

How will you support me in my transition from secondary to sixth?

Moving from secondary to sixth form can be an exciting time, filled with expectation and fun but it can also be a worrying time too, as you embark on the formative stages of your career and have to make important decisions about your subject choices. At BFS Sixth Form, we work with you to make the journey as smooth as possible, providing you with plenty of opportunities to share your ambitions, explore your options and try out new subjects. Our priority is to make sure that you are happy and settled so that you make the most of your two years with us and achieve everything that you set out to.

We think it's important to create a clear pathway to sixth form so that everyone knows what to expect at every stage. Unfortunately, this year, things have changed a bit but we hope to resume normal service soon!

Our transition programme includes:

- A range of sixth form events held at BFS Sixth Form to help you familiarise yourselves with the subjects on offer, understand how they may affect your career choices and discuss your aspirations with our teachers;
- Taster Days (potentially virtually) to introduce subjects they may not have tried before;
- Masterclasses and bridging units to build on subject knowledge and explore new topics and ways of learning;
- Activity days to introduce a broad and engaging range of enrichment activities.

Our transition programme continues throughout Sixth Form and new students who choose BFS Sixth Form can expect to visit us often ahead of the new academic year.

This includes:

- A personal welcome for you to meet the senior team and familiarise yourself with our facilities;
- A warm welcome at our Transition Day – a fun and exciting introduction to subjects, as well as an opportunity to get to know one another and forge new friendships;
- A special Year 12 only Induction Day on your first day in September;
- An opportunity to join our Student Senior Leadership Team, playing a key role as a Sixth Form Ambassador and heading up our School Senate mentoring younger students and enriching school life.

Will we get a chance to visit Bristol Free School before we need to apply?

All of our Year 11 students will join us in December for Sixth Former For A Day when they will have an opportunity to sample sixth form life and discover more about their options post-GCSEs.

At this stage, it seems unlikely that we will have a formal open event but hope that the information contained within this page will help you discover the strong sense of family, warmth and friendship at BFS Sixth Form, as well as the many academic and enriching experiences on offer.

If you are a student from another school and would like to find out more about BFS Sixth Form, do get in touch via the 'contact us' page and we will do our very best to support you in your decision.

What is the process for applying to BFS Sixth Form?

All students in their final year at Bristol Free School have an automatic place in the sixth form, provided they meet the entry requirements for a full-time programme of study.

Places are also available to students of other schools who may wish to experience a new type of sixth form provision and who meet the requirements for a full-time course of study.

Students should complete an application form and submit before the Friday 18 December deadline. These are detailed below and on our Sixth Form Admissions page.

Our one-to-one guidance meetings, normally held in January and early February will provide an opportunity for students to share their ambitions and aspirations with our dedicated sixth form and senior team so that they can learn more about students as individuals and their chosen study route, helping to personalise the Sixth Form journey and make it more relevant and meaningful.

Conditional offers will be made to students, together with a guideline of the academic success required at GCSE to secure a place for September.

You can speak to our sixth form team any time about bursary funding to help support you in your post-16 studies, if appropriate.

Who do I contact if I have any questions?

Mr Walker, Assistant Headteacher, Ms Norton, Acting Head of Sixth Form and Ms Banres, Acting Deputy Head of Sixth Form are on hand to support you through the next few months as you decide on the best Sixth Form for you. They will also be supporting you as you join Sixth Form in Year 12 so will be a familiar face that you will get to know her well. The team are very well supported by the Sixth Form Administrator Team and all of them are on hand to answer any questions or queries that you may have.

You can email them at sixthform@bristolfreeschool.org.uk

For all other general questions please contact the sixth form on 0117 959 7225 or email us at the address above and we will be pleased to help you.

What courses are on offer?

All of the courses are detailed in our prospectus, including introductory films from our subject leaders, however, if you have any questions about a specific subject or would simply like to talk through your options, please get in touch. We'll be very pleased to help.

What other opportunities are there at BFS Sixth Form?

We offer all students the chance to deepen and enrich their studies, to go above and beyond just gaining qualifications.

Students are given the chance to personalise their education through our **Enrichment Programme**, designed to challenge individuals to extend their thinking, their skills and their intellect so that they can engage in debate or discussion at interview and show the real potential that universities and employers seek.

The Enrichment Programme has time allocated each week in the sixth form timetable giving students the opportunity and space to develop those skills that have been identified as vital to achieving success in adult life. Some activities extend beyond the Sixth Form campus and into school life at Bristol Free School, allowing our students to mentor younger peers and guide them to success.

Our Enrichment Programme evolves year-on-year as we work together with our Sixth Form leaders to ensure it is engaging, fun and relevant, designed with the interests of the current cohort in mind. We welcome ideas and the input of our students to help formulate the enrichment programme – it's very much about you and what you wish to learn!

What are results like?

Our A Level results are excellent and not just in raw terms but also in the context of what we call 'value-added'. Such measures seek to identify the progress that every student makes during his or her time with us, and show that our students make outstanding progress.

This year fifteen of our students achieved all A* or A grades. These results ensure that the school maintains its position as one of the top non-selective Sixth Forms in the area for A Level results. The school also has continued its tradition of supporting students gaining places in some of the top ranked universities in the country with 3 students having achieved the grades required for them to meet their offers to study at Oxford or Cambridge.

75% of all students achieving at least one A*- B grade. 35% achieving three A*- B grades.

BTEC vocational courses also performed exceptionally well, with the average grade being a Distinction*.

The progress made by all students is extremely high and is well above the national average.

99% of all students that applied for university, accepted places onto their chosen degree courses. There is a real wide range of destinations and courses.

The achievement of our students consistently places our sixth form as one of the top achieving sixth forms locally.