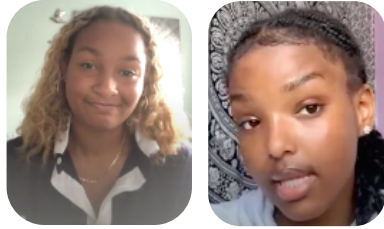


BLACK LIVES MATTER



Over a week has passed since Bristol made the headline press for the protests in conjunction with the tragic death of George Floyd in America and the toppling of the statue of Edward Colston. The Black Lives Matters movement has been a symbolic reminder that we must stamp out any racial hatred, discrimination and prejudice. Bristol Free School is committed to supporting our community in opposing racism in all its forms, including upholding anti-racist values. BFS Sixth Form Council members Mya and Stacey wanted to share their views with our school and wider community and we are thrilled that they, and other students across our school, want to work together to ensure this movement and the work surrounding it is promoted and discussed across all year groups.

You can watch their videos [here](#) and [here](#).



During the lockdown period, rather than getting all down in dumps about not getting to go to any University Open Days, why not look at all the online ones. Over the last few years, and especially now with Covid-19, almost all universities have [virtual open days](#). Click on the link to find out more.

UCAS TV

During this busy application window and looking at what might be a very different tone next year, it is important that students and applicants to the Sixth Form ensure they do as much research as possible. UCAS TV is a great starting point -

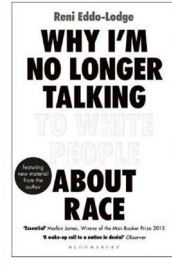
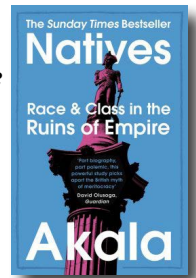
www.ucas.com/connect/videos

There are lots of videos about what to expect on results day this year, how clearing works, how to start an application for next year and lots more. Year 12 should have already started work on their application for next year and there have been lots of guidance and tasks sent

BLM reading suggestions

Natives: Race and Class in the Ruins of Empire
by Akala

Race and class have shaped Akala's life and outlook. In this unique book he takes his own experiences and widens them out to look at the social, historical and political factors that have left us where we are today.



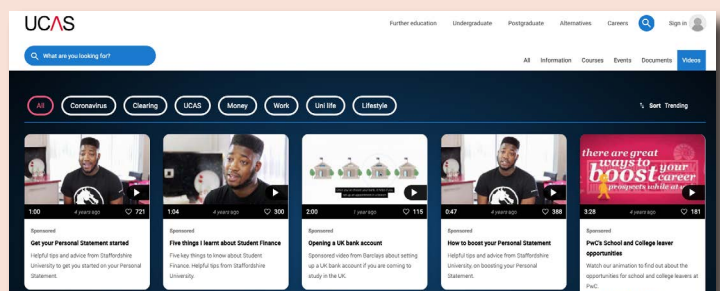
The book that sparked a national conversation. Exploring everything from eradicated black history to the inextricable link between class and race, **Why I'm No Longer Talking to White People About Race** is the essential handbook for anyone who wants to understand race relations in Britain today.

NATIONAL WELLBEING WEEK

During the week commencing 22 June, BFS will be supporting National Wellbeing Week. We will be starting the week with a talk from some of our Year 13 students based around the NHS 5 steps to mental wellbeing and we will follow up with daily foci to ensure, especially during these extraordinary times, we all make our wellbeing a top priority.



by Mr Walker, Ms Norton and Mr Parry on our careers platform Unifrog. It's a great tool that, in conjunction with UCAS, will answer all your questions and get you ready to submit a great application.



Follow us: @6thBfs bfs_sixth_form

SUPER-CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

Usually at this time of the year, Year 12 students would be preparing for their work experience placement. In the absence of this, there are still a range of activities that students can take part in to gain more knowledge and experience of careers and university courses. Here are some fantastic ways in which you can do this and build up the all-important personal statement for university, apprenticeship and job applications.

InvestIN Education

InvestIN Education offer exclusive opportunities for school students to experience life in 20 different careers including Computer Science, Medicine, Marketing, Law, Politics and Architecture. They are currently offering virtual courses for July and August from the comfort and safety of your own home. -

<https://investin.org/collections/all>

Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs)

Students can also use the UNIFROG platform to access a wide range of free online courses from a range of providers. These are a fantastic way to learn more about the course you are thinking about applying for at University to help make your decision. These also show Universities that you have gone above and beyond the A Level/BTEC curriculum and will help make your application one that they can't say no to! Future Learn are one of the main providers of MOOCs.

<https://www.futurelearn.com/>

Reading and watching

This is also a great time to get stuck into some books, both fiction and non-fiction. Universities want to know that their students are reading in general, and also reading widely around their subjects. Expect to be asked this at interview! You could also consider subscribing to magazine publications and listening to podcasts. Ask your subjects teachers if they have any reading recommendations. You can also watch a range of subject related Ted talks which are another great way to gain additional knowledge and show your interest. <https://www.ted.com/talks>

Let's Talk About Loss

talking through the taboo

Let's Talk About Loss is a Bristol based charity that started in December 2016, by founder of the charity, Beth, eighteen months after her mum Susan died. Beth was feeling alone and confused and was determined that no other young person who was grieving should feel the same. Let's Talk About Loss has expanded across the UK and supports hundreds of young people aged 18-35 who are bereaved and it is a great community of both online and, now, socially distant groups that can support all young people.

Student Leadership Applications

We are excited to open applications for the 20-21 student leadership positions. Current Year 12 students are welcome to apply for the positions of Head Boy/Girl or a position on the Student Leadership Team by making a short Loom video, of no more than 3 minutes. In this video you should explain which position you would like to apply for, why you believe you are suitable for the role and any initiatives you would champion if you were to be successful.

Please send your video applications to sixthform@bristolfreeschool.org.uk by Friday 3rd July at 3pm.

We are looking forward to receiving them. Good luck!

Year 13 Covid Subject Mentoring

As mentioned in my welcome the Year 13s have been fantastic since the lock down. Rather than get frustrated and down about the whole situation, they have got together and shared their areas of experience in Sixth Form, their favourite subjects and offered mentoring support, both academically and pastorally to the Year 12 students. A huge thank you to Hannah and Bea for leading on this. Not only have students offered support and mentoring for Year 12s, they are also integral to the planning for our Year 11 Induction afternoon on 8 July and sharing their views and support for National Wellbeing Week next week. We are very lucky to have such brilliant students who act as excellent young role models, selflessly giving back to their school community. I will, in particular, be very sad when they go on to pastures new in September.



Apprenticeships

Apprenticeship starts fall in both March and April

Obviously, throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, apprenticeship starts have seen a dramatic decrease according to DfE figures. March 2020 saw only 19,600 starts compared to 25,600 in 2019; a fall of 24%.

However, at the daily Coronavirus update, Prime Minister Boris Johnson said, "I think it's going to be vital that we guarantee apprenticeships for young people." This comes after apprenticeship starts are down, and the prospect of a recession after the pandemic looks likely. Johnson continued, "We have to look after people across the board, but young people in particular, I believe should be guaranteed an apprenticeship." Therefore, companies are encouraged to continue to offer their apprenticeship programmes.

DON'T GIVE UP - CONTINUE TO RESEARCH AND APPLY

To help with your apprenticeship research try visiting Amazing Apprenticeships Vacancy

<https://amazingapprenticeships.com/vacancies/>



AWS GetIT Competition - Mrs Sherman wins Teacher of the Year



AWS GetIT is a fully funded programme delivered in partnership with Future Foundations and Amazon Web Services. GetIT aims to encourage girls to consider a career in tech and challenge gender stereotypes within the industry. The programme is aimed at Year 8 students working together to design and create an 'app for good' which makes real, tangible social change within their school and community. This was the first year that BFS entered and we had five Year 8 teams taking part. Two teams went through to the Semi Final and one team made it to the Top 10 out of 200 with their app idea to develop a digital version to complement the successful BFS peer mentoring scheme.

Unfortunately, the Final has been postponed until the new academic year but we found out this week that Mrs Sherman has won Teacher of the Year out of over 100 nominations. This is what the worthy winner said when she found out:

"Wow! I am sat here in tears, overcome with emotion! Fabulous email to receive and lovely to read the nominations. It was absolutely worth giving up every lunchtime to support our wonderful students and I am so proud of each and every team that took part. I have had the pleasure of getting to know the students better and seeing them develop in activities outside of the classroom with such passion and professionalism is the most amazing thing for a teacher. It's all about the students and I am honoured to have been selected for this award. It has been a brilliant experience and we're looking forward to the postponed Finals and taking part again next year."

Cambridge Applicant Support Programme



Applications are now open for the "Cambridge Applicant Support Programme". The programme offers series of interactive sessions, mentoring and guided independent learning to support eligible students who are considering making an application to the University of Cambridge for entry in September 2021.

The core programme will run from the beginning of August 2020 until December 2021, with the potential for continued academic and mentoring support for offer holders from January to March 2021.

To find out more and to apply please follow this link - [Cambridge Applicants Support Programme](#). Please note the deadline is 17 July.