

BSF Newsletter—Spring Half-Term 1



Spotlight: Three-Year Pathway @BSF

“Beal Sixth Form offers 35 subjects across 4 pathways to meet the needs of all post-16 learners to achieve their full potential and to secure 100% progression to the best possible destination for every student. As part of our inclusion model, the three-year pathway, hosted at The Forest Academy, supports students to secure the grades necessary to thrive on level 3 courses. These students take at least one of English or Maths GCSE, alongside a range of other level 2 courses such as Science, Religious Studies, Media, Business, Food Studies and 3D design.

Students on this pathway have had remarkable success already this year. Students resat their English and Maths GCSE in the November exam window, with 57.6% securing a 4+ in English, and 41.7% securing a 4+ in Maths. Both percentages are significantly above the national average for this exam series, where typically 35% pass English, and only 24% pass Maths.

In addition to their timetable lessons, our three-year pathway students also have regular information and guidance meetings with the sixth form pastoral team at The Forest Academy. These meetings focus on supporting students to achieve their aspirations, with students agreeing targets to support their progress throughout the year. As a result, the vast majority of students on this pathway choose to remain with BSF into year 12.

Our three-year pathway students also benefit from the wide range of opportunities offered to our year 12 cohort, including our GiveBack programme. Additionally, our three-year pathway students represent the school, volunteering at parents evenings, acting as tour guides for guests to the school, speaking to our younger year groups on the importance of effort and focus in their lessons, as well as volunteering at a local primary school.

We are incredibly proud of the effort and tenacity demonstrated by students on our three-year pathway. We are excited by what they are on track to achieve in the future, and can't wait to welcome them into year 12 in September 2026.”



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Spotlight: Progression @BSF—UCAS update

We are delighted to share an update on university applications and student progression across Beal Sixth Form, an area that sits firmly at the heart of everything we do.

This year, a total of **379 applications** have been successfully submitted to UCAS on behalf of our Year 13 students. This represents a significant and carefully managed process, beginning early in the academic year with guidance on course and university choices, personal statement development, and ongoing academic and pastoral support. Each application reflects not only a student's academic profile, but also their aspirations, strengths, and long-term goals.

In terms of university outcomes, the early picture is extremely positive. Some key headlines are provided below:

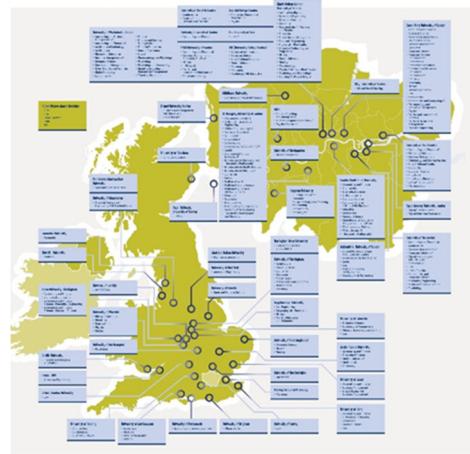
- 2 medicine offers have been received
- 1 veterinary offer has been received
- Over 65% of students have received at least two offers
- Over 40% of students have received at least three offers
- Over 50 students have received all five of their offers

The 13th May 2026 is the last day by which universities can make an offer to students.

Students who have received **all of their offers** by **31st March** must respond by **6th May** 2026.

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University Destinations 2025



Spotlight: Degree Apprenticeships @ BSF

While university progression is a popular route, we are equally committed to supporting students who choose alternative pathways. Students are regularly updated with apprenticeship opportunities via our dedicated Padlet and receive personalised careers advice where appropriate. In addition, we are pleased to be piloting an apprenticeship scheme with selected Year 12 students beginning this half-term, delivered in partnership with an employer from **Multiverse**. This reflects our broader commitment to ensuring that every student secures a destination that is right for them.

Degree apprenticeships represent a transformative opportunity to our students, combining the prestige of a university-level qualification with paid, real-world experience, enabling students to graduate debt-free and enter the workforce with competitive skills. This route offers our students, a practical and aspirational alternative to traditional higher education.

Launching in May, our Access Apprenticeships programme is designed to support students to submit outstanding applications, and secure places on competitive apprenticeships in a range of fields.

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Spotlight: Personal Development @BSF

As the largest school sixth form in the country, we provide students with opportunities to take the curriculum beyond the classroom through participating in extra-curricular, super-curricular and enrichment activities to create independent and creative learners. To this end, all students are required to complete a minimum of six hours of independent practice per subject per week.

To encourage students to deepen their knowledge and increase their academic engagement with their chosen subjects beyond the confines of the curriculum, each department provides students with wider reading lists. In addition, faculties signpost a wide range of super curricular opportunities through the BSF and High Fliers Padlets which are updated regularly. These include lectures, masterclasses, podcasts, documentaries, academic journals, essay competitions and Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs).



BSF Padlet



Wider Reading Lists



High Fliers Padlet

Departments also invite guest speakers to visit the school. On Wednesday 14th January, 30 students from Years 11 and 12 attended an extracurricular talk in the Beal Maths School delivered by representatives from Queen Mary, University of London. The session formed part of the school's ongoing commitment to providing high-quality careers education and widening participation opportunities.

The talk was led by Professor Alan Dignam and Professor Frances Ridout from Queen Mary's School of Law, who offered students a valuable insight into studying Law at university and pursuing a career within the legal profession. Drawing on their extensive academic and professional experience, the speakers explored what a Law degree involves, the range of career pathways available to law graduates, and the skills and attributes required to succeed in the profession.

Students were also given an overview of university life more broadly, including academic expectations, independent study, and the transition from school to higher education. The session concluded with a question and answer session, giving students the opportunity to ask about entry requirements, areas of legal specialism and routes into the profession.

The event was an informative and inspiring opportunity for students to deepen their understanding of Law as an academic discipline and a profession, and to consider how their current studies can support future aspirations.



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Spotlight: LIIBA and Future First Insights Day @ BSF

On Friday 16th January, Amwins Global Risk hosted 19 sixth form students for an interactive careers and workplace skills session. The visit began with welcome openers and introductions to representatives from Amwins and LIIBA, giving students an overview of the companies and insight into the insurance industry.

Students then took part in an ice-breaker activity, encouraging teamwork, communication, and critical thinking. Throughout the session, students were involved in interactive talks, asking and answering questions to develop their understanding of professional expectations in the workplace.

The students heard from Nick Abraham, CEO of Amwins, who shared insights into leadership and career progression. This was followed by a session focused on workplace skills, including what happens when applying for jobs, understanding contracts, the importance of punctuality, and examples of interview questions commonly asked for insurance apprenticeships.

Students then completed a reflective activity where they were given a list of 100 words and asked to progressively narrow them down to the qualities most important to them, eventually selecting one key value. This task encouraged self-reflection and discussion around employability skills and personal strengths.

Later in the day, students spoke with four current apprentices at Amwins who work in different roles across the business. After these discussions, students presented to their peers on the roles and responsibilities of each apprenticeship, helping to build confidence in public speaking.

Overall, the visit provided valuable insight into the professional workplace, allowed students to collaborate with new people, and supported the development of communication, confidence, and employability skills. Many thanks to Liiba, Future First and Amwins for hosting another great session for our students.



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Reminders and key dates

Attendance

A reminder that sixth former's attendance at school is essential for their overall success. As such, at BSF, we have a minimum target of 95% attendance to tutorials/lessons and for each sixth former to be on time, all the time, every day. Research proves there is a strong correlation between attendance and achievement. Students with an attendance rate of less than 90% risk achieving two grades lower than their target grade. It is the responsibility of students and parents/carers to ensure that if absences do occur, that the correct procedure is followed. Progression from Year 12 to Year 13 is also dependent upon students achieving a minimum of 90%

Uniform

BSF's dress code is designed to ensure that students are dressed smartly, professionally and in a formal/business style, reflecting the ethos of Beal Sixth Form. A reminder that all students must adhere to the policy and that Blazers and Lanyards must be worn at all times. A copy of the sixth form dress code can be found [here](#).



Calendar

- **Year 13 Season 3 Progression Exams:** w/b 2nd March and 9th March. Students will not have study leave for these exams and are expected to be in school as normal. This includes during form time, private studies, for all lessons and for PSHE
- **Year 12 Spring reports:** Monday 16th March
- **Year 12 parents' evening:** Tuesday 17th March
- **Year 13 public examinations begin:** w/b 11th May
- **Year 13 lessons to continue until:** 23rd May

On behalf of the BSF team, we would like to wish all Beal families a very peaceful, restful and safe half-term break and look forward to welcoming students back on 8.30am on Monday 23rd February 2026.

