

FORGENEWS

WE ARE ORMISTON FORGE ACADEMY



We Are Ofsted **GOOD**

Ormiston Forge Academy has been commended on its 'significant improvement' after a recent Ofsted visit that rated the academy as Good.

Inspectors praised Principal Andrew Burns and his senior leadership team for 'working tirelessly' to ensure rapid improvement in the quality of education that is provided for students at the school.

The inspectors recognised how the school 'successfully narrowed gaps in achievement between disadvantaged pupils and others, due to their determination to ensure that every pupil has the opportunity to succeed'.

Other positive steps taken by the school include ensuring effective professional training for teachers and leaders. This has directly improved the quality of teaching which Ofsted identified as 'good or better in nearly all subjects'.

Importantly these steps are all having a direct positive impact on students' results; with the report noting that

students have shown consistent and marked improvement since 2013. Forge's strategies to raise learners' aspirations are also leading to an increase in the number of students submitting successful applications for university courses and apprenticeships, with 100 per cent of all leavers last year going on to further education or work.

Andrew Burns, Principal at Ormiston Forge Academy, said:

"The driver was always that our children and community deserve a Good school. We have high expectations of all our students to work hard, play hard and look smart. We provide a school environment that inspires students to become confident individuals and independent learners.

"This wonderful achievement reflects all the hard work and dedication of so many people. This has been a real team effort, from the students, the staff and our governors. I am so proud of my students, who are focussed, resilient and positive and proved to the inspection team that we do not put a show on, we are Good all day, every day.

"Next step: Outstanding! I know how close we are to this and we are already committed to this journey."

As well as rating the Academy as Good overall, Ofsted has rated the academy as Good in every category it was inspected on.



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

It's safe to say that this year has been out-of-this-world! You'll read in the newsletter that we've grown seeds from space, taken incredible images of the moon, nurtured the School Physicist of the year and had a Dalek do the voice-over for our mountain centre advert.

However, our students getting an incredible set of results last summer and the school being graded as Good, tops all this. You'll find we have our feet firmly planted on terra-firma, but we're brave, bold and brilliant.

As we approach our fifth birthday, in January, I'm incredibly proud of all we have achieved. But there is more to do. Our commitment to the community and our young people doesn't end. New students join, older students leave and continue their adventure elsewhere. They will all, always be part of our Forge family.

Andrew Burns
Principal

SIX QUICK QUESTIONS WITH MR JENKS

Curriculum Director for English and Senior Leader for Key Stage 3

- 1. What would you have been if you hadn't become a teacher?**
A professional musician.
- 2. Do you have a favourite sporting team?**
England cricket team.
- 3. Funniest Forge moment?**
Mr Barker's ping pong PE lesson, in a classroom, using hands instead of bats.
- 4. Favourite holiday?**
New York City.
- 5. Where did you go to university?**
Leicester and Stratford-Upon-Avon.
- 6. Best ever book?**
A recent favourite has been "A Monster Calls" by Patrick Ness - thought provoking and handles very sensitive issues amazingly. Every young person should read it.



AIMING FOR THE MOON

This incredible photo of the moon was taken by year 12 student K-Ryan Hinds, who as part of our partnership with The Access Project has extra tutoring to get into university and study astrophysics.

K-Ryan was also chosen as the School Physicist of the Year by the Ogden Trust.

Good luck and congratulations, K-Ryan.



DOCTOR WHO STAR LENDS VOCAL TALENTS TO LOCAL SCHOOL

When Ormiston Forge Academy in Cradley Heath needed a voice-over for their Welsh Mountain Centre film, one of the stars of the hit BBC TV show Doctor Who was on hand to help them out.

Nicholas Briggs, who plays the voice of the Daleks, Cybermen and other characters in the BBC TV series donated his vocal talents to the short film for the Forge Mountain Centre.

The Mountain Centre in Dynas Mawddwy, located in the Dovey Valley in Wales, has recently been refurbished and has capacity for up to 30 students and six members of staff. Some of the activities students can experience include: camping, horse riding, canoeing, caving, rock climbing, abseiling and mountain biking.

You can watch the video here:
www.youtube.be/ypjcBtGOKfQ



KARATE KID REPRESENTS GB IN WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Ormiston Forge Academy student, Ben Young, aged 13, from Netherton touched down in Dublin this summer to represent Great Britain in the WUKF World Karate Championships as part of the All-Styles Karate Alliance.

The World Union of Karate-do Organisations (WUKF) was originally founded in 1970 and counts several hundred affiliate member countries from all around the world.

Ben has been doing karate at Dudley Shukokai Karate Club, for eight years, training four times every week. In that time, he has attended a number of competitions and tournaments and

competed in a tournament in Malta earlier this year in the Open Karate Championships.

Principal at Ormiston Forge Academy, Andrew Burns, said:

“Congratulations to Ben, this is an outstanding achievement. He has shown incredible commitment to his sport and we wish him all the very best of luck in his upcoming competitions. He can rely on the support of everyone at Forge, we are very proud of him.”



ZAP – POW – SMASH



OH WHAT A NIGHT!

A sold-out audience at Netherton Arts Centre saw students perform a stream of musical hits.

Over 100 students from Ormiston Forge Academy, aged between 11 and 17, took to the stage to perform hits from musical theatre, in an evening titled, A Night At The Musicals.

Over 300 people watched the two-hour production featuring songs and performances from shows such as Mary Poppins, Grease, High School Musical, Calamity Jane, Oliver and Wicked. The evening also featured a performance from the staff choir.

Principal, Andrew Burns, said: "In a year when we are graded Good by Ofsted our students put on a show that is simply outstanding."



Forge students are diving into a world of fantasy heroes and time travel thanks to a donation from an international publishing giant.

Titan Comics, a new imprint from the world-leading publisher Titan Books, has given the academy over 100 comic books to aid their work with student literacy.

The comics will be used in a variety of different ways with year 7 and 8 students. Students will be creating their own comic strips based on Shakespeare plays, the comics will become reading skills aids and a comic reading group will be set up. All of the activity will complement national curriculum guidance and initiatives from the National Literacy Trust.

Head of English, David Jenks, commented:

"We are extremely grateful to Titan for this fantastic donation. We know that literacy levels make a difference to the lives of our students. A higher literacy level will enable them to access more information which in turn has a positive outcome in exams."

Titan writer and Sunday Times bestselling author, Cavan Scott said: "It's great to see a school using comics as a way of engaging their pupils. Not only do comics help create and maintain a love of reading, they're often a springboard to creativity, inspiring readers to create their own stories and characters."



SEEDS FROM SPACE

Our gardening club has been working with the science department to grow seeds from space!

Students at Forge became space biologists and embarked on a voyage of discovery by growing seeds that have been to the International Space Station (ISS).

Last year, 2kg of rocket seeds were flown to the ISS where they spent several months in microgravity before returning to Earth. The seeds were sent as part of Rocket Science, an educational project launched by the RHS Campaign for School Gardening and the UK Space Agency.

Forge is one of 8,000 schools to receive a packet of 100 seeds from space; they

grew alongside seeds that haven't been to space, the differences measured over seven weeks. The students don't know which seed packet contains which seeds until all results have been collected by the RHS Campaign for School Gardening and analysed by professional biostatisticians.

Mrs Colwell, Head Gardener, said: "We were very excited to be taking part in Rocket Science. This experiment is a fantastic way of teaching our students to think more scientifically and share their findings with the whole community."