

FORGE

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER #1

WELCOME



Welcome to the first issue of our community newsletter. Our students spent an entire week doing activities that would benefit the community and you'll be able to read about a few of them here. We'd appreciate your feedback and would very much like you to suggest some projects that they can engage in. I believe that this should be something driven by the local community; it gives our young people a great opportunity to learn some valuable life lessons. I hope that you enjoy reading about our Forge family.

Andrew Burns, Principal

CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Forge students in year 7 took part in a variety of activities during the school's Community Week at the end of the summer term.

It has been incredible to see how enthusiastic and how thoughtful students have been in the different activities during the week. Teachers thoroughly enjoyed being a part of both community days and have felt it was so encouraging seeing the children trying new things and appreciating the role they have in the community.

The concept of community ranged from students' immediate community in the school and at home, to the local community surrounding the school and on to other cultures' communities overseas. Activities taking place in the local community included litter picking and packing bags for Tesco shoppers. Classroom-based activities included discussion on communities in other cultures, baking, gardening, knitting and first aid.

Students shared similar opinions on why Community Week was worthwhile. They felt it was important to give back to their community by helping its residents and making it a better place and also to improve the image of younger people, a concern that many students had. Several students enjoyed the community-based activities the most while others enjoyed the school-based activities like first aid and gardening, with knitting being the most challenging!

Forge students taking part in community activities should be proud of themselves as they certainly created a positive impression.

The reception students got at Tesco was excellent - a few of the shoppers praised how polite the pupils were and said that it was lovely to see them out in the community helping out. During the bag packing at Tesco a former student remarked on how smart our students were and how improved Forge is. Liz Whittle said: "She complimented the students on their politeness and uniform."

Form tutor Emma Burton praised Aleesha Ul-Islam and Zoe Willetts for being particularly helpful and enthusiastic, gaining praise from several members of the community. The litter picking was also tackled with enthusiasm; Miss Burton singled out Ellis Hassan during the litter picking, saying: "He was so enthusiastic and would not move on until all litter had been picked! It was

great to see this as I felt this may have been one of the activities pupils were reluctant to do."

Students were thankful that their teachers had involved them in the week of activities. Ceri Porter received a card from one of her year 7 students: "I opened it and it was from one of my lovely year 7 girls with a really thoughtful message inside. It made me really smile and made me feel really appreciated."





LOCAL HEROES

Forge students have enjoyed taking part in Community Week and it has certainly had an impact on how students think of their community. They think that the reputation of Forge has been improved and that people are more helpful and caring than they first thought. Many students feel that getting involved makes them much more appreciative of their community and that it should be respected and looked after, and they've also seen how much can be accomplished by talking with others and working together. Usman Mohammed in year 7 summed up the week by saying:

“It gets more interesting and you feel like participating and when you have finished you feel like a hero.”



CULTURAL CONNECTION

Community Week also included study and discussion on communities in other countries' cultures.

Form 7JWT studied gardening and community culture in Malawi. Students spent time outside the classroom making bird feeders and hedgehog homes. The students all showed signs of making some great progress learning about the community and way of life in Malawi. They seemed to really appreciate what they have in their own community after some deep discussion about what other communities do not have. Form tutor Jemma Wilmott said: “The time I have spent with my form during Community Week has been very worthwhile, they have developed as a group in many ways and I will be very sad to let them go and move on to their new form tutor in September!”

IMPROVING OUR SURROUNDINGS



Whilst teachers initially thought that students may have been reluctant to get involved in some of the activities like litter picking this hasn't been the case. Year 7 students were very mature and competed to collect the most litter. Whilst out in the community, a resident knocked on the window and put his thumb up and the students reacted positively; they were evidently proud of what they were doing. The litter picking was appreciated by many local residents; Nicky Barker said: “A lady stopped us on the road by Hingleys and said it was ‘heart warming’ seeing the kids out doing the litter picking as she usually goes out herself every day to collect it.”

f /ormistonforgeacademy @ormiston_forge @ormistonforgeacademy

Ormiston Forge Academy Wrights Lane, Cradley Heath, West Midlands B64 6QU
t 01384 566 598 www.ormistonforgeacademy.co.uk

[OAT]
Ormiston Academies Trust
Achieving more together