

MORE NEWS

MORE THAN JUST AN ACADEMY



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

When we decided to become more than just an academy many parents and students asked me what this meant. It all started with a video created to showcase the many things we do here at The Forge. You can find the original video on our Facebook page and on our website. It snowballed from there; everyone wanted more and everyone wanted to be more.

“Please, sir. I want some more”. Oliver Twist (1838). These are possibly Charles Dickens’ most famous words. But words not driven by greed or selfishness, these were words from a child ‘desperate with hunger and reckless with misery’. Our children deserve more, they shouldn’t have to ask. So we became more than just an academy. If we looked back we always were but needed to be brave and say it out loud.

For Ormiston Forge Academy, it means pushing boundaries, being better and affording opportunities to all young people. We encourage our students to live life to the full by giving them more great teachers, more learning, more experiences, more choice, more of everything. Most importantly there are more smiles at Ormiston Forge Academy. Smiles are a great indication of success and happiness and we firmly believe students flourish in our environment. All of this happens in a place that excites,

inspires, motivates and challenges students, whilst keeping them safe and preparing them for the world around them.

Our family of 1500 students is a true community pulling together and reaching out. The Sixth Form, one of the largest “school” Sixth Forms in the West Midlands, provides continuity of education from 11 until 19 years of age. For us, More is a personal experience, an experience with the student at heart. More can mean anything from a summer expedition in Uganda, fishing at weekends, getting the grades needed for university, skiing, playing football, learning car mechanics, dancing, meeting Daleks, growing huge pumpkins, visiting Germany, playing a ukulele, singing, rock climbing - being who you need to be.

This newsletter contains a small snapshot of the things we get up to every day. Visit our Facebook page or follow us on Twitter to find out more. Better still, come and visit us as we’d be delighted to show you around. If you are a student, I’m proud of you. Our commitment to you will never waver. The staff and I are dedicated to helping you realise your potential and when you leave, to further education or the workplace, I want you to have the skills to be a success in whatever you do. Don’t ever be afraid of wanting more.

Andrew Burns
Principal



ACADEMY STUDENTS ENJOY ACTIVITIES WEEK IN THE SUN

Over 500 students from Ormiston Forge Academy in Cradley Heath have spent a week enjoying a wide and varied range of activities as part of enrichment sessions.

JOIN THE CONVERSATION



The Forge community is growing rapidly on social networks so please join us by 'Liking' us on Facebook and following us on Twitter. We share news, photos, videos, updates for students and parents and try to answer as many questions as we possibly can.

www.facebook.com/ormistonforgeacademy

www.twitter.com/ormiston_forge

Activities week is a chance for students to participate in a variety of different experiences such as dodgeball, bungee jumping, gladiators, javelin, rock climbing, laser tag, drag racing, graffiti art, stop motion animation, zorbing and many others. Zorbing involves trying to walk inside a large inflatable ball on water. It requires skill and a great deal of balance. Forge student Luca Brown age 14, said: "The week has been fun, challenging and exciting. It's a good opportunity to face fears, do new things and get to know people better."

Jack Rogers from The Outstanding Events Company who supplied many of the activities said: "All of the Forge students were very friendly and really got stuck in. We had a great week too and the weather was kind to us."

Whilst many of the activities are split into student house competitions it is a week where participants from Years 7, 8 and 9 are rewarded for their hard work throughout the school year. Principal Andrew Burns said: "I don't see it as a reward, it's an entitlement that every student deserves."

He added: "Great to see staff getting involved too. I enjoyed the laser tag, a team of teachers took on our Sixth Form volunteers and beat them. I'm looking forward to the rematch next year and I'm delighted we've had such a successful, sunny, happy week."

ADVENTURE OF A LIFETIME

This summer a small group of intrepid explorers from Ormiston Forge Academy went on a month long adventure of a lifetime to Uganda in East Africa. They spent a month battling monsoon rains, long-drop toilets, mud roads, mosquito bites and even leopards outside their tents.

They did all of this AND built a much needed classroom in a local primary school, climbed Mount Elgon on the border of Kenya, volunteered at Ziwa Rhino and Wildlife Ranch, went on safari and still found time for just a few days of rest and relaxation.

The trip was organised with Camps International and the Forge group joined a larger group of nearly 40 young people from across the UK who had all spent the past 12-18 months fundraising for the trip. The money raised paid for all the materials and local expertise needed to help build a waterproof, permanent classroom for Sironko Demonstration Community School. This was built from scratch in two weeks. It was a real shock to go from Forge with all its equipment

to a school that does not even have a proper blackboard, where lessons stop when it rains (because the wooden roof leaks), you have to remove the cow from the sports field before PE (avoiding the cowpats) and not all the students have shoes. A week was also spent at Ziwa Rhino and Wildlife Ranch in western Uganda helping the rangers protect the only 12 white rhinoceroses in the whole of the country. It was here that the group stood feet away from wild rhino, leopards, and green mamba snakes. Invasive plants that the rhino can't eat were removed and the animals were monitored and tracked. The group also completed some small projects with the local community to help ensure good relations and deter poaching (even during the night).



It was not all hard work, the group climbed Mount Elgon, which is four times the height of Snowdon with a summit height of 4321m above sea level. They also visited a chimpanzee sanctuary, swam in the Nile, watched the sun go down over Murchison Falls and got the chance to eat mandazi (doughnuts), steamed mashed banana, and even fried insects!

Chloe, Megan, Katie, Laura and Mrs Madeley would like to thank all those who supported us with fundraising, logistics and good wishes. It really was a life-changing experience, for the community we supported and for us!



CRADLEY HEATH STUDENTS HAVE DOCTOR WHO EXPERIENCE

Students at Ormiston Forge Academy in Cradley Heath welcomed a special visitor from the world of Doctor Who.

Nicholas Briggs, who plays the voice of the Daleks, Cybermen and other characters in the BBC TV series dropped in to the academy to work with English and science students. Nick has recently released a BBC fiction book called The Dalek Generation. It stars the current Doctor, Matt Smith.

The morning started with a question and answer session hosted by the Head of English, Dave Jenks, and was attended by over 50 students. During this session Nick judged a short story competition and awarded a signed copy of his book to two winners: Katie Monkton and Natasha Chifamba, both Year 9 students. They will also go on a trip to London later in the year to attend a recording session for an audio episode of Doctor Who.

After donating a copy of his book to the school library and signing over 100 autographs, for students and staff,

he moved on to science and judged a competition where students had designed nanobots. Winners Hamza Mahmood and Zara Ali, both Year 9 students, received a signed copy of Nick's book too. He said: "I was delighted to come and visit an academy where the students are bright, creative and very welcoming. These young people are our future writers, directors and actors and it is important we support their efforts."

Nick is also Executive Producer of Big Finish, a company that produces audio-dramas, where he also directs, produces, acts and writes. In late 2013 the BBC will show a docudrama depicting the creation and early days of Doctor Who, called An Adventure in Space and Time, to be shown as part of the programme's fiftieth anniversary celebrations. Nick has a cameo role in the drama playing actor Peter Hawkins, who was the original voice of the Daleks in 1963.

Principal Andrew Burns said: "It was a pleasure to meet such a multi-talented man. Nick was able to show students that with passion and dedication they can achieve their dreams. I'm very grateful to Nick for giving up his time and inspiring our students."





Professor Toby Salt, CEO of the sponsor Ormiston Academies Trust commented: "Congratulations to staff and students at Ormiston Forge Academy on their impressive sixth form results. Students are continuing to rise to the challenge with the support of academy staff and it is fantastic to see so many students gaining the qualifications they need. I wish them all the best in their future endeavours."

Congratulations to the following students for their examination results:

GCSE

Ellie Beighton – 17 GCSEs

Kirsty Johnson – 17 GCSEs

Angel Ifeoluwa Akinpelu – 16 GCSEs

Omar-Shah Bashir – 16 GCSEs

Jessica Newman – 15 GCSEs
(including 3 A* and 2 A grades)

Simran Aujla – 15 GCSEs
(including 5 A grades)

A LEVEL

Daniel Baggott A B B B

Truly Bishop A* A B

Ryan Burgess A A B

Jessica Price A B B

Danni Dyke, Gemma Magson and Zoe Stokes – all achieved the equivalent of 3 A* grades in Health and Social Care

ORMISTON FORGE ACADEMICS ENJOY SUMMER 'CURRICULUM'

Over a summer fortnight in August, young people at Ormiston Forge Academy were given the opportunity to partake in various sports and recreational activities, including basketball, extreme golf, dodgeball, benchball, cricket, rounders, ultimate frisbee, cookery, gaming, dance and football, all of which were led by West Bromwich Albion Foundation staff.

The activities were mostly run on school site, attracting up to 23 students, consisting mainly of those in transition to the school this September from primary schools.

The fun, sports-filled two weeks culminated in a trip to Closer to the Edge at Baggeridge Park, South Staffordshire, where the youngsters were encouraged to face their fears and complete a precarious high-wire course, up to 30m from the ground.

During the holiday programme, the young students of Ormiston Forge Academy demonstrated positive behaviour that



was a credit to themselves and to the school. All students participated in the range of activities on offer and showed excellent team participation throughout. All 23 voiced their thorough enjoyment of the programme and said that they would like to attend another multi sports programme in the future.

One pupil said: "I like it because [we played] some sports I didn't know but I was good at. I had fun!"

Albion Foundation staff member, Abay Bogle said: "These are some really good kids. They got stuck in and were very competitive. They made this a very enjoyable fortnight. They were an absolute pleasure to coach."



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Ormiston Academies Trust

Achieving more together