



RUSSELL EDUCATION TRUST



BRISTOL
FREE SCHOOL

NOT JUST TO ACHIEVE – BUT TO EXCEL



Since opening in 2011, the school has grown in strength and stature. We are oversubscribed in Year 7 for the fourth year running, received a glowing Ofsted report in February 2013 and we have a set of outstanding exam results as the final piece of the jigsaw. We are now entering a new phase in the exciting journey for the school with the opening of our brand new Sixth Form and our first Year 12 cohort.

Underpinning our success is the school's emphasis on English, mathematics and science within a broad and balanced curriculum, delivered with a sharp focus on the very best classroom practice. As a consequence, students are making exceptional progress.

Our founding students are now in Year 12 having completed their GCSEs last summer. Results were exceptionally strong and well above the national and Bristol average; 67% of our students gained at least a grade C or higher in both English and Maths.

Attendance at BFS is high and the students reinforce their enjoyment of school by staying on most evenings to attend a wide range of extra-curricular activities, including music clubs, chess, Latin, public speaking and dance. Students in all years impressed in a large number of sporting fixtures taking on other schools across Bristol in rugby, hockey, netball, football, cricket, rounders, swimming and athletics.

I am immensely proud to be the Headteacher of Bristol Free School; striving to make BFS the natural secondary school of choice for North West Bristol. Please take some time to look through this prospectus and come and visit the school to meet the students and staff.

I will leave you with a comment from our Ofsted report which sums up the ambition of Bristol Free School.

"The founding parents' aim of stopping the wide dispersal of pupils around and beyond the city at the end of their primary school years is being achieved, as a high percentage of Year 6 pupils from feeder primaries in the catchment now put this school as a first choice."
Ofsted February 2013

Paul Jones

Paul Jones, Headteacher

Transition

By Year 7, children have spent over half their lives at school and at Bristol Free School we acknowledge and value the variety of experiences children have had at their primary schools.

We have strong working relationships with those primary schools nearby in Bristol and work in partnership with every school which feeds BFS.

We run induction events in the summer term for Year 6 into Year 7 as well as providing taster afternoons for Year 5 children.

Our staff visit primary schools and we use attainment data, teacher reports, parent comments and the Year 6 students themselves to form a clear picture of each child's individual needs, talents and abilities before they arrive. In September they are assigned to a tutor group and a teaching group and we work with parents to ensure that every student settles in and is aware of our expectations.



Tutorial Programme

Tutors play a central role in the personal and academic success of every student. They have daily contact with each student in their group and are an integral part of academic monitoring, support and reporting to parents.

Tutors are the first point of contact for parents and they will also facilitate other meetings with senior staff or subject teachers if needed. Parents and Carers receive clear, frequent feedback on their child's learning and we ensure that they receive regular updates on performance. We regard our relationship with home as a partnership to promote the success and happiness of our students.

The school's tutorial programme is designed to help students develop study skills, social responsibility, self-confidence and respect for others, both in school and beyond. Tutor groups also lead whole-school briefings and assemblies, and showcase activities. Student responsibility is a big part of Bristol Free School and every student will play a part in inducting new Year 7s, through the 'Tutor Group Pairing' system.

6 Degrees of Aspiration

The aim of our “6 Degrees of Aspiration” programme is to ensure that students from Year 7 to Year 13 understand that high quality, well regarded careers and vocations are no more than 6 steps from where they are now.

6 Degrees focuses on the development of six qualities that will secure for each student a successful path to the career of their dreams and highest aspiration:

Consideration;

Ambition;

Resilience;

Enterprise;

Excitement;

Responsibility.

Bristol Free School students have huge potential and it is our role to give them the skills they need to unlock their potential and become well-rounded effective contributors to their communities. 6 Degrees sets out to do just that.

The programme has been such a success that we were awarded the Employability Charter Mark in recognition of the school’s high quality careers information, advice and guidance.



Curriculum

Students in Key Stage 3 are taught a broad and balanced curriculum. With an unashamed focus on the core subjects of English, mathematics and science, this curriculum will lead our students to achieve outstanding results, not only at GCSE but A Level.

All Year 7 students study a modern foreign language, religious studies, design technology including coding, art, history, geography, physical education (PE), drama, music and personal, social, health and citizenship education (PSHCE). All students study Spanish in Year 7, adding a second modern language from the start of Year 8 for those students with an aptitude for languages as well as optional latin. Provision for ICT is excellent and it is taught across the curriculum in Years 7 and 8. In Year 9 students are taught Computer Science. We now have extensive sporting facilities on site including a state-of-the-art sports hall, multi-user games area, grassed sports pitch as well as outdoor cricket nets and athletics facilities. Our onsite facilities are supported by our use of the David Lloyd centre for swimming lessons as well as utilising local sports fields.

All students are able to study a musical instrument in school and we have a bursary scheme for those in need of financial support. Our Key Stage 4 curriculum provides opportunities for all students to succeed in line with their

academic targets, prior attainment and progress and future aspirations. The curriculum includes a range of subjects which will keep career paths open and provide breadth, depth and enrichment. We accept that not all courses are accessible to, or suitable for, all students therefore ‘options’ are presented as ‘Guided Curriculum choices’. We offer a range of KS4 qualifications to help every student gain self-worth and a sense of achievement, from GCSEs to BTEC courses.

We will support every student to move on to appropriate post-16 education with the vast majority of our students joining our newly established Sixth Form. For every student at Bristol Free School making the right choices at GCSE is vital and we are mindful of the advice given by the Russell Group which represents the top 24 universities in Britain. “It is really important that students do not disadvantage themselves by choosing a combination of subjects at A Level which will not equip them with appropriate skills and knowledge for their university course or which may not demonstrate effectively their aptitude for a particular subject.

“Informed Choices” emphasises the importance of ‘facilitating’ subjects, such as maths and English, which are particularly effective in equipping students with the skills they need for a large number of competitive courses and in increasing a student’s chances of getting on to those courses.” We expect the great majority of our students to gain 8 or more passes at grade C or better at GCSE level, including English, maths and science and at least one third of each year group to get mostly As and A*s.

Teachers

BFS prides itself on recruiting exceptional teachers.

All candidates wishing to join us are required to demonstrate their skill in the classroom; and on appointment are trained to develop their subject knowledge and pedagogy further, focusing on the progress of all students as individual learners.

Our school's multi-academy trust, the Russell Education Trust, provides subject specialist advisers and inspectors in every aspect of the curriculum, enabling our staff to access the best national practice and constantly develop the most effective teaching methods for the benefit of our students.

We have a comprehensive extra-curricular programme and expect every student to be involved in some way. Participation at these sessions is high; and we welcome suggestions from our students and parents for additional clubs and activities.



Extra-curricular activity

We promote competitive sport in teams, as well as a high level of games participation for all students.

Students are involved in inter- school fixtures in hockey, netball, football, rugby, cricket and rounders. We also run an elite athlete programme to provide academic and pastoral support for a number of our students who are embarking on potentially very successful sporting careers.

There are opportunities to sing in the choir and for other musical performances as well as a music technology club. Aside from sport and music, other clubs include dance, latin, public speaking, chess, gardening, ancient history, and invention. We also have a full programme of study support and subject enrichment sessions after school.

What Ofsted say

“ Students achieve well. Standards are high for many in English, mathematics and science.

In English, and across the curriculum, students' reading and writing skills are very highly developed.”

“ Outstanding leadership has driven the school's early achievements. Such is their passion for the success of the school that governors, including the many parent representatives, are exceptionally well informed and involved in key decisions.”

“ Students reflect critically on the quality of their own writing in terms of grammatical accuracy and the extent to which points they are making are explained and evaluated.”

“ Students are highly committed to the life of the school. The after-school programme for sport, arts, craft and additional study is exceptionally well attended. For its size the school runs an impressive range of sports teams which has given it an immediate presence in the local community. Students willingly take on a range of leadership responsibilities within and beyond these activities.”





BRISTOL FREE SCHOOL

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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 also 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



"The headteacher, senior leaders, Trust and governors have a compelling vision for an inclusive, nurturing school with high academic standards, based on Christian principles".
Ofsted 2015



"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



Turing House is RET's fifth secondary school. It opened in September 2015 in Richmond upon Thames and is already oversubscribed.



Students' progress is assessed and tracked carefully, so that action is taken swiftly to support individuals and groups vulnerable to underachievement.

Ofsted Inspector February 2013