

RET

RUSSELL EDUCATION TRUST





# Welcome to BFS Sixth Form

The new Bristol Free School Sixth Form is a centre of excellence for Post-16 education which opened in September 2016. It provides an outstanding curriculum in brand new facilities shaped and developed by our students; which include exclusive social and study spaces as well as a separate refectory. It is a unique learning environment.

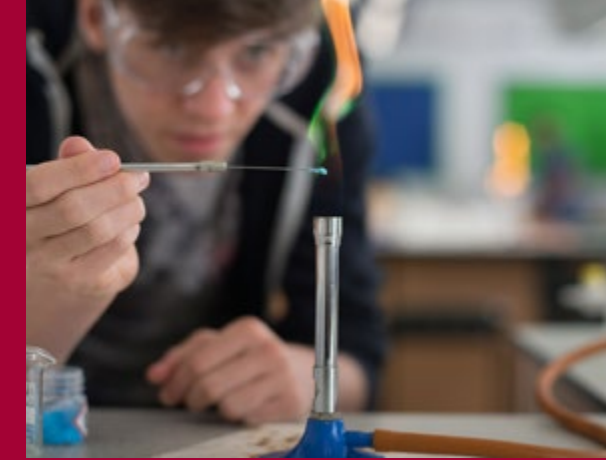
Our Sixth Form provides a fantastic range of opportunities within the curriculum and through our unrivalled extra-curricular programme. We offer a wide range of A level courses and BTEC level 3 courses in order to provide a flexible curriculum which enables our students to achieve their ambitions and move on to University, Apprenticeships or Employment.

Our pastoral and academic support is exceptionally strong and is driven by a dedicated and experienced BFS Sixth Form team, ensuring that each individual receives the right support to enable them to excel. We run a rich extra-curricular programme throughout the year on timetabled Enrichment afternoons. It has been designed to give every student the opportunity to ensure that they can benefit from a range of enrichment activities, but also demonstrate their individual skills, interests and personal qualities to prospective employers or universities. For example, all students will have the opportunity to take part in our volunteering programme, have the opportunity to take on leadership roles, gain work or university experience and contribute fully to the life of the school.

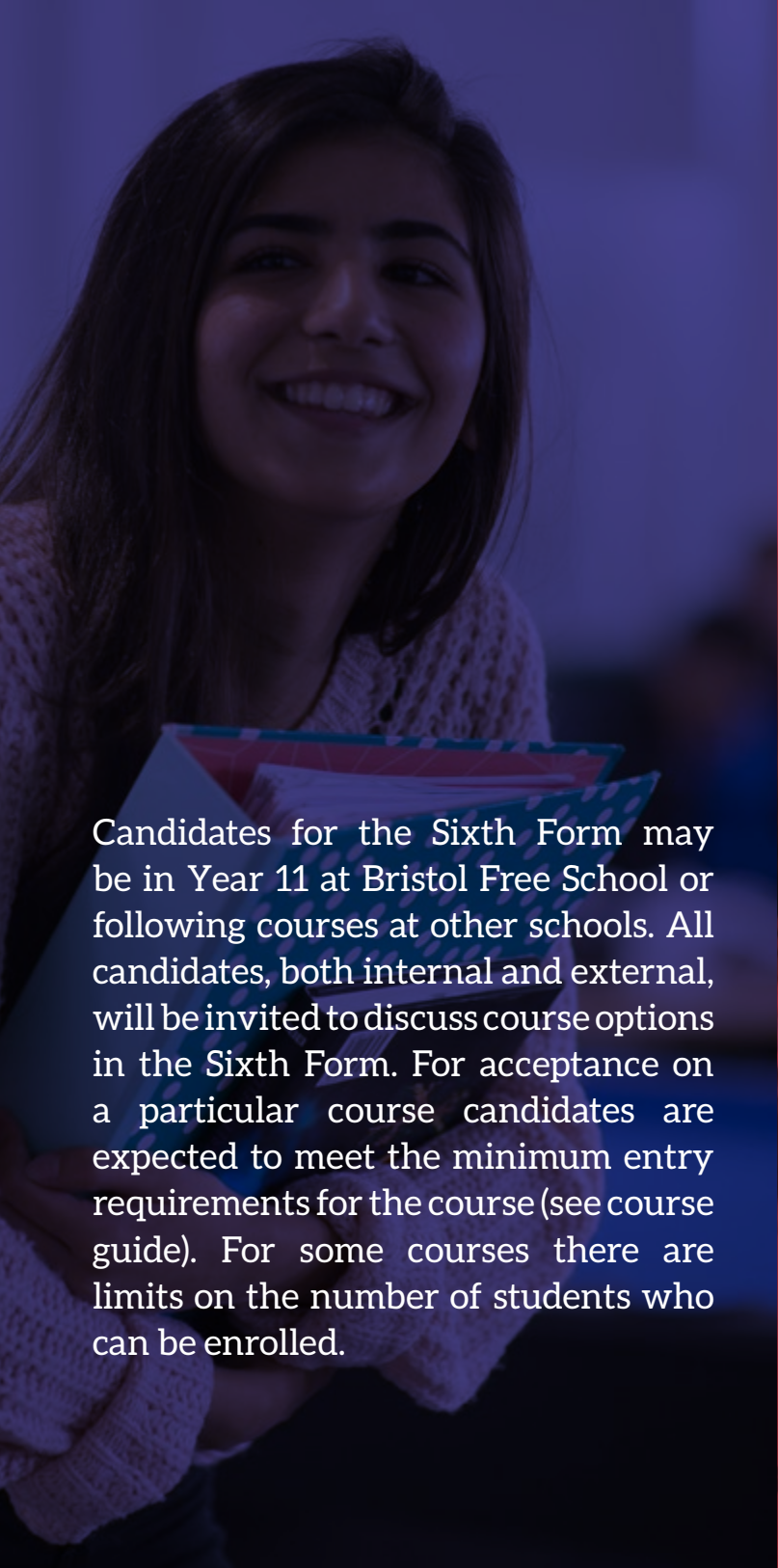
We understand that A level and level 3 courses can be demanding and that engagement, enjoyment and success are dependent on more than intensive study. To this end, we have an extensive programme of events to boost the Sixth Form community, create a sense of fun and contribute to our Sixth Form Charity. The Charity is decided by the Sixth Form Council each year. We want you to achieve, we want you to succeed, and we want you to enjoy yourself whilst doing so. Your choice of Sixth Form is a momentous one; the next two years will shape your university choices, career prospects and adult life.

Bristol Free School Sixth Form will provide you with exceptional academic and pastoral support throughout the journey, enabling you to shape and achieve your ambitions. We expect a commitment to academic work, a desire to achieve and a willingness to be involved in all aspects of Sixth Form life. These attributes, aligned with our outstanding curriculum, brilliant resources and highly skilled and empathetic staff, combine to create a straightforward pathway to personal success. We are excited and keen to work with you and wish you the very best of luck in your forthcoming GCSE examinations.

For further information do not hesitate to contact the Sixth Form Team on 0117 959 7200 or email [sixthform@bristolfreeschool.org.uk](mailto:sixthform@bristolfreeschool.org.uk). You can also follow us on twitter [@6thBFS](https://twitter.com/6thBFS).







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.

## 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 can 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 our 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

The minimum academic entry requirements for both BFS students and external applicants is 5 GCSE qualifications at Grade 5 or above including GCSE English and Maths. Many courses also have further entry criteria; please check the course booklet carefully. Students seeking to take additional qualifications or challenging combinations will need to demonstrate high levels of prior attainment and a willingness to work exceptionally hard in order to reach the required level of attainment.

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.



Admission to the Sixth Form





# 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 the best opportunities in order for students to excel.

## Principles & Purpose

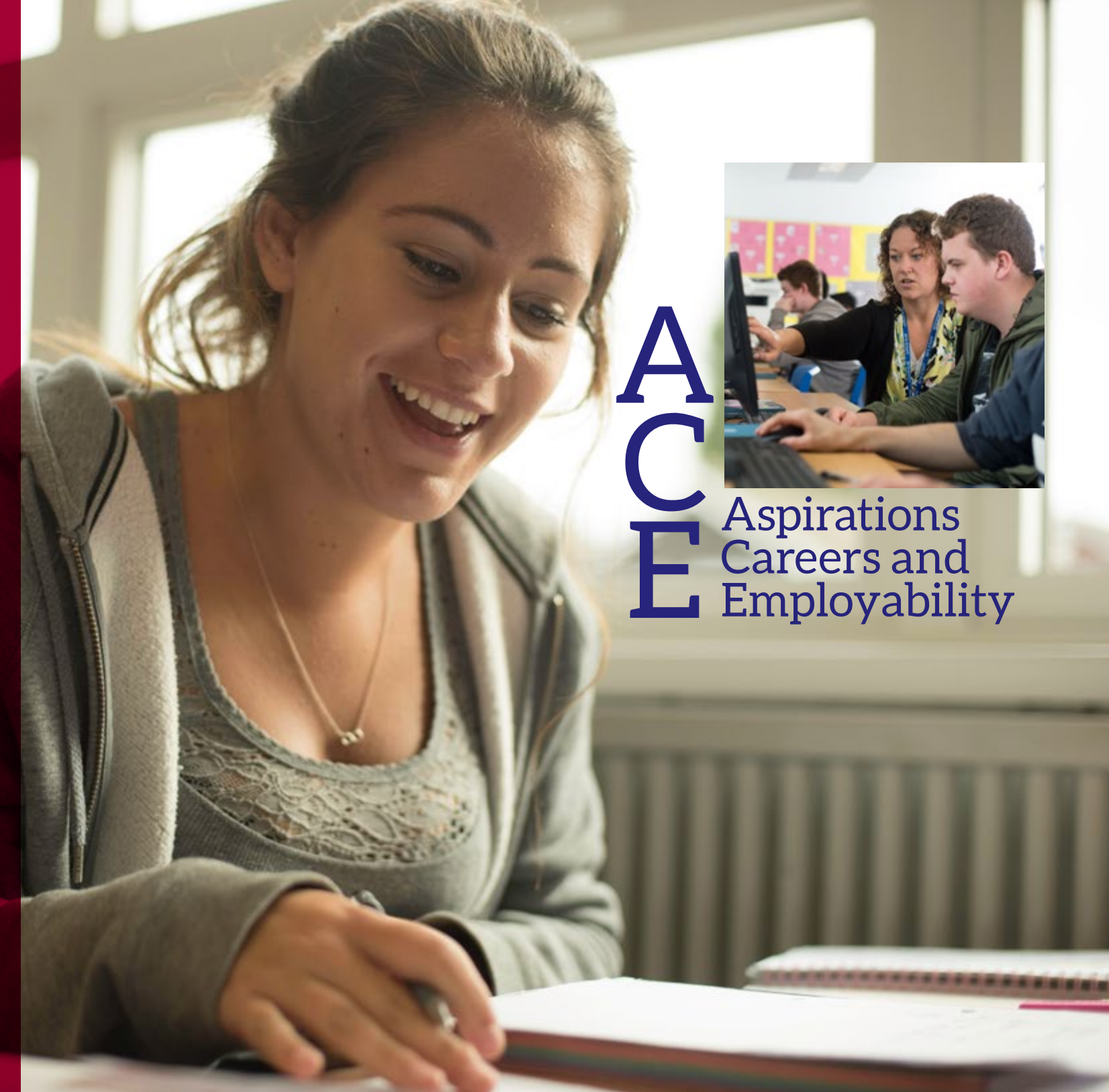
The programme provides an innovative approach to capturing key values and acts as the foundation stone for employability initiatives within the school. It provides a strategic framework around which our employability capability is developed from Year 7 to 13.

## Provision and Impact

To date we have made provision for key note speakers running career talks and seminars and held a regular 'business breakfast', 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 both 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 our students 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 subject enrichment opportunities via our 'Subject Guru' talks and seminars
- An enhanced Careers and Universities section within our Learning Resource Centre
- The chance to participate in the 'Model United Nations' programme
- World Challenge Expeditions
- Participation in Univeristy Summer Schools
- STEM initiatives, including Women in Engineering events
- University workshops and masterclasses for Oxbridge applications and specific support towards Russell Group Universities.
- Oxbridge Evening – Student and parent presentation delivered by the Outreach Officer from either Oxford or Cambridge
- University visits and taster days with specific area focus
- Interview practice workshops as well as practice interviews with admissions tutors from local universities
- The opportunity to complete the Extended Project Qualification



ACE  
Aspirations  
Careers and  
Employability



# Expectations

Our dress code allows considerable freedom whilst ensuring that everyone's appearance is both relatively casual and respectable. There are specific occasions, related to employability and university events on which smart business wear will be required; we regard these as part of your preparation for adult life.

Students will be issued with a lanyard which (like the staff) they must wear at all times; this card also records movements in and out of school.

There are some straightforward guidelines below:

- Trainers and jeans are acceptable but no branded clothing, including sportswear
- Skirts must be no more than 10cm above the knee
- Underwear must not be on display
- No offensive logos should be worn
- Aggressive/ severe body piercing and tattoos must not be visible.
- No strappy or strapless tops (shoulders and décolletage must be covered)
- Midriffs must be covered.
- Outlandish hairstyles, likely to be off-putting to employers and universities, must be avoided. Sixth Form students are role models for students across the school. They look up to you and aspire to one day be in your shoes. Those shoes need to be smart and clean.

Be part of  
something  
special

## 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 spaces in an appropriate manner.
- 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 – in particular if fulfilling a prefect or mentoring role.
- We expect the best possible attendance and punctuality. For the sake of the school and their own future prospects, we are expecting students to work with us to build the reputation of the BFS Sixth Form. The school already has an exceptional reputation with the local community, employers and local universities and we want to extend that into our new Sixth Form. Sixth Form students are expected to sign up to a Code of Conduct Contract and adhere to and support our shared expectations and values.

# Mentoring

Opportunities to mentor a lower school student will be promoted in the Sixth Form. Students can sign up to provide subject support within the classroom or perhaps help a student who does not have English as their first language.

Both students benefit from the arrangement with Sixth Form students enhancing their communication skills, learning how to explain and consolidating their own subject knowledge. The experience will also enhance university and job applications.

Sixth Form students can mentor students in a variety of ways including:

- Literacy and mathematics development in year 7 and 8
- Working with the Student Council
- Helping to run lower school clubs and enrichment activities
- Language assistance
- Supporting good attitudes to learning
- Help creating friendships
- Building self-esteem/confidence through the buddy scheme.

# Sixth Form Council

Apply to be part of our Sixth Form Council. The Sixth Form Council acts as the student voice for all the students of the Sixth Form body.

They are responsible for actively shaping and developing the Sixth Form and the extra-curricular offers we provide.

The Student Council meets weekly and organises trips, social events, fundraising as well as The Student Voice.

The Student Voice is a forum where all students can 'voice' their opinions and make suggestions on how to further develop and change their Sixth Form space, start up new Period 7 clubs or teams and bring the Sixth Form community together in new and different events and competitions. Form space, start up new Period 7 clubs or teams and bring the Sixth Form community together in new and different events and competitions.

# Enrichment

Throughout the academic year it is vital that students complement their studies with opportunities to develop their character and resilience, broaden horizons and experience and contribute to the wider community. We are also keen for additional enrichment activities to be suggested and managed by our students; to reflect practice at university. Similarly, we have special events scheduled throughout the year in order to build a Sixth Form community and ethos, but we also expect students to develop these activities according to their own particular enthusiasms and talents. This is an important part of any popular Sixth Form. In essence, you will help shape and define the wider cultural aspects of Sixth Form life.

Our enrichment opportunities not only build new skills but also provide a range of extra-curricular experiences that support student CVs and UCAS references. These opportunities develop a sense of camaraderie between students and complement the curriculum. We encourage everyone to get involved in as many events as possible: it helps integration into the Sixth Form community.

Some of our planned enrichment activities include:

## Sixth Form Sports

We offer a full and wide-ranging programme of Sixth Form Sports. The school is equipped with a Multi User Games Area, Sports Hall, climbing wall and brand new equipment as well as a depth of expertise amongst the staff. BFS Sixth Form competes in Bristol and regional competitions in a wide range of sports from rugby to netball to table tennis.

## Rag Week

This week helps to get our new sixth formers involved and integrated into the school community. As well as raising money for our chosen charity, the week involves fun events such as doughnut-eating competitions, tug of war, leg waxing, themed fancy dress and our regular Pizza and Film evenings.

## Enterprise Opportunities

Entrepreneurial Sixth Formers will have the opportunity to run specific events and programmes across the school with proceeds going to the Sixth Form charity. It is linked to our highly successful Young Enterprise programme.

# Pastoral Support

Sixth Form is a real change in culture and study habits for some of our students. With extra freedom comes extra responsibility that not all students can immediately cope with. It is incredibly difficult to find a balance between studies and a social life that encompasses driving tests, boyfriends and girlfriends, part-time work, interviews, university visits and of course making a contribution at home. Students have to learn how to organise and prioritise their time; this is not only vital for Sixth Form study but an important life skill.

Each student is allocated a form tutor who supports students with issues that arise on a day to day basis.

For more serious concerns the Sixth Form Team are here to help and support. When students need support beyond the tutor it will be offered in the following ways:

- One-to- one sessions
- Group work
- 6th form learning mentors
- Weekly emails home
- Parental meetings
- Learning support
- After school clinics
- Referrals to outside agencies

The golden rule with any problems during the Sixth Form is to speak to someone. We are here to help, no matter what the problem may be.



# 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 well above 95%.



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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 Judged Outstanding



*"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 Judged Good with Outstanding Leadership & Management



*"Teaching is consistently good and often outstanding, enabling students to achieve or exceed expected progress.... Professional governance from the sponsor Trust and the diocese supports the strategic leadership of the school".*  
Ofsted 2014 Judged Outstanding



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



Be part of  
something special



The logo for Sixth Form Bristol Free School features the text "SIXTH FORM" in white on the left and "BRISTOL FREE SCHOOL" in white on the right, separated by a central crest. The crest depicts a ship on waves, with a suspension bridge above it. A red banner is at the bottom.

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