

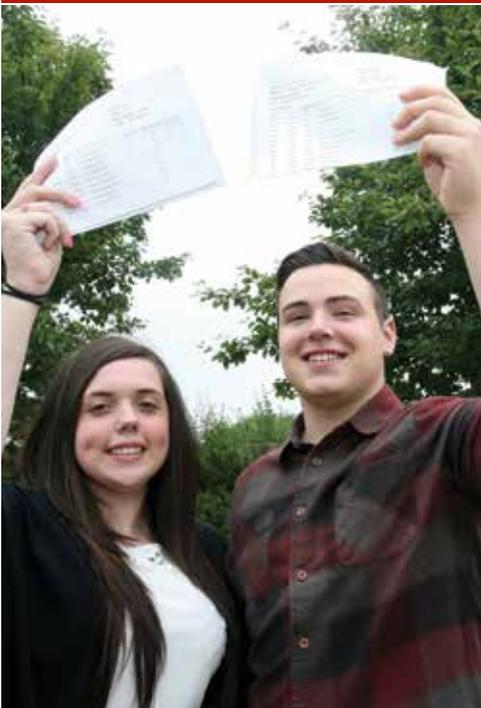
# FORGENEWS

**WE ARE** ORMISTON FORGE ACADEMY



## BEST EVER RESULTS

**Ormiston Forge Academy continues to buck local and national GCSE and A level trends; results have increased for the third year running with an impressive increase of top grades.**



Our students achieved 51% A\*-C pass rate for five GCSEs, including English and maths. Two years ago this figure was 44% and last year it was 47%. The improvement at the top end was capped with a record 63 A\* (A-star) grades amongst the year 11 cohort.

There have been some incredible departmental performances this year. Despite more students choosing to do sciences, the subject has posted 95% A\*-C in chemistry, 95% A\*-C in physics and 98% A\*-C in biology. Humanities subjects went from 60% A\*-C in 2014 to 77% A\*-C this year. Languages rocketed from 43% to 59%, an increase of 16% at A\*-C grades and sport/PE posted a phenomenal increase of 35% on last year with a 94% pass rate at A\*-C.

63% of students who collected their A level results attained 3 or more A level passes (A\*-E), 89% with 2 or more and 100% with 1 or more. This confirms the

academy's position as one of the top establishments in the area for A level success.

Andrew Burns, Principal, said: "I'm delighted with the results this year, above all they show that we are making consistent progress and building on solid foundations. Our students are benefiting from our robust methods, great teachers, excellent support network and our hard work ethic. Students don't come to Forge for an easy life, they come to achieve and I see that every single day. We'll push them, we'll support them and we'll celebrate with them."

The 5 GCSE A\*-G pass rate has barely fluctuated over the last 3 years at 96%, showing the academy provides a model of consistently good education; all of this, combined with the outstanding A level results, means the academy represents excellent choice for Sandwell students starting in September at year 7.



# WE ARE ORMISTON FORGE ACADEMY



It really is that time of year again when we go out into the community to recruit new students into our year seven starting in September 2016. It's testament to our new year seven, who started just six weeks ago, that they are now confident enough to guide visitors around the site on our open events.

We've come a long way since I joined Forge and we are fast becoming the school of choice in the local area. Our growth has been phenomenal and we predict that in the next 18 months our year groups will start to reach capacity. This is down to you. You've trusted us and supported us. You've believed us when we've told you that we support the local community and we will continue to do so. Above all we will not settle for second best, we'll push our students hard and celebrate their success. In education that's the best promise we can make. We are Forge. Join us.

**Andrew Burns**  
Principal

## SIX QUICK QUESTIONS WITH MR COOLING VICE PRINCIPAL



**1. What would you have been if you hadn't become a teacher?**

A boxer or an archaeologist.

**2. Do you have a favourite sporting team?**

Liverpool FC - #YNWA

**3. Funniest Forge moment?**

Mr Adams' leaving speech was hilarious.

**4. Favourite holiday?**

My current one to Venice and Rome (I'm here as I write this).

**5. Where did you go to university?**

University of Birmingham to study theology.

**6. Best ever book?**

*The Histories by Herodotus* (learn about the Persian Wars by choosing classics at GCSE or A level at Forge).

## SUPPORTING THE ALBION FOUNDATION

The West Bromwich Albion blind football team set off from The Hawthorns in snowy conditions to continue the Tri Albion Challenge where they walked to every school in Sandwell (119 in total). They visited us where a guard of honour welcomed them in and after swift refreshments they were off to the next school.

Visit [www.thealbionfoundation.co.uk](http://www.thealbionfoundation.co.uk) to donate to the Albion Foundation.



# NATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR MEMBER OF STAFF

Sarah Taylor, who runs our Success Centre, received the First Class Achievement Beyond the Classroom award at the first ceremony held by academy sponsor Ormiston Academies Trust (OAT).

Sarah was nominated due to the positive impact of the Success Centre at Forge and in the community, particularly with a Peer Mentoring programme she started at the academy to educate young people on the dangers of alcohol.

The number of teenagers on the streets at night has dropped significantly as have the reports of anti-social behaviour. Police and councillors are amazed the impact the project has had and regularly join Sarah and her team. The council are so impressed that the Forge team are training and leading other schools in neighbouring communities to set up similar programmes.

Sarah's achievements were honoured at a special awards ceremony at the Grand Connaught Rooms in London, where she was presented with a plaque and certificate by Tim Campbell, OBE, entrepreneur and first winner of The Apprentice, and Ben Fogle, author, presenter and adventurer.

Professor Toby Salt, Chief Executive of Ormiston Academies Trust said: "We are indebted to the work that academy staff members like Sarah do to support our students to succeed. We need to celebrate this and we need to nurture it, to ensure that our students all have the same opportunities as everyone else."



## COMPETING IN WEST MIDLANDS REGIONAL ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Two Forge students represented the Sandwell team in the West Midlands County Athletics Championships earlier this year.

Drew Priest, 14 was selected for discus and shot put, and Carrie Gordon, 12, selected for the 800m. Both students are from Cradley Heath and performed to an incredibly high standard on the day with Drew finishing 4th in the discus with 19.69m and Carrie running the 800m final in 2min 54 secs.

Our students represented Sandwell Schools Athletics Association at the West Midlands Championships at the Alexander Stadium in June after qualifying in the Sandwell Athletics Senior Championship.

Principal, Andrew Burns, said, "We have a good track record at Forge in developing athletes, last year our students did very well at this event and I'm proud of Drew and Carrie as they represent us with pride. The Forge family are always cheering each other on and this instance was no different. It's a great achievement to represent your county and is a testament to our work hard, play hard philosophy."



## PALACE VISIT

You'll have read all about our young entrepreneurs in our last newsletter and the amazing exploits in the Tycoon in Schools competition. They were confirmed runners up in the national competition and attended a ceremony in Buckingham Palace

The students impressed with their company, Backstage Bunting, which designs, produces and sells a fashionable range of decorative flags. The competition founder, Peter Jones CBE, hosted the event along with HRH The Duke of York, KG, Patron of The Peter Jones Foundation.



## MP SUPPORTS STUDENT ELECTIONS



Member of Parliament (MP) for Halesowen and Rowley Regis, James Morris, dropped in on our students to offer advice on the forthcoming Head Boy and Head Girl elections. Year 12 candidates had already starting campaigning in anticipation of the forthcoming vote. James spoke about using social media, engaging people face to face and keeping promises, he also answered a number of questions posed by students.

James said: "It was fantastic to join students, of various ages, at Ormiston Forge Academy to talk about their school council, the importance of good governance and my experiences of election campaigning."



## CONCERT

Our summer concert this year saw students perform an incredible show at Netherton Arts Centre. With songs from musical theatre including Cabaret, Annie, Chicago, Matilda, Hairspray, Fame, Dream Girls, Wicked and many others - the audience was captivated by the outstanding talent on show. Congratulations to everyone involved. What a night!



## LOCAL BUSINESS DONATION

Thanks to a Cradley Heath business who have supported us to the tune of £2,374 for the purchase of 12 Chromebooks for English students. Dart Products Limited, a manufacturer of high quality foodservice packaging solutions, recently awarded us the funds.

Head of English at Forge, Dave Jenks said: "We are incredibly grateful for this generous donation from Dart. These Chromebooks will make a difference to the way our students are able to access materials; they will make a considerable difference to the lives of young people."