



Bristol Free School  
Concorde Drive  
Bristol BS10 6NJ

Tel: 0117 959 7200  
[admin@bristolfreeschool.org.uk](mailto:admin@bristolfreeschool.org.uk)  
[www.bristolfreeschool.org.uk](http://www.bristolfreeschool.org.uk)

Headteacher: Mrs S. King

16 June 2026

Dear Parents/Carers

We are very pleased to report to you that the school and RET recently conducted a rigorous selection process for the new Headteacher of Bristol Free School, and we have appointed Mrs Hetty Blackmore. At the end of that process, we were completely confident that we had found the right person to lead our school on the next stage of its journey and it was really reassuring for us that she feels the same way about coming to BFS.

She has asked us to convey a message to you now:

*'I am delighted to have been appointed as Headteacher at Bristol Free School. The school's values of Community, Ambition and Opportunity strongly align with my own. I look forward to continuing the fantastic work done so far by the senior leadership team and ensuring that the ambitions of the school positively impact the local and wider community. I am very much looking forward to getting to know the staff, children and wider community and working with you all.'*

Mrs Blackmore is currently Headteacher of Mangotsfield School in South Gloucestershire, where she led the school to Ofsted Good for the first time in its history and from being undersubscribed to oversubscribed. Previously she was an assistant headteacher at Chipping Sodbury School, forming Cotswold Edge Sixth Form, and prior to that her role as an Advanced Skills Teacher for English gave her wide ranging experience of supporting schools and departments across the Local Authority who required additional capacity or leadership.

Mrs Blackmore will take up her post by the end this year. Some of you may know that in schools, teachers and headteachers can only change posts at particular times of the year. Mrs Blackmore will certainly be with us by 1 January but depending on the appointment of her successor at Mangotsfield, it may be possible for her to transfer to BFS a little sooner. Until then, from 1 September, we are very pleased that Mr James Fernandes will be Acting Headteacher at BFS and of course will be supported by senior colleagues from RET.

Mrs Blackmore will be working closely with us to ensure a smooth transition and she is already working with Mrs King, Mr Fernandes and the wider school leadership team to get to know BFS much better before she takes up her post later this year.

With best wishes

Colin Mackinlay  
CEO

Anne-Marie Boyle  
Chair of Governors

