



St Mary Redcliffe  
and Temple School

# Sixth Form Prospectus



Dear Prospective Student,

The Redcliffe Sixth Form Centre is a centre of academic excellence where we treat students as young adults. Students come from all parts of Bristol and from further afield attracted by our standards of achievement, wide range of courses, and caring ethos and pastoral provision.

The School's Christian foundation and values underpin our commitment to faith, good relationships, social justice and the development of the whole person. At the heart of our community is a respect for the diversity of human experience and

backgrounds which underpins all that we do and aspire to. We know that students educated at Redcliffe are being thoroughly prepared to make positive contributions to their communities, either at local, national, or global level.

If you want to be part of a learning institution which will provide you with further education of the highest calibre, will challenge you to develop your mind, emotions and spirit, and will prepare you for university or employment, we welcome your application and look forward to sharing this next, most important, stage of your education with you.



Mr D M Planter - Headteacher

**alive**

**WE VALUE...**





Dear Students,

It is fantastic that we can welcome you to Redcliffe Sixth Form. Your time here will go so quickly and you will love every moment of it: high quality teaching, an excellent working environment and a fantastic social life. The teachers are supportive and uphold a relaxed two-way relationship with students to ensure everyone gets the best out of their time here. Academic standards are high and you are encouraged to fulfil your potential. Teachers do expect you to put in the effort though, and are on your case if you don't!

Redcliffe puts a distinct emphasis on developing the whole person and on a strong sense of community. There are lots of social events planned throughout the year and our Culture day is a particular favourite. Our Common Room provides a place to relax and socialise when you have some free time, and there are a huge range of groups and clubs to become involved in such as the Debating Society, Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, and an excellent music department. Redcliffe Sixth Form is a fantastic choice and we all highly recommend it.

Hope to see you in September.

The Senior Students



**The strength of the sixth form is in many respects due to the outstanding way it is led and managed, evident in the drive for continuing success in all areas.**

Ofsted

**Every member of our School community is created by God and our aim is to achieve our full potential. We want every student to be able to say:**

- I feel safe
- I belong here and have good relationships
- I enjoy my learning and achieve well
- This School helps me to make my hopes for the future come true







“ I’m pleased I chose to study at SMRT - it has a safe and caring environment.

Student

## Who Are We?

### A Specialist A Level Centre

- Easily accessible at the heart of the city
- In our own dedicated Sixth Form building with extensive library, study facilities, IT, and social space
- Offering a very wide range of A Level courses
- With a strong sense of student community

### We are part of St Mary Redcliffe and Temple School

- Excellent facilities in all practical subjects
- Staff used to teaching across the full age range
- Opportunities for support and activity in the wider School community
- A strong ethos of personal care and pastoral support

### We are open to all

- Over 700 students from almost every post-code and school in Bristol
- Students of any faith background or none
- Committed to equality and respect





### **We enable students to succeed academically**

- Students across the ability range make good progress
- Drop-out from courses and from the centre is exceptionally low
- Good working relationships between teachers and students
- Students become 'empowered learners', who develop the organisation, interdependence, and resilience to overcome difficulties

### **We provide an enriching experience which develops the whole person**

- Encouragement to work with others and contribute to the community
- Lots of opportunity for extra-curricular activity
- Developing skills for life and work

### **We prepare students effectively for their future**

- Equipped to take responsibility and study independently
- Over 80% of students progress to university
- The remaining 20% successfully progress to further education, apprenticeships, training, or employment
- Significant numbers gain access to Oxbridge and Russell Group universities



# Our Curriculum Offer

## A Specialist A Level Centre

Our Sixth Form offers A Level and AS courses and their equivalents, and we have a broad range of curriculum choices.

We are keen to give as many students as possible the opportunity to start on four A Level subject choices in order to explore and decide which three they will most enjoy and be most successful at.

In Year 12 some students reduce to three subjects after a few weeks, some after Christmas, and others at the end of the first year.

There is no value in a student sitting an AS exam at the end of Year 12 if they are then continuing with the subject onto Y13 to sit the A Level, but a student might decide to sit the AS in their fourth subject.

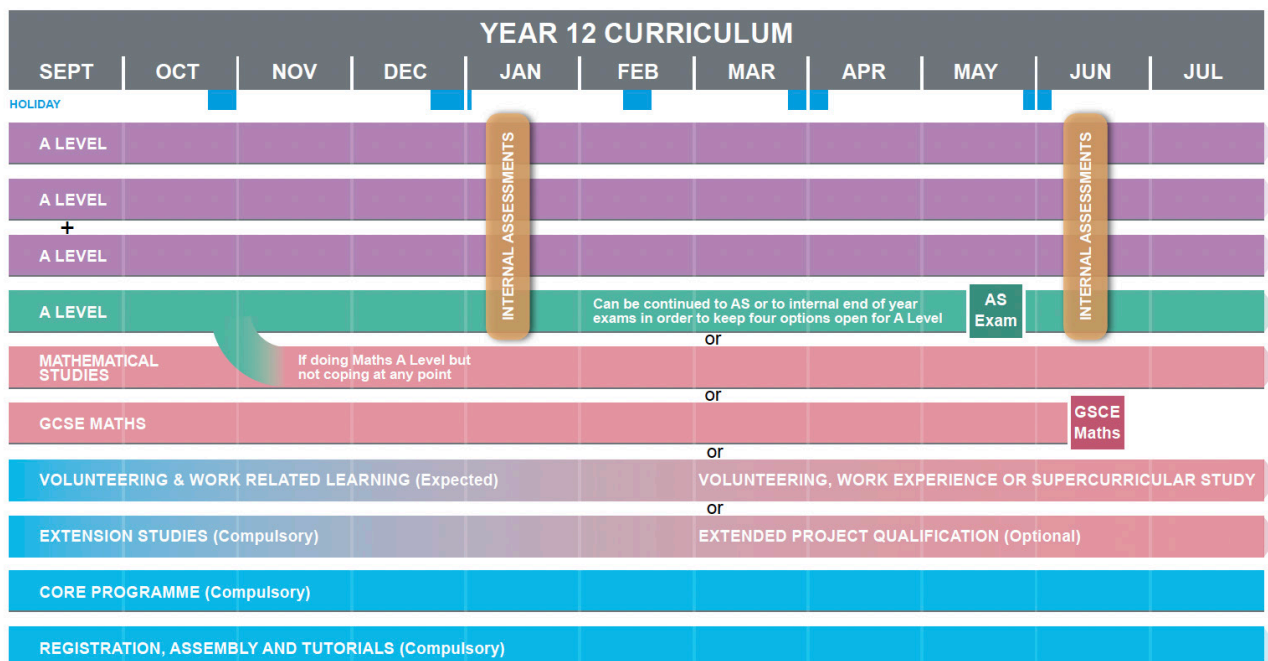
Please note though that not all subjects have an AS option, and also as any external exams taken in Y12 need to be declared in a University application, students should only sit an AS exam if they are confident that they can do well.

In Year 13 nearly all students will be studying three A Levels, although for the highest attainers at GCSE, including some of those that study Maths and Further Maths, four A Levels might be appropriate.

The below subjects are all available as full A Levels or an equivalent Level 3 qualification, and in most subjects as an AS Level.

Overall entry requirements and specific subject requirements can be found on our School website along with specific syllabus content and assessment arrangements.

- Art & Design
- English Language & Literature
- Music
- Biology
- English Literature
- Music Technology
- Business Studies
- Film Studies
- Philosophy
- Chemistry
- French
- Photography
- Classical Civilisation
- Geography
- Physical Education
- Computer Science
- German
- Physics
- Design Technology (Product Design)
- Health & Social Care
- Politics
- Design Technology (Textiles)
- History
- Psychology
- Economics
- Law
- Religious Education
- English Language
- Maths & Further Maths
- Sociology
- Spanish
- Media Studies
- Theatre Studies





# Supplementary Courses

## ViP Extension Studies

All students will be placed on this course for the first half of Year 12, following which students can continue on to the Extended Project Qualification if they choose.

Today's students live in a rapidly changing world, confronted by competing ideas, arguments and information. They need to be able to deal with knowledge claims critically and constructively in order to function as global citizens, making a positive impact on the world and flourishing in their personal growth and development.

Our 'ViP Extension Studies' programme supplements a student's core A Levels by developing their ability to follow and deconstruct arguments and assertions, separating fact from opinion, and trains them to assess and evaluate the truth of claims.

Through the analysis of the credibility of sources, understanding the common flaws in arguments, and learning the qualities of persuasive argument, students enhance their skills of thinking, reasoning,

and analysis. By developing well-supported arguments, they learn not just to argue effectively but to engage sympathetically with radically different views.

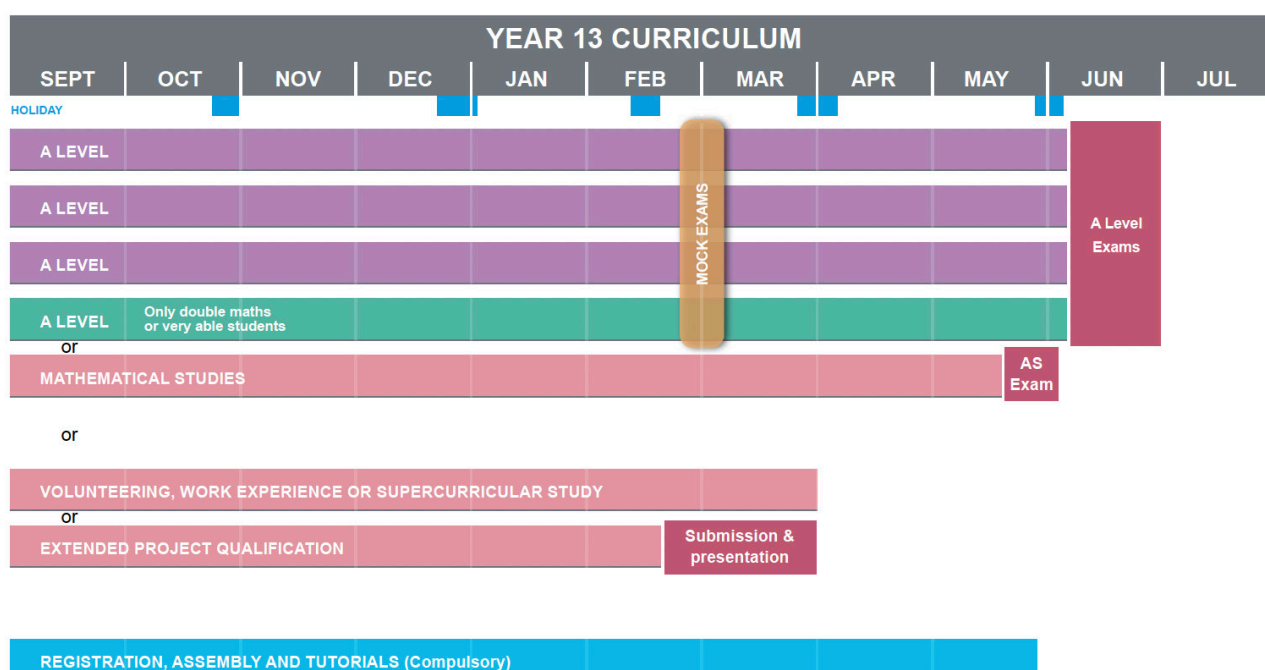
From the start of Year 12 through to Easter students will be shown how to work with information by considering the challenges facing the world today and studying a range of global issues such as racial justice and inequality, artificial intelligence, international relations, migration, happiness, wealth and inequality, conspiracy theories, ethics, freedom of speech, genetic engineering, religion and secularism, the economic role of women, and climate change etc. Students will be trained in techniques of research and presentation so that from Easter of Year 12 onwards they are equipped to take on the Extended Project Qualification if that is what they choose or to convert to one of our other supplementary options if they are studying three A Levels.

## Supplementary Options

When students either start or reduce to three subjects, they are expected to supplement their A Levels with an additional option in order to have a full-time programme.

Supplementary options include:

- Level 3 Mathematical Studies (AS Level equivalent)
- An Extended Project Qualification (AS Level equivalent)
- An agreed programme of Super-curricular study including online learning and wider reading
- Volunteering or work-experience
- GCSE Maths resit (for those that either need to resit to achieve a 'pass' or those that would like to improve a grade 4 to 5 known as a 'strong pass')







## Mathematical Studies

**Mathematical Studies (sometimes called 'Core Maths') is a Level 3 qualification equivalent to an AS Level. The course has been developed with employers, universities and professional bodies as valuable preparation for the mathematical demands of university study and employment.**

You will need a Grade 5 or above in mathematics at GCSE.

There has been a tremendous amount of coverage in the Media recently about the UK's gap in basic maths skills. Only 20% of students study maths beyond GCSE in the UK - the lowest rate in leading developed countries in the

world; in Japan, this figure is 85%. This puts young people in the UK at a major disadvantage in a global job market.

Mathematical Studies is designed to maintain and develop real-life maths skills. What you study is not purely theoretical or abstract; it can be applied on a day-to-day basis in work, study or life and will include elements such as financial maths and practical statistics. It will also help with other A-level subjects - in particular with science, geography, business studies, psychology and economics. It is not, in most cases, a sufficient qualification to progress to a Maths degree.

The skills developed in the study of mathematics are increasingly important in the workplace and in higher education; studying Mathematical Studies will help you keep up these essential skills. Most students who study maths after GCSE improve their career choices and increase their earning potential because many roles in today's workplace require high levels of budget management and mathematical problem-solving skills; Mathematical Studies will be a useful tool in equipping you with these skills.

## Extended Project Qualification

**The extended project qualification is equivalent to an AS Level in size but challenges students to work at a full A Level standard of challenge, and so is very highly regarded by universities.**

This is because it enables students to really focus on and develop their understanding of one of their areas of greatest passion, typically something related to the subject that they may want to study at university or the career path that they are working towards.

To complete it a student must identify their own title to research. They are supported in producing a 5000 word essay on which they must then make a presentation and take questions.

Sounds challenging, but for many students this ends up being the most stretching and personally satisfying part of their Sixth Form experience.

Students become familiar with the use of libraries and effective online research. They become equipped to construct detailed and developed arguments and to reference them properly. Finally they grow in confidence in their ability to present their work, and so are equipped to make a very effective transition to work or university.

*"We value the skills of research and independent learning that the Extended Project is designed to develop. We welcome applications from students offering the Extended Project alongside A Levels."*

Newcastle University

*"UCL welcomes the introduction of the Extended Project into the curriculum, recognising that it will develop many of the skills necessary for successful study at university."*

University College London



# The Support We Offer

## Clear Standards and Expectations

Our students can have very high expectations of us:

- Excellent teaching
- Education in personal skills for life and study
- Tutorials with personal tutors to support and guide
- Learning support
- Frequent assessment and constructive feedback
- Wide opportunity for extra-curricular activity

**In return we expect that our students will:**

- Contribute positively to our Sixth Form Centre community
- Work to the best of their ability
- Attend and be punctual for all classes and registration
- Complete work by set deadlines
- Work collaboratively with their personal tutor
- Respect the faith, culture and personal life-choices of others
- Be a positive role-model and support to younger students

Students have lots of opportunities to provide feedback on their experience in Sixth Form with regular student voice including student committees.

## Personal Support

Each student is assigned to a personal tutor, who will take responsibility for the oversight of the student's academic progress and pastoral needs. They will meet regularly with the student to ensure that all is well and to advise on topics including study skills, time management, etc. **If the student is struggling to meet the Centre's expectations, the tutor will be key in supporting the student in resolving the issues.**

Student progress reviews will be held during lessons as appropriate during the course, but, in addition, there will be opportunity for review at the subject consultation evenings, to which students and their parents/ carers are invited. Our learning mentors provide more in-depth support for those who need help in adjusting to the environment of Sixth Form or the learning skills needed to succeed at A Level.

## SEND and EAL Support

The Centre is committed to ensuring that students who have specific learning needs, including those who have English as an additional language, are treated fairly and are not disadvantaged in their learning.

Our learning support team will work with students to assess whether they have specific needs and will ensure that any additional arrangements needed to access exams will be put in place.

Students should make sure that they have advised us of any particular needs before they arrive, so that we are fully prepared to support them.



# Our Enrichment Offer

## Learning for Life

The Sixth Form emphasises two aspects of learning: academic and life skills. We want our students to enjoy life and be prepared for whatever it brings. We have, therefore, made sure our programme of study includes much more than the purely academic subjects.

Our ViP Pastoral Curriculum, through Core and Extension Studies lessons, is focused on developing personal skills for study and life. Because we believe that developing people as independent learners and responsible members of their communities is important, we ensure that the ViP Core Programme is taught by the student's personal tutor, so that strong supportive relationships can be built.

The ViP Core Programme focuses on how to learn, revise, and succeed academically, issues in personal wellbeing and relationships, life-skills, and planning for progression beyond A Levels.

The ViP: Extension Studies course helps students to think critically and to apply this to contemporary issues in politics, ethics, and the media.

We prepare students well for university applications and study and also for the world of work and work-based pathways such as higher apprenticeships.

Work-related learning is a critical part of learning for life, and we deliver this by providing opportunities for contacts with employers and the expectation that all students will have some work-based experience during their two years with us.



## Contribution - Living for Others

**Our most recent SIAMS inspection reported that “Many students attracted to join the sixth form from other schools do so because of its reputation as a place where social justice is lived out in ways that make a difference locally, nationally and globally.”**

We believe that a human being becomes fully alive and fulfils their potential only when they live for and give to others and concern themselves with the ‘common good’ rather than just their own needs and desires. We therefore have an expectation that every student will offer something back to the school or wider community during their time with us.

Our students are often highly engaged in social and political activism within the School and beyond. We have established programmes of volunteering that include supporting younger children with their literacy or in their classes, mentoring GCSE students who are experiencing difficulties, supporting worship, enrichment, charitable and sporting activities across the School, supporting a local pensioners’ lunch club, Kumon tutoring, the Fareshare food bank, and organising fundraising events.

Many students gain accreditation through the Duke of Edinburgh’s Award Scheme.

**“ Leaders ensure that students are exceptionally well prepared for the next stages of education, training and careers. The information, advice and guidance given are extremely comprehensive and well coordinated.**

Ofsted





“ **It has a good academic record and atmosphere, friendly people, and lots of opportunities for extra-curricular activities.**

Student

## Broadening Horizons

We try and run as full a programme as possible of activities at lunch and after school. The debating society is very active - entering teams to four competitions per year including an international mock United Nations event. The Music department runs a number of choirs and orchestras covering classical and contemporary styles, including a jazz band, with many opportunities for collaboration and performance.

The Christian Union is traditionally very strong, and many students develop and demonstrate their social concern and involvement through

groups such as our Feminist, Global Ethnicities society, LGBTQ+, Green society, Envision, and Amnesty International Groups.

There are Medical, Law, and Politics Societies for students who have particular interests in these areas.

Students are encouraged to establish any club or society that they can find members for and have in recent years run a drama club, chess and table games club, anime club, and climbing club.

Students also get involved in and support the many extra-curricular activities of the 11-16 part of the school, taking part in school plays, coaching sports teams and running lunchtime clubs.

Our excellent sports facilities are available to students, who frequently run practices and teams, in a range of sports such as rugby, football, basketball and hockey. Our Football and Rugby teams have been exceptionally successful in winning city-wide and regional tournaments. New groups/teams are always welcome.

## Stretching and Challenging

We have a well-established process for supporting high achieving students who are aspiring towards places at elite Universities. This includes additional support in forming their future plans, visiting speakers on medical and Oxbridge degrees, a visit to Oxford, and individual support in preparing for additional tests.

The centre also co-ordinates a city-wide programme to provide Oxbridge-style interview practice for all Bristol state schools.

Our highest attainers at GCSE take part in the city-wide HE+ programme, run by Cambridge University, which provides access to academic master-classes, experience in super-curricular research, and a residential trip to Cambridge.

In addition we aim to invite visiting speakers in to stimulate thought and discussion and take students to lectures and conferences through our strong links with local Universities and the Bristol Festival of Ideas. Many of our highest GCSE attainers take up the chance to work towards the

Extended Project Qualification. Learning at the Redcliffe Centre extends beyond the classroom.

Opportunities are available for work experience, attendance at conferences, field work, residential courses, theatre trips, trips to foreign countries, maths challenge competitions, and master-classes run by University lecturers.





## RAG Charities

The student body plans a series of fundraising activities across the year to raise money for their chosen Raising and Giving (RAG) charities.

Recent highlights have included fashion shows, quiz evenings, dodgeball competitions, dressing up days, film evenings and our regular open mic nights. We often raise up to £2000 for local and international causes.

## Activities Week

We make full use of the school's Activities Week at the end of the School year. In the past there have been trips to Wales on an Outdoor Pursuits course, to London for a cultural visit, to Geneva to visit CERN, to Berlin for an immersion in its history and culture, and on music tours of France, Germany and Prague.

Some students help out with activities in the main school and accompany various trips with Year 7. Others use the time to do some useful work experience to enhance their prospects when applying to university or for a specific job.

## Social Life

The student body is led and represented by a group of senior students, whose job it is to get everybody else energised and active. They are also there to help and advise any student with difficulties who needs someone to talk to.

### Social Activities

Our lunchtime quizzes, games nights and film nights help build relationships. Our termly open-mic nights give students a chance to show off their musical or other talents.

### Leavers' Prom

This is a celebration of two years of hard work. Venues in recent years have included the Art and History museum on Park Street, the Bristol Zoo, a pop-up event on the Downs and Ashton Court Manor.

### Common Room

The Common Room can accommodate lots of students. It has a music system and its own catering provision.



“ **Teaching is good, with an increasing emphasis on developing students as independent learners, and retention rates are high.** ”

Ofsted





# How Do I Apply?

## Entrance Requirements

We require at least a grade 5 in GCSE English (Language or Lit) and 4 in GCSE Maths (although students with a 4 are encouraged to continue to study Maths until they achieve a grade 5).

- Overall we require 665544 across six GCSEs including the English and Maths grades.
- We count a BTEC Pass = grade 4, Merit = grade 5, Distinction = grade 7, but at least one grade 6 must be in a GCSE subject.
- Most essay-based subjects require a grade 6 pass in a written GCSE (such as English, Humanities or Social Sciences)
- Additional requirements apply in certain subjects. See subject pages for details.

To start four A Level subjects in Year 12 we normally expect students to achieve 776655 across six GCSEs.

Students can then choose to drop one of these after Christmas or at the end of Year 12.

To study two science subjects we would expect at least 66, and to study all three sciences at least 77 plus a 7 in Maths since this is a very challenging and high-risk programme.

On your application form you should indicate the three or four main A Levels subjects that you wish to begin. You do not have to indicate which of these you are most likely not to continue to a full A Level. If you are interested in picking up Mathematical Studies as an additional option then you should also indicate this on the form.

## The Application Process

Applications should be made to the Sixth Form Redcliffe Centre via the on-line application form accessible through the school website at [www.smrt.bristol.sch.uk/sixth-form/applying-to-us](http://www.smrt.bristol.sch.uk/sixth-form/applying-to-us)

- The closing date for applications is normally in early December. Try and fill in the application form well before this date, so that there is time to ask for help if there is anything you don't understand.
- Offers will be made in accordance with our admissions policy which can be found on the School website. In the event of oversubscription offers of places to students joining us from other schools may be made on the basis of distance from home to the Sixth Form.
- Once an offer has been made you will be sent an additional form asking you for further information which will help us in supporting and guiding you. Once you have accepted a place and returned this form you will be invited to visit the Sixth Form for a guidance conversation and tour, at which we can confirm which subjects you will be able to do. Should you wish to change subjects after this point, this will be possible, even after GCSE results have been received, as long as there are still vacancies on the course you wish to change to.
- Our Induction Day for all new students is usually in early July

**For further details please contact the Admissions Team at The Redcliffe Sixth Form Centre.**

**Telephone: 0117 353 2073**

**Email: [6thform@smrt.bristol.sch.uk](mailto:6thform@smrt.bristol.sch.uk)**

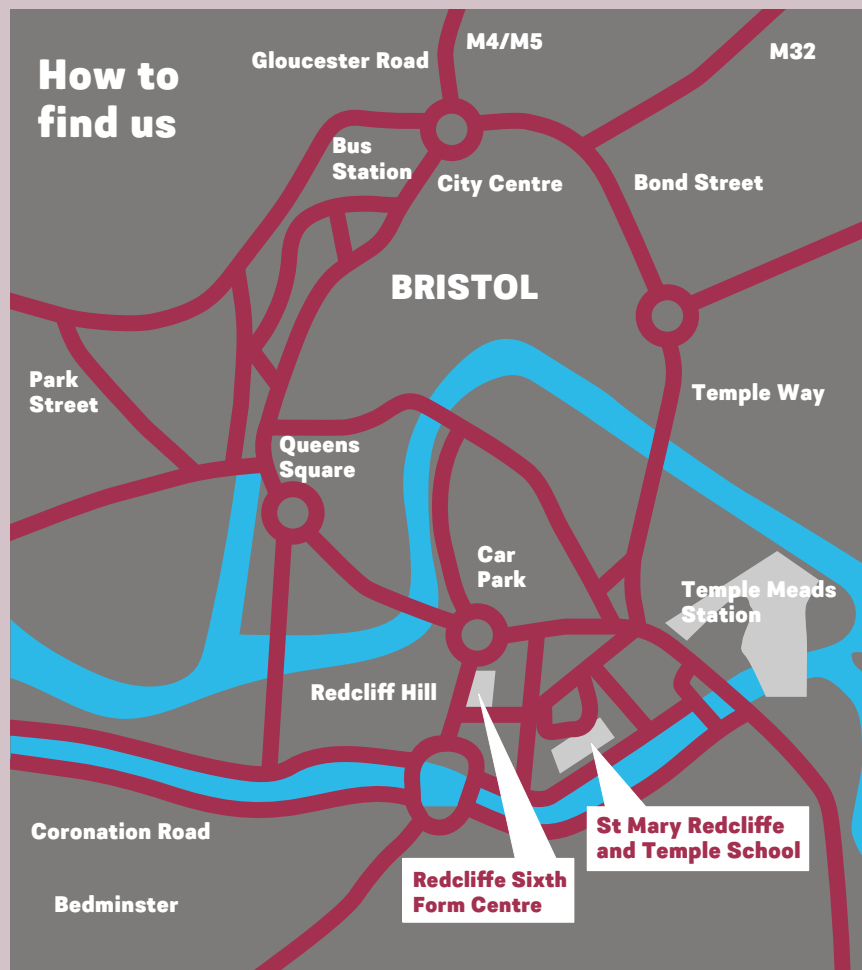


“ **The pastoral work here is really good - I received lots of help from the learning mentors regarding my UCAS application.** ”

Student







St Mary Redcliffe and Temple School is at a convenient central site within easy access of Temple Meads Station and many bus routes.

Please note that the school does not have on-site parking facilities for students and parents/carers. Visitors are advised to use public car parking spaces.

Any visitors who need help with their mobility are advised to contact the school before visiting so that appropriate parking arrangements can be made.

St Mary Redcliffe and Temple School,  
Somerset Square,  
Bristol BS1 6RT, UK  
Telephone: 0117 377 2100

Redcliffe Sixth Form Centre,  
Dulverton House, Redcliff Hill,  
Bristol, BS1 6RB, UK  
Telephone: 0117 353 2073

Email: [6thform@smrt.bristol.sch.uk](mailto:6thform@smrt.bristol.sch.uk)

[www.smrt.bristol.sch.uk](http://www.smrt.bristol.sch.uk)

 @SMRTSchool