Welcome to BFS Sixth Form

The Bristol Free School Sixth Form opened in September 2016. Our curriculum is delivered in brand new, purpose-built facilities that were shaped and developed by our students. These include exclusive social and study spaces as well as a separate refectory.

Our Sixth Form provides an exciting range of curricular and extra-curricular opportunities. We offer a good range of A Level and some BTEC Level 3 Nationals, so that students can find the course combinations which equip them to achieve their ambitions, either moving on to university, training or employment.

We were delighted to be judged as Good in our first Ofsted inspection in March 2018. Inspectors commented on our ‘clear aspirational environment’ and that ‘students make good progress across our wide range of subjects.’

As well as our reputation for high academic standards BFS Sixth Form is passionate about offering its students a high level of pastoral support, offering an engaging environment and ensuring all students have the opportunity to take part in a wide range of extra-curricular and enrichment activities from a range of sport to Model United Nations to Jazz Band.

BFS Sixth Form prides itself on ensuring our students have positive relationships with peers and with teachers so that they can maximise their progress. Inspectors said ‘Positive relationships between teachers and students assist their learning and progress’ and that ‘Students value the support they receive from staff for both academic and pastoral needs.’

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For further information do not hesitate to contact the Sixth Form Team on 0117 959 7200 or email sixthform@bristolfreeschool.org.uk. You can also follow us on twitter @6thBFS.

Results

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INTERNAL CANDIDATES
Students in the current BFS Year 11 should let their Tutor know that they want to stay on for Sixth Form, and we very much hope to see most of our students back. But students should also feel free to talk informally to subject staff about the courses that they are considering for next year. During the autumn term, each student will be given an interview with an appropriate member of staff, who will discuss initial course choices in relation to longer term plans for employment and university. An application form should nevertheless be submitted by the deadline. We understand that course choices may change after GCSE results, in particular when students exceed their target grades.

EXTERNAL CANDIDATES
External candidates can contact the Sixth Form team at any point before the application deadline to arrange a course choices interview like the one being offered to Year 11. These students are also very welcome to visit BFS during the school day to become more familiar with the school community. A formal application must be submitted by the deadline. External candidates are expected to join summer induction and social activities before the formal start to the term in September, as this acts as a great introduction into Sixth Form life at BFS.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
5 GCSEs at grade 4-9 with specific requirements for each course. Some courses and combinations of courses will require a minimum grade 5 in English and Maths. As with all other Sixth Forms and Colleges, some of the courses we are offering may not run if there is not sufficient uptake from students. We will confirm which courses are running following Sixth Form interviews.

Candidates for the Sixth Form may be in Year 11 at Bristol Free School or following courses at other schools. All candidates, both internal and external, will be invited to discuss course options in the Sixth Form. For acceptance on a particular course candidates are expected to meet the minimum entry requirements for the course (see course guide). For some courses there are limits on the number of students who can be enrolled.

Admission to the Sixth Form

The New BTEC Level 3 Nationals are equivalent to A Levels and have both coursework and external examinations as part of their make-up (See Course Booklet for how each course is assessed). They carry the same UCAS points as A Levels and are recognised by all universities and employers. Both A Levels and BTEC Level 3 Nationals have continuation criteria for second year entry on to the course, but we expect all students to continue and to be committed to a two year programme of study from the outset.

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Principles & Purpose
The programme provides an innovative approach to exploring key values and acts as a foundation stone for employability initiatives within the school. It provides a strategic framework around which our employability capability is developed from Year 7 to 13.

 Provision and Impact
To date we have made provision for key note speakers running career talks and seminars, and held regular ‘business breakfastes’, attracting involvement and ongoing engagement from employers. Our Enterprise days and STEM days have been both innovative and highly effective in reinforcing the need for well developed employability skills and we recently received the South West Award for best STEM activity. We have already made strong links with Bristol University and the University of the West of England (UWE), and have had students chosen to be part of their university entry schemes providing them with an unprecedented opportunity to experience life at university.

Specific support for university, employment or careers:
• The Duke of Edinburgh’s Award
• A full and varied programme of keynote speakers from industry and employment
• Extensive enrichment opportunities via our Subject Guru talks and seminars
• Enhanced Careers and Universities sections within our Learning Resource Centre
• The chance to participate in the ‘Model United Nations’ programme
• World Challenge Expeditions
• Participation in university summer schools
• STEM initiatives, including Women in Engineering events
• Specific support for applications to Oxford and Russell Group universities
• Oxfordshire Evening – student and parent presentation delivered by the Outreach Officer from either Oxford or Cambridge
• University visits and taster days with specific subject focus
• Interview practice workshops as well as practice interviews with admissions tutors from local universities
• The opportunity to complete the Extended Project Qualification

Aspirations, Careers and Employability (ACE)
Bristol Free School has been recognised as outstanding by the West of England Local Enterprise Partnership and the school has been awarded the Employability Chartermark.

We recognise that all students need access to a broad, balanced and challenging curriculum. We are dedicated to providing students with the tools they need for success both in their academic lives and beyond school, in further education and their careers. Our ACE programme delivers great opportunities in order for students to excel.
SIXTH FORM RULES

• We expect all students to contribute to a calm and engaging learning environment by working to the best of their ability in lessons and on homework tasks, ensuring that all work is submitted punctually. This involves being properly equipped for school and using the Sixth Form study and social areas appropriately.

• We also expect students to act in a responsible manner by respecting the school environment in a healthy, safe and secure way, encouraging younger students to do so and supporting the staff. This is particularly so in building a positive or warming role.

• We expect the best possible attendance and punctuality. For the sake of the school and their own future prospects, we expect students to work with this high reputation of the BFS Sixth Form. The school already has an exceptional reputation with the local community and we want to extend this.

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Our Courses
At BFS Sixth Form, we have a wide and varied curriculum offer. The most important decision for you to make is your choice of course. You need to choose courses in which you can succeed and that are suited to your future aspirations.

Our enrolment procedure includes meetings with senior staff and the Sixth Form Team to offer advice and guidance on your suitability for a course.

Success in the Sixth Form needs you to make a firm commitment to your future. It is rooted in hard work and having a positive attitude to learning. We want students who attend and are committed to their courses and programmes of study. Once enrolled we expect your attendance to be at least 95%.

The RET family of schools includes:
- “Students, from all starting points and backgrounds, make sustained, rapid progress across the curriculum. Current achievement exceeds national expectations by a wide margin. Ofsted 2015 judged Outstanding.”
- “Teaching is consistently good and often outstanding, enabling students to achieve or exceed expected progress.…”

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