school life.

We take inspiration from our record of past outcomes and present students' successes and are proud of all that we offer. That inspiration and pride are what drive us forward to ensure our sixth form students have the best experience and education possible and, in turn, we thrive on their successes.





Our Values

8. Honesty, moral courage and integrity.

9. Good fellowship.

Meet Ruby

**Aspiring medic, amateur baker
and determined student.**



'I have been at Thomas Mills since year 7 and have enjoyed every year here.

I took Maths, Chemistry and Biology for A-Level with Physics at AS. In September I will be going to Leeds University to study medicine and one day aim to be a part of Médecins Sans Frontières.

There have been many opportunities offered by the school that strengthened my university application such as 'paired reading', volunteering at the primary school and the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme.

The teachers have genuinely cared about my progress and future aspirations and have supported me throughout my 7 years here, helping me to reach my goal. With an atmosphere that is friendly and accepting, there is a place for everyone at Thomas Mills from maths club to sports clubs to film club in the library.'

A pupil at Thomas Mills since she joined the school in Year 7, Ruby's smile and brightly coloured clothing match her bubbly personality. Just meeting her in a corridor on her way to lessons will lift anyone's spirits. Sociable, reliable and helpful, she is always willing to give time to others. She is extremely hard working and, although she appears to take things in her stride, she has a measured approach to all that she does and says: when Ruby speaks, people listen. She chose to study biology, chemistry and mathematics at A Level and aspires to a career in medicine. Her calm manner and engaging personality will make her an asset to such a profession.



Location

The School's catchment area covers Wickham Market, Framlingham and the surrounding villages, but a significant proportion of the School's population (11-16) are out-of-catchment area pupils as parents make Thomas Mills their school of choice.

The School is situated on the outskirts of the pleasant and historic small town of Framlingham. The castle and church have many associations with the families who, in the Middle Ages, controlled much of East Anglia from their headquarters here. Family names associated with the castle and church are used for the School's six Houses, while the School motto originally belonged to Mary Tudor, who became Queen at Framlingham Castle in 1553.

We welcome pupils from a wide catchment area, including:

Badingham	Earl Soham	Hacheston & Lower Hacheston	Marlesford
Brandeston	Easton		Parham
Charsfield	Framlingham	Hoo	Pettistree
Cransford	Great Glemham	Kettleburgh	Saxtead
Dennington	Glevering	Letheringham	Wickham Market



Applications

Further details on arranging a visit, application deadlines, or how to apply can be found at thomasmills.suffolk.sch.uk or by calling our team on 01728 723493.

Thomas Mills High School
A Department for Education Designated Academy

Saxtead Road
Framlingham
Woodbridge
Suffolk
IP13 9HE



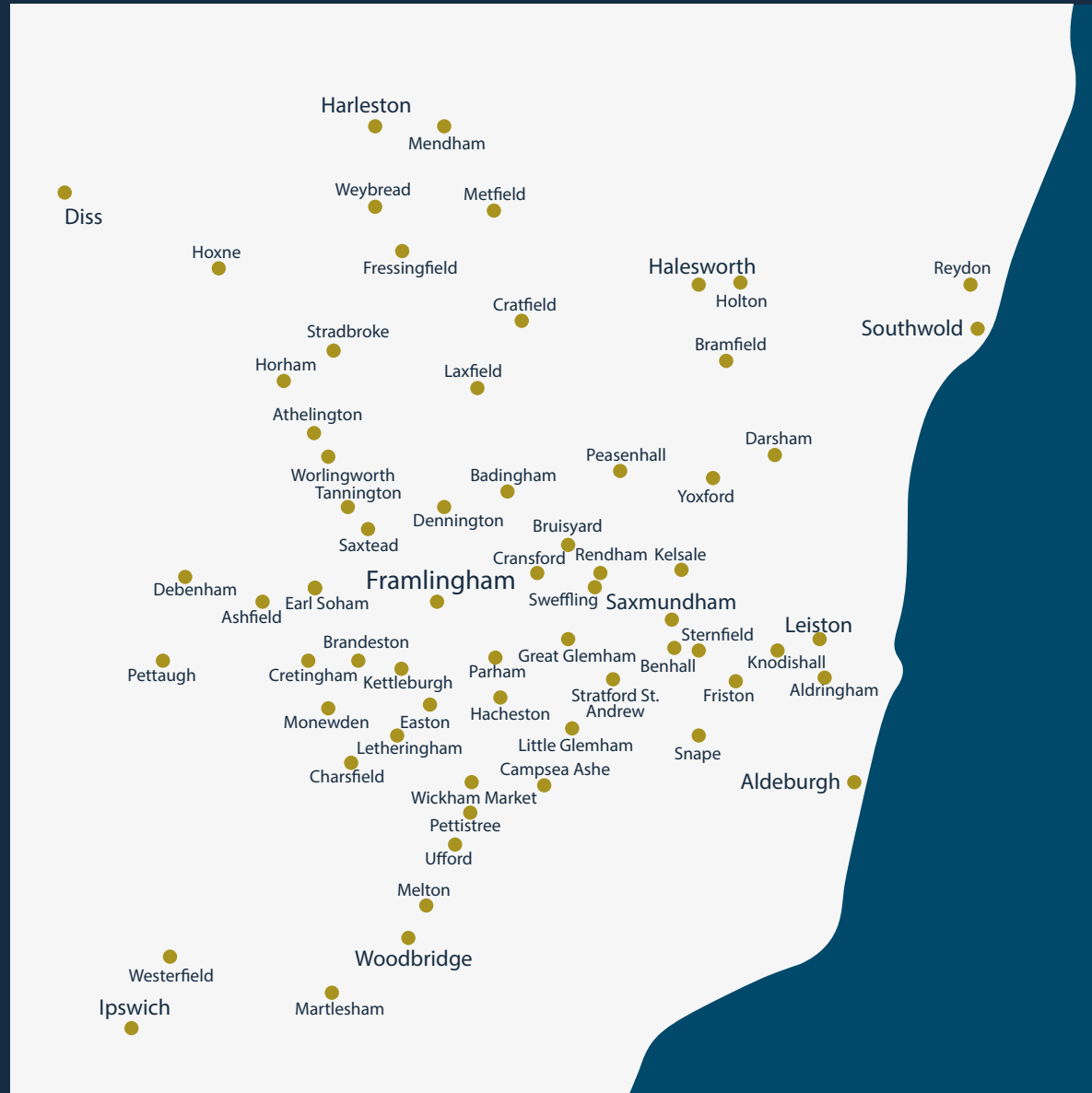
Watch our
video about
life at our
school

Our Values

10. Service to others.

**11. Leadership
and enterprise.**

**12. Respect for the
traditions and the
achievements of
the school.**



www.thomasmills.suffolk.sch.uk