

FORGENEWS

WE ARE ORMISTON FORGE ACADEMY



TYCOON IN SCHOOLS

Our team of aspiring entrepreneurs have made it to the final of the nationwide enterprise competition Tycoon in Schools.

During a seven-week trading period at the end of last year, the students raked in an impressive profit of £450. As well as selling vast quantities of their vintage and 'shabby-chic' designs to teachers, they targeted a younger market, producing styles for children's bedrooms and nurseries.

The group sold their bunting at school and at various local events, before submitting an evaluation report to a judging panel chaired by successful entrepreneur and star of Dragons' Den Peter Jones CBE.

Mr Jones said: "The members of Backstage Bunting have developed a sustainable business model and produced some really attractive products. They thoroughly deserve their place in the final round."

Managing Director of Backstage Bunting Mohmana Shahid said: "We can't believe that we've been chosen as a finalist. We've learnt so much about running a business during the trading period for Tycoon in Schools - it felt reward enough. Visiting Buckingham Palace is going to be a dream come true."

The ten sixth formers have set up Backstage Bunting, a company that designs, produces and sells a fashionable range of decorative flags.

In recognition of their success, they have been invited to a special ceremony at Buckingham Palace in March, alongside eight other student-companies hoping to be crowned the overall winners.

Ormiston Forge Academy Principal Andrew Burns said: "I'm delighted that our students have been recognised for the hard work and determination they showed with the Tycoon in Schools project. Backstage Bunting was an outstanding idea and our Forge students have learnt many real business skills. They also turned the idea into a profitable, realistic venture. I'm incredibly proud of our students and their teacher Miss Bennett and they are deserving of their day at the Palace."





A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Reading is the gateway to all knowledge. I've read throughout my life and during holidays I'm vociferous in my demolition of as many books as I'm able to devour.

I love seeing our students reading and I rarely walk past them without having a conversation about what they think of the book and what they are planning to read next. We have a smashing library at Forge and it's great to see that it's always busy. Literacy levels are so very important, they provide students access to exam papers, written instructions, research and the

internet. A low reading age will severely restrict opportunities afforded to the student across the curriculum. It's our biggest barrier to learning.

I want the best for our students and I want them to take a lifelong appreciation for words with them when they leave us. I want them to be able to access all they need, to become the best they can be.

Andrew Burns
Principal



SIX QUICK QUESTIONS WITH LOUISE KAY VICE PRINCIPAL (INCLUSION)



- 1. What would you have been if you hadn't become a teacher?**
A lawyer.
- 2. Do you have a favourite sporting team?**
I don't have a favourite team, although my husband and son would both say it's West Bromwich Albion.
- 3. Funniest Forge moment?**
My attempts at the whole academy Zumba challenge. I am still working on my coordination.
- 4. Favourite holiday?**
Anywhere in Greece with my Kindle.
- 5. Where did you go to university?**
Leicester University, studying politics.
- 6. Best ever book?**
Ethel and Ernest by Raymond Briggs. It has beautiful illustration, a wonderful story and makes me cry every time.



SALON AT FORGE

We have a working salon at Forge with a range of treatments available to the public as well as a first class teaching facility.

Our students are in need of male and female clients for hair and beauty treatment and services.

The salon is open:
Tuesdays 9am-6pm
Wednesdays 9am-6pm
Thursdays 9am-6pm

Tell your friends and family, professional hair and beauty services at very affordable prices.

Call 01384 566598 and dial ext 2183 to book an appointment.

FORGE STUDENTS AT CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY



We recently ran a year 11 trip to Cambridge University through our partnership with The Access Project (TAP).

A group of our students showed great maturity whilst meeting students and staff at one of the greatest educational establishments in the world.

The day was planned to inspire, excite and energise our students and there were discussions with the University's students and staff. Forge students were able to have the opportunity to ask a variety of questions about university life. In a lecture theatre full of 250-plus fellow students and staff, Gurjivan was selected to ask a question.

Tracey Beech, TAP coordinator at Ormiston Forge Academy, said: "This event was an excellent opportunity, the students enjoyed the auspicious surroundings of Cambridge University."

The year 11 students who attended are looking forward to sharing their experiences with the rest of their year-group and we know that the trip will be spurring them on to apply to Cambridge or another top university to continue their education after Forge.



PRIZE GIVING 2014

Parents, teachers, students and the Chief Executive of UCAS gathered at Champions Church in Netherton in November for a night of celebration at our annual Prize Giving ceremony.

Over 200 students were recognised for outstanding achievements in a wide range of academic and social aspects of academy life.

The guests of honour both provided rousing speeches. Mary Curnock Cook OBE, Chief Executive of UCAS, the organisation that manages applications to higher education courses in the UK presented students with the community awards. Rob Whitehouse, who is an award winning producer/director with over 30 years of experience in the television industry presented students with sports, house and pastoral awards.

Chief Executive of UCAS, Mary Curnock Cook OBE said: "Ormiston Forge Academy is a brilliant school and it was wonderful to be part of celebrating their students' success."



The 830 capacity Champions Church in Netherton was packed to the rafters and throughout the evening the audience were entertained with interludes from performing arts students who sang songs from Fame and Hairspray.

Principal Andrew Burns said: "What an evening! To be able to celebrate our students in this way makes me very, very proud to lead Ormiston Forge Academy. I send thanks to everyone who came along and congratulations to our prize winners."

PRINCIPAL AT 10 DOWNING STREET

In November our Principal, Andrew Burns, was invited to London by our local MP, James Morris, for a tour of the Palace of Westminster and 10 Downing Street.

Mr Burns was selected by James Morris, along with a small group of community leaders, for the work being done at Forge and our impact on the local community.

During the day the group were given an extensive tour of 10 Downing Street, the official residence of the Prime Minister; the tour was conducted by Prime Ministerial Aides.

Principal Andrew Burns said: "The highlight for me was the Cabinet Room, over 200 years of history have been made around that table and some of our greatest leaders have sat there."

The Palace of Westminster is the meeting place of the House of Commons and the House of Lords, the two houses of the Parliament of the United Kingdom. James Morris was able to take the group around the Houses, as the Member of Parliament for Halesowen and Rowley Regis he is very familiar with this, his London workplace.

MP James Morris said: "I was pleased to be able to show Andrew around Parliament and Number 10 as recognition for the hard work of staff and students at the Ormiston Forge Academy. He did manage to sit in the Prime Minister's chair within the Cabinet Room and think he quite enjoyed it!"

Principal Andrew Burns said of the day: "It was an honour to represent Ormiston Forge Academy as Principal and to be recognised for the work we do in the community. We continue to be grateful to James for his time and support in ensuring our students have the best education and opportunities possible."



CONGRATULATIONS TO ANDREW HOWARD

Andrew has been a senior technology technician at Forge for 16 years and has recently been studying at Dudley College. Early in 2014 he was nominated for an award and at the Celebrating Success event in October Andrew won the Dudley College Business Apprentice of the Year award.

Lesley Jones, Management Assessor at Dudley College, said "When Andrew first signed up for the Management Advanced Apprenticeship at Dudley College, he was probably the most nervous adult learner I had ever enrolled. He had not undertaken any formal qualification for many years and was worried about the level of commitment needed to complete the course.

"In fact, after I had signed him up he rang the next day to say he thought he

had made a mistake and was thinking of withdrawing. After a gentle persuasion Andrew decided to have a go and since then has shown such dedication to achieving each element of this Apprenticeship. He put in a tremendous amount of hard work and effort and it has been a delight to watch his confidence grow over the year. The quality of his work has reflected the effort that he has put in and nothing has given me more pleasure than to see Andrew rewarded with this award for his achievements."

Rebecca Fisher, Finance Director at Ormiston Forge Academy said: "Andrew has brought great pride to Forge by winning this award, everyone would like to join together to congratulate him. He's a popular, inspiring and humble man and we are very lucky to have him as part of the Forge family."



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