



**COMMUNITY • AMBITION • OPPORTUNITY**



# WELCOME

**SUSAN KING - HEADTEACHER**

Dear Parents/Carers

I am delighted to welcome you to Bristol Free School (BFS) - a 11-18 school situated in North West Bristol, established in 2011 by the hard work and dedication of parents and carers who campaigned for many years to secure a secondary school for local families.

BFS has a very special ethos and culture which, at its core, is about being an active part of a happy hardworking community. Relationships at BFS are warm, positive and nurturing. We set very high expectations in terms of discipline and work ethic because we care about all our young people. We expect all BFS students to achieve and be the best they can be.

At BFS, individuality is encouraged and differences celebrated. We are genuinely excited about the prospect of our community spanning students and staff who come from varied backgrounds and experiences. This will ensure BFS is a vibrant, diverse and happy place where different views, new ideas, characters and ambitions flourish.

In March 2022, Ofsted graded BFS as a good school which was no surprise to us and, in some ways, was a staging post for the greater ambitions the school still aims to achieve. As headteacher, I am very excited and look forward to our evolving journey.

The pages that follow give a flavour of the work we do. As you can see, BFS is an ambitious institute with high quality teaching and high expectations at its core. I hope you find the prospectus helpful and more information can be found on our website and open events.

Best wishes





# OUR VALUES

At BFS we passionately believe that our mission is to educate the whole person.

Being successful in life requires a balance between academic rigour and a wider range of skills and qualities. To achieve this balance we use a proactive and holistic approach to your child's education and development so when they leave us they are well-rounded young people with self-confidence and a strong moral compass.

We also strive to develop young people who are not afraid to ask the hard questions and can be critically evaluate. We aim for young people to be adaptable, compassionate and creative so they can take a positive role in society and the challenges the world faces.

This mission to educate the whole person is supported through our school values.



## Community

BFS is rooted in its local community and prides itself on the warm, positive and nurturing relationships it has with students and staff. Individuality is encouraged and celebrated as this diversity contributes to our vibrant dynamic ethos.

We expect students to work together and to show respect and tolerance towards each other.



## Ambition

At BFS we set the highest expectations and academic ambitions to ensure our students make excellent progress from their starting points. Success to us is a broad statement which includes academic and personal development so our students go on to thrive in their lives.



## Opportunity

We aim to prepare students to achieve their best, taking the opportunities BFS offers them so they become well educated active citizens. Students will experience a sense of fulfilment through educational and personal achievement.





# COMMUNITY

The history of the school, by its very design and beginnings, is firmly embedded within our local community. As such, a community ethos is intrinsic to what we as a school both value and strive to nurture and embrace. The House system was introduced in 2020 to create a vertical community for students to build relationships, support each other, engage in friendly competition and to work together to make positive contributions within their house, school, and local community. The Houses are named after local parks within Bristol.

Each student, including our Sixth Form, belong to a house for which they will represent during their time at BFS. Students can stand for election as a House Leader or for House parliament, allowing them the opportunity to take on responsibility and develop their leadership skills. Furthermore, all teaching staff are also allocated to a house as we like to foster as much healthy competition as we can.

The structure of the House system means that each student has a chance to shine, to discover their own talents and to make a genuine contribution to their school community. House assemblies, events and celebrations allow for relationships to be fostered and built, not only within but also across, differing year groups and even into our Sixth Form. We really value the benefits of developing and maintaining strong relationships with and between our student body.

There are inter-House competitions in numerous academic, sporting and cultural activities including music, poetry, maths and English, science, general knowledge, drama and art. The varying nature of the competitions allow students to come together and experience competing alongside students they may not otherwise come into contact with. The houses are also linked to local charities providing students with a wider sense of perspective as to the role the school plays within its community.



*“The sense of community at BFS makes it a welcome, friendly and exciting atmosphere, every single day when I come into school.”*



*“Teachers are ambitious for all pupils.”*

OFSTED 2022



# AMBITION

At BFS we are ambitious for every child we teach. A carefully planned and sequenced curriculum aims to provide all learners with the opportunities to fulfil their academic potential and go on to thrive amongst the demands and expectations of Modern Britain and 21st century life.

Students are taught to:

- communicate confidently, effectively and enthusiastically by reading, writing, speaking and listening well in more than one language.
- think hard and engage with complicated ideas and concepts to work collaboratively with a range of students in their lessonshow to be a responsible citizen in school, locally, nationally and globally.

An inclusive and wide ranging enrichment offer provides many opportunities outside the classroom which develops cultural capital, provides opportunities for personal growth and broad experiences.

## Key Stage 3 (Year 7 – 9)

In the first three years of school, students study a curriculum based on the core subjects of English, maths and science, history, geography, personal and social education (PSHE), computer science, religious education and languages taught by specialist teachers. Alongside this core, students develop their creative and potential through the teaching of visual and performing arts and design and technology subjects.

## Key Stage 4 (Year 10 – 11)

We have designed our current curriculum to meet the aspirations and interests of all our students with a view to most students achieving nine approved qualifications, though some students may gain more and a few will study eight qualifications. The core offer represents breadth and strength in academic achievement and allows students to gain the English Baccalaureate (Ebbac). We believe by following the Ebacc route all students have the opportunity to study a broad core of subjects, ensuring that doors are not closed off to them in terms of future progression, for example students hoping to go to university. We are also giving students the opportunity to study at least two subjects of their choice.

## Key Stage 5 (Year 12 – 13)

As students transition towards greater specialisation and independence in their learning, they choose three subjects which are of particular interest to them. Students can choose between A Level subjects, which are principally assessed in final exams, and BTEC subjects, which are assessed through a combination of coursework and exams. Many will choose to study a combination of A Levels and BTECs. Students also have the opportunity to add Further Maths, Core Maths or an Extended Project Qualification to their suite of subjects in order to support them with their other studies or to boost their attractiveness to future universities or companies.

*“Teachers have strong subject knowledge and are keen to share this with pupils. They know their pupils well and use knowledge to help them.”* OFSTED 2022



# OPPORTUNITY

Enrichment opportunities are a key feature of life at BFS. In addition to homework and revision classes, students can benefit from an exciting range of clubs and opportunities. These range from rugby and basketball to cooking, computing, science club and learning to play an instrument.

The extensive number of enrichment opportunities allows our students to perform in a number of competitions and events throughout the year including sporting fixtures, drama productions and musical events.

The enrichment programme runs after school. The Duke of Edinburgh Awards develops leadership skills, while extensive educational trips broaden our learners' experiences. These include overseas visits such as ski trips and language trips, national trips such as camping and PGL as well as numerous visits for careers and curriculum links.

## Our BFS Promise

As well as our optional range of opportunities, we have also designed the curriculum to include a range of culturally enriching experiences – called our BFS Promise. This core offer includes team-building days, volunteering roles and visits from external speakers. We are developing this offer all the time and it is designed to build confidence and self-awareness so young people can be ambitious for their futures.



*“Promoting pupils’ personal development is very important to school leaders.”*

OFSTED 2022



# PASTORAL CARE

## Every child is different

School life is fun, challenging and fulfilling, but there will always be times when support is required to comfort, assist and ease them through the difficult and stressful times. Different situations will have different effects on every student, whether it be personal or school-based, we have a committed dedicated Year 7 Year Leader team who supports your child through transition and works with primary schools.

Every child is assigned a tutor, everyone across the school has a morning tutorial period – a structured programme of sessions involving careers advice, skills development, coaching and Personal Social Health and Economic education (PSHE). Sessions are led by tutors, in-house experts and also external speakers specialising in their particular field of care. Age appropriate subjects are wide ranging, but pertinent, on such topics as the science of sleep, eating disorders, drugs and managing finances.





# SIXTH FORM

At BFS Sixth Form we offer a unique combination of excellent academic provision and superb pastoral enrichment and care. It is our intention to enable all our students to not just excel in their qualifications but to become compassionate intellectuals. Our vision is to ensure students enjoy a love of learning, achieve their aspirations and are empowered to become leaders of, and contributors to, a better society.

BFS Sixth Form is a comprehensive co-educational provision for students aged between 16 - 19. We offer a friendly, exciting and inspiring environment for learning and firmly believe that a safe, secure, challenging and stimulating curriculum, offering a broad and balanced selection of subjects for all students, is our key role. Our curriculum is one which promotes examination success and recognises personal achievement at all levels. We ensure we are up to date on all curriculum changes and strive hard to provide the most suitable curriculum for all learners.

We pride ourselves on knowing each student's strengths and aspirations and have a dedicated team of experienced staff who ensure that every Sixth Form student achieves their full potential.

Our enrichment programme, including leadership and volunteering opportunities, is a strength and offers students the chance to grow beyond the curriculum and develop wider skills. Students can become involved in a broad range of leadership roles within the school, widen their knowledge of the arts and cultural events, involve themselves in either competitive sport or exercise for fun, attend clubs, engage in community projects and fundraising activities and build a repertoire of experiences that will give them the confidence to lead others in their future life.

We provide students with the qualifications, skills and attributes to compete with absolutely any other young person, for the best university and college places, or the career of their choice.

We have designed our current curriculum to meet the aspirations and interests of all our students with a view to most students achieving three Level 3 qualifications, predominantly A Levels and BTECS. This offer represents a broad and varied curriculum in academic achievement and allows students with the currency needed to progress to university, college or chosen career.





# ADMISSIONS

BFS admits 200 students per year group. Our full admissions policy is on the school website:  
[www.bristolfreeschool.org.uk/admissions-2021-onwards.php](http://www.bristolfreeschool.org.uk/admissions-2021-onwards.php)

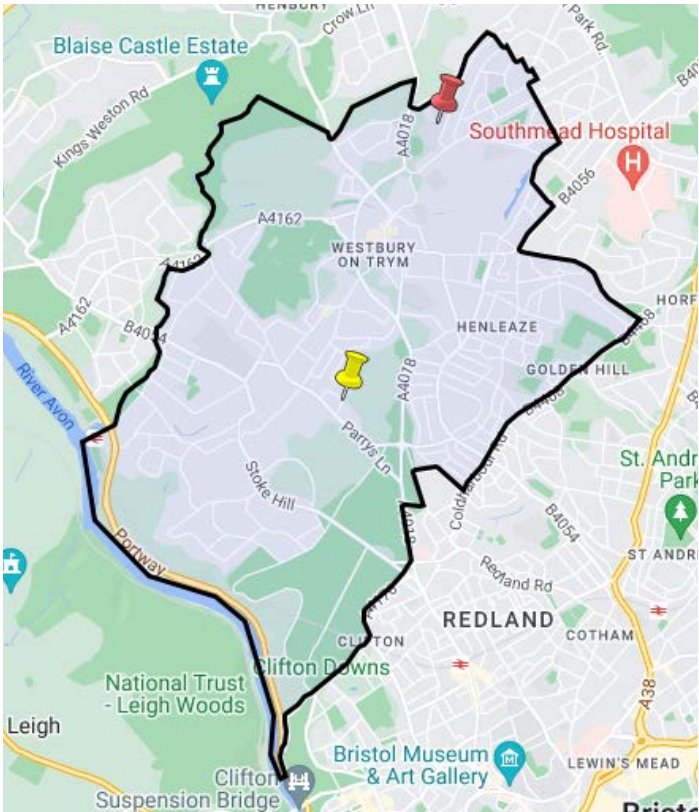
The School's Admissions Priority Area (APA) is a geographic area based upon the Neighbourhood Partnership Area (NPA), centred upon the BS9 area, modified to incorporate the area close to the school.

The Admissions Priority Area is shown on this map.

The red pin shows the location of the school which is the mid-point for 20% of available places allocated.

The yellow pin shows the centre of the NPA (Elmlea Avenue/ Rylestone Grove) which is the mid-point for 80% of available places allocated.

Applications for Year 7 are managed by Bristol City Council.



*“The school is a safe space for everyone. The community feel gives us motivation to learn and build great friendships.”*





RUSSELL EDUCATION TRUST

The Russell Education Trust (RET) is made up of five high-performing 11-18 secondary schools in the south of England. Member schools work together and with RET expert advisers to deliver the very highest standards of teaching and learning; and to support the achievement and happiness of every student across the Trust.

The success of the Trust's schools has been recognised by Ofsted, the Department for Education, and by the communities they serve. The RET family of schools includes:



*St Andrew The Apostle School*

The religious ethos in the school provides a strong base for the support of pupils' personal development and welfare. Pupils speak with pride about their school and relationships in the school.

**Ofsted 2018**



*Becket Keys Church of England School*

The headteacher's inspired leadership has quickly established a vibrant, orderly community which enables students to thrive. He ensures that a family atmosphere is fostered across the school in which all students feel cared for and valued.

**Ofsted 2014**



*Kings School*

Pupils are confident, articulate and aspiring. They are proud to be part of the school community.

**Ofsted 2022**



*Turing House School*

The school has many strengths. Leaders have established an open culture at the school where there is a clear sense of teamwork and community across staff and pupils alike. Everyone takes pride in the school. It is a welcoming and vibrant place.

**Ofsted 2018**

## Bristol Free School Partners



St Monica Trust



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