

Dear Oscar,

Thank you for your email. I have received many emails from staff and students in recent weeks and am considering all their suggestions, as well as seeking to address the questions asked.

We recognise that as an institution, we have much more work to do to get to where we want to be. This will require action both individually and collectively and will mean involving our students, staff and alumni - our students' voices are essential in informing our work. Commissioning the Student Union to carry out research for us was an early step in this, and has informed much of our work since then but I think we both agree that there is much more still to do. In my most recent email to students, I outlined one of the key next steps in our work to address racism, the formation of the new Steering Group. This group will include elected officers from Bristol SU to ensure that students' representatives are informing our work now and in the future.

As an educational establishment, I believe that we can do more to bring people with us by engaging them and involving them in making change. This is the reason I am keen to engage our University community in discussion and consultation about the names of our buildings. This stems not from a lack of commitment but out of a desire for us to work together to educate ourselves, listen to our Black, Asian and minority ethnic colleagues, and take action together. The Steering Group will guide how we review the names of our buildings, in order to ensure that people of colour can actively shape the process and the discussion.

I note you also raised a concern about the use of the Colston name in the travel scholarships granted by the Colston Research Society. The name of that group was changed in November 2019 and it is now the [Bristol Collegiate Research Society](#), so please be assured that there will be no future travel scholarships under that name. There are some past events etc. that still show the old name - which may be where you saw it - but that name is no longer in use for current or future activities.

Best wishes,

Hugh

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A top 10 UK university and 58th in the world (QS Rankings 2021)  
Fourth most targeted UK university by top employers (High Fliers 2020)  
A top 5 UK university for research (THE analysis of REF 2014)

Ninth best European university for teaching (THE 2019)

I follow the [University email charter](#)