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FORGE PRINCIPAL CHOSEN FOR KEY SCHOOL SUPPORT ROLE

Andrew Burns, Principal at Ormiston Forge Academy, has been appointed a National Leader of Education (NLE). NLEs along with staff in their school use their success and professionalism to provide additional leadership capability in other schools.

Principal at Forge, Andrew Burns, said: "It's an incredible honour to receive this designation on behalf of the Academy and I am looking forward to supporting other schools on their journey towards improvement.

"Our commitment to the young people at Forge remains unwavering, but we are now able to extend the reach of the Forge effect and make an even bigger difference."

Stephen Rayner, Chair of Governors at Ormiston Forge Academy, said:

"We're proud of the strength of leadership throughout our Academy, but Andrew has a particular ability to recognise and develop the leaders of the future, while always thinking first of the needs of students and communities."

NEW SPECIALIST LEADERS AT FORGE

Kris Griffin, who has worked at Ormiston Forge Academy since 2013 as director of marketing, was recently appointed as our first Specialist Leader of Education (SLE).

SLEs are outstanding leaders who have the skills to support individuals or teams in similar positions in other schools and can develop the leadership capacity of others. As a member of the senior leadership, Kris is part of the team responsible for the improvements the school has made over the last five years.

Director of Marketing, Kris Griffin, said:

"I'm delighted to have been designated a specialist leader of education, it's great recognition for support staff who are vital to the smooth operation of educational establishments everywhere."

Andrew Burns, Principal at Forge, said:

"Kris is our first SLE and he's recently

been joined by a further nine members of staff from across the curriculum. I'm incredibly proud of their achievements and the work they do for us and across the education sector."



WE ARE FIVE!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO FORGE

Ormiston Forge Academy is five years old. The main celebration will be held during Prize Giving when our birthday can be celebrated hand-in-hand with the achievements of Forge students.

In five years the commitment and aspirations of the students and staff at Forge have been rewarded with an Ofsted rating of Good in 2016. Here's to becoming Very Good and Outstanding in the next five!



SIX QUICK QUESTIONS WITH HEAD OF ACADEMY DR LISA MASON



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

I had planned to be a sports scientist and had a place at university to do a degree in sports science. I took a gap year and decided on a different course and career.

2. Do you have a favourite sporting team?

I would have to say Aston Villa - my son and husband wouldn't forgive me if I said any other team!

3. Funniest Forge moment?

Probably when I got the heel of my shoe caught on the stage at Prize Giving

Evening whilst singing in the staff choir. I thought I was going to have to leave my shoe on stage.

4. Favourite holiday?

The Algarve in Portugal - I go every Whitsun with my family and close friends.

5. Where did you go to university?

For my first degree I stayed local and went to The University of Wolverhampton. My Masters degree and PhD were joint collaboration at The University of Sheffield and The University of Wolverhampton.

6. Best ever book?

I love reading so it's really hard to choose just one book. I do like dystopian novels such as 'The Handmaid's Tale' by Margaret Atwood and 'Brave New World' by Aldous Huxley. I also like classic novels, such as, 'A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens and 'Pride and Prejudice' by Jane Austen.

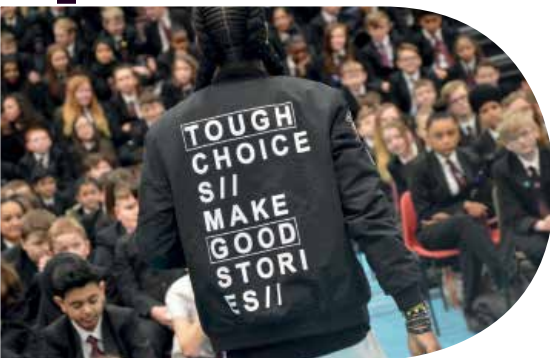
POP STARS VISIT TO DELIVER IMPORTANT MESSAGES

Students at Ormiston Forge Academy were paid a visit by pop stars Misunderstood as part of a tour to deliver cyber safety, anti-discrimination and British values messages to young people.

Stephan and Jeffrey are graduates from the BRIT School of Performing Arts and have supported MOBO Award Winner Chipmunk and Grammy winners Boyz II Men on tour.

During the morning at Forge, Misunderstood talked to students in years 7, 8, 9 and 10 and performed their own songs that had the 1,000-strong audience of students up on their feet.

Misunderstood said:



“Overall we had a blast and left feeling like the students at Forge went home with a whole new outlook on life, knowing that being themselves and having fun is the best way to get through the struggles of life.”

Principal at Forge, Andrew Burns, said:

“We are really grateful that Misunderstood took the time to come and talk and perform for our students. Their positive messages and good advice were welcomed by all.

“Forge is becoming a real hotbed of talent; we’re showcasing some really strong student performances through the year and inviting some incredible artists in to push our young people even further.”



WORLDWIDE CEO OF SAATCHI & SAATCHI VISITS FORGE

Over 200 students and staff at Forge enjoyed their visit from Robert Senior, Worldwide CEO of Saatchi and Saatchi to talk resilience, positive energy and learning from mistakes.

Mr Senior visited as part of the Speakers for Schools education initiative, which is celebrating its fifth anniversary by launching its ‘Bridging the Gap’ talk series. The talks will reach an estimated 4,500 students, with the objective of broadening their horizons by allowing them to hear directly from key figures currently shaping the UK.

Principal at Ormiston Forge Academy, Andrew Burns said:

“It’s fantastic that a speaker of Robert’s calibre has joined us today. His vast knowledge, experience and ability to connect

with our students has made this a vital moment in many young lives.”

Mr Senior has been responsible for some of the most memorable advertising campaigns of the last few years including Gorilla for Cadburys, which was voted the nation’s favourite TV advert of all time in 2015. He followed his talks with question and answer sessions with students.

Mr Senior commented:

“It was an absolute pleasure to visit Ormiston Forge Academy. I was struck and inspired by the energy and openness of both staff and pupils.”

LOCAL STUDENTS WIN NATIONAL LITERACY TRUST VOICES WRITING COMPETITION



Students from Ormiston Forge Academy are celebrating winning the National Literacy Trust's Voices writing competition. Savannah McFadden received first place with her piece My Little Meadow. Fellow student Maymunar Nasir received second runner-up for her poem A Place Called Home.

The Voices competition launched in April 2016 and challenged students to write 500 words about a public space they feel strongly about. Savannah wrote about a local meadow and the animals and plants which made it so special. Maymunar's poem was about her primary school and the friends and teachers who helped make it, in her words, a "paradise".

On hearing the results of the competition, Savannah and Maymunar said:

"We were delighted to have done so well in this prestigious competition. Our prizes are great but the books we've won for the school are fantastic, it means that everyone benefits from our love of words and reading."



FORMER FORGE STUDENT BECOMES A WRESTLING CHAMPION

Tyler Bate has become a WWE champion at the age of just 19 after winning the WWE United Kingdom Championship Tournament in Blackpool. The Dudley-born youngster and former Forge student showed all the potential for a superstar future as he defeated Pete Dunne in the final after a 16-man, two-day tournament, played out live on the WWE Network.

Bate, a former gymnast, thanked all the people supporting British wrestling and paid special thanks to his parents who:

"have driven me all around the country for the last five years just so I can do what I love now."

Andrew Burns, Principal at Ormiston Forge Academy, said of Tyler's WWE UK Championship win:

"We are all incredibly proud of Tyler's achievement. He's shown that age and where you come from isn't a barrier to success. He'll inspire Forge students and he'll inspire young people all over the world, wherever he goes."



FORGE UNITES WITH STONEWALL TO MAKE SPORT EVERYONE'S GAME

Year 8 students at Forge have teamed up with leading lesbian, gay, bi and trans equality charity Stonewall by wearing the charity's Rainbow Laces whilst doing PE lessons to show that they accept everyone without exception and that homophobic, biphobic and transphobic abuse is not tolerated, on or off the pitch.

Hundreds of schools and clubs signed up to join in with a week of action to show

that we can all play a part in making sport everyone's game.

Andrew Burns, Principal at Forge, said:

"We believe that it doesn't matter who you are, everyone should be able to play sport, so signing up to the Rainbow Laces Campaign was a natural step for us. It is a fun, easy and instant way to demonstrate that we are fully inclusive and that our students can be true to themselves."