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Headteacher: S. King

Dear Parents/Carers,

A very warm welcome to the start of the academic year.

I am proud to be the new Headteacher of Bristol Free School; and I feel very excited about the years ahead. In the first few days of term I have spoken to every student in assembly and as many as possible around the school. We have also welcomed back large numbers of our Year 11 students into the Sixth Form and Year 7s have made a very good start.

It is particularly pleasing to note this year's excellent examination results. Our results in terms of progress (using the national Progress 8 figure) would appear to place us on a par with the City's Good and Outstanding schools. These GCSE results, for our first full, and stable year group, were in fact predicted by RET and the School's senior managers, during the March 2018 Ofsted inspection; so we look forward to an encouraging re-visit from inspectors.

Despite the fact that this year saw the introduction of new, tougher GCSEs exams in most subjects, Bristol Free School students - and indeed their teachers - have risen to the challenge. The core subjects of English, mathematics and science were among the many success stories. In mathematics 70% of students achieved grades 9-4 (equivalent to the old grades A* - C). 76% of students achieved 9 -4 grades in English and more than 30% of separate science grades were graded at 8 or 9 which is quite astonishing. Similarly, whilst GCSE progress was positive for all students, we estimate that academic progress for the most able places BFS in top 7% of schools nationally (based on last years verified figures). Similarly against the 'gold standard' EBACC measure (a good grade in English, math, science history or geography and a modern foreign language) BFS has one of the highest percentages in the City; and is certainly 20% higher than the 2017 national average.

We are proud of every one of our students and there were many excellent achievements across the entire grade range. Amongst these were some exceptional performances. Fiona Gibbs and Philippa Stephenson each gained eight grade 9s. Angus Snowdon gained four grade 8s and six grade 7s and Dan Brazil gained seven grade 9/A*, three grade 8s and one grade 7. Fiona and Philippa were two of only 732 students *nationally* to achieve this number of grade 9s. *Equally the Sixth Form celebrated its first set of exam results. This first cohort was small in number but again there were some exceptional personal success stories .James Beggs (A*, A, A, A) who is going to study Classics at St Hugh's College, Oxford; Ben Owen (A*, A*, A*) going to study Economics and Spanish at Birmingham; Daniyal Tariq (A, A, A, B) going to study Mechanical Engineering at Bristol; Lianne Tagudin (A, A, B) studying Medical Sciences at Bristol; and Rhys Mathias (A, A, B) who will study Law at Cardiff.*

I would like to thank all parents and carers for supporting us in maintaining one of the smartest uniforms in the City and for your continued support with meeting our expectations. To this end we have re-introduced the student planner which should be used as a contact book between you and your child's tutor, in conjunction with Show My Homework.

Next week you will receive the first newsletter of the year that will contain more news, and information about everything that has been going on in school. I also plan to hold a series of evening surgeries this term called *Meet the Headteacher*, at which you are invited to come into BFS and let me know your views about the school. Details will follow.

I am convinced that BFS will go from strength to strength. I could not ask for a better foundation upon which to build this school than this year's exam successes. With your support I believe BFS has a sparkling future.

I look forward to working with you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S King', written in a cursive style.

Mrs S. King
Headteacher