

# MORE NEWS

## MORE THAN JUST AN ACADEMY



Forge students Katie Monkton and Natasha Chifamba in studio with Philip Olivier, Sylvester McCoy, Sophie Aldred and Nicholas Briggs.



# FORGE STUDENTS IN DOCTOR WHO ADVENTURE

Forge students dropped in on an audio recording session with the stars of the BBC TV show Doctor Who.

Year 10 students Katie Monkton and Natasha Chifamba attended the recording in London after winning a Forge writing competition. Nicholas Briggs, who plays the voice of the Daleks, Cybermen and other characters in Doctor Who, judged the competition during a recent visit to the Academy.



The recording by Big Finish Productions, at a studio in London, was attended by Sylvester McCoy who played the seventh Doctor and more recently Radagast the Brown in The Hobbit; Sophie Aldred who played Ace, the companion of the Seventh Doctor and currently voices TV show Tree Fu Tom and actor Philip Olivier, best remembered for his role as Tim O'Leary in the soap opera Brookside.

Sophie Aldred commented: "It was great to see the Forge students in the studio, I enjoyed talking to them about their studies and their hopes for the future. It's important to support our young people as best we can; they are the writers, directors and actors of the future."

Natasha and Katie spent two hours in the studio, at the recording desk with director Ken Bentley, listening to the actors voice a new Doctor Who adventure called The Mask of Tragedy which comes out later this year.





# A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

When I cast my eyes over all of the stories that were available to put in this edition of the newsletter I was amazed. I shouldn't have been. Our students are doing great things here, all day, every day. I was sorry that we had to leave things out but I hope this gives you a flavour of the last three months.

As we head into a busy and challenging exam period, I am optimistic that our students are prepared, focussed and ready. Staff and students should be applauded for their resilience and determination to succeed in all they do.

**Andrew Burns**  
Principal



## FORGE STUDENTS WIN SILVER IN STEM

Two Forge students came second in a national competition. After winning the West Midlands STEM challenge in Summer 2013, **Natasha Chifamba and Sherriff Shakoane, 15 and 14 years old respectively, competed against the other regional winners at the final in Manchester.**

STEM is an acronym for science, technology, engineering and mathematics. The Government has long identified STEM education as a major priority at both school and higher education level.

During the challenge the students had to calibrate and program a LEGO NXT robot to follow a track in an allotted time. They then had to present their robot and the problems they came across to the other groups and the Lord Mayor of Manchester.

Ormiston Forge Academy student Natasha Chifamba said: "There were many difficulties; the robot's sensors were over sensitive, and the steering wasn't smooth, but we worked together and overcame them. In the nick of time we managed to get the robot to follow a complex track at a competitive speed."

The team were awarded a glass trophy and a certificate by the Lord Mayor.

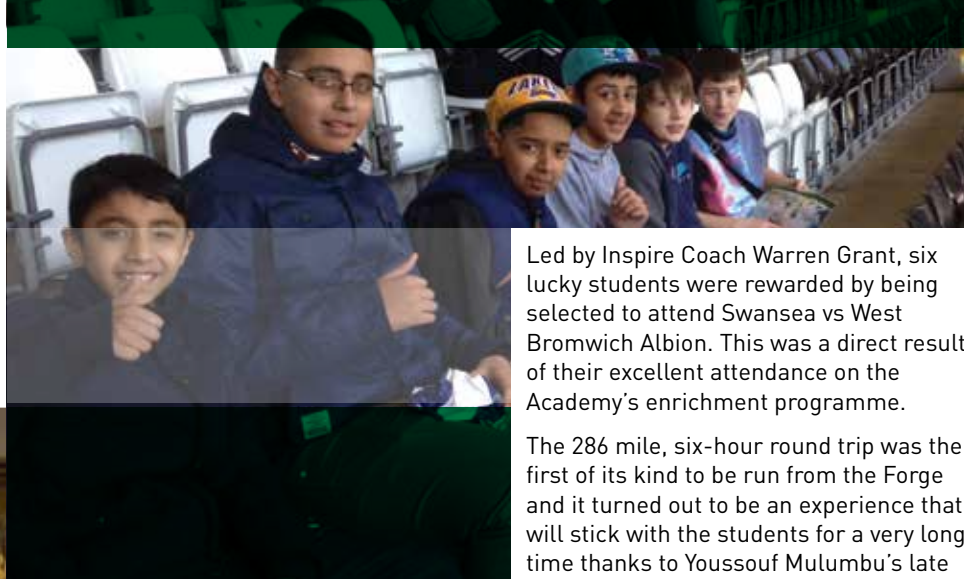
**STEM Club is held every Tuesday lunchtime in Room 30 and open to all Forge students.**





# PREMIER LEAGUE 'AWAY DAY EXPERIENCE'

The Albion Foundation in partnership with the Forge hosted the very first 'Premier League Away Day Experience'.



Led by Inspire Coach Warren Grant, six lucky students were rewarded by being selected to attend Swansea vs West Bromwich Albion. This was a direct result of their excellent attendance on the Academy's enrichment programme.

The 286 mile, six-hour round trip was the first of its kind to be run from the Forge and it turned out to be an experience that will stick with the students for a very long time thanks to Youssouf Mulumbu's late winner. Setting off from The Hawthorns in convoy with 'Baggies Travel', the students had time to soak up the atmosphere with 2000 travelling supporters before they eventually set off at 10.30am.

Three Hours, multiple radio stations, lots of terrible jokes, the smell of farms, poor banter, bad singing and plenty of laughter later the group arrived at The Liberty City Stadium, 90 minutes prior to kick off. ITV Sports presenter and WBA fan Adrian Chiles was sitting behind Team Forge and was kind enough to sign autographs and have pictures taken.

## The students had the following to say about the day:

"Today was amazing and it was my first away game, I'm so happy."

"Today was a great day, thanks to Mr Grant I've been to my first ever football match."

## SIX QUICK QUESTIONS WITH MR WEALE VICE PRINCIPAL

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

I planned to go into Commercial Management and planned to join Marks & Spencer as part of their graduate recruitment scheme, I changed my mind near the end of university.

### 2. Which football team do you support?

Aston Villa, I have a season ticket.

### 3. Funniest Forge moment ever?

Resting on both elbows with chin in hand to listen to a discussion during a Senior Staff meeting in Mr Burns' office. My elbows slipped off the edge of the table, I ended up below the table and everyone just fell about laughing. Senior Staff have never let me live this one down.

### 4. Favourite holiday?

I always enjoy going to the USA... driving, exploring and going into the back and beyond. My wife would expect me to say my honeymoon, however!

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

Sheffield University.



### 6. Best ever book?

The Rocket Boys - Homer H. Hickam. A simple tale of boys who were interested in space/rockets in the 1950s. Thanks to a very inspirational science teacher, the small group of boys went onto college to study aeronautics and physics; they all graduated to work on the NASA space programme. This included the lunar programme during the 1960s and '70s. Based on a true story, the book is inspirational in that it shows that anything is possible, within reason, if you desire it enough and are prepared to work hard. I think the book was eventually made into a film.

3rd BATTALION  
MERCIAN REGIMENT  
(Staffords)



Photo courtesy of  
the Express and Star

## FORGE HERO

We are very proud of our former student Private Callum Noone who was part of a dramatic chase across the desert to seize guns and ammunition from Afghan rebels.

Read the full story at the Express and Star website: <http://bit.ly/QFdu44>





## STUDENTS CAN NOW ACCESS AN ACADEMY BRANCH OF HSBC BANK

Students get a saving account with a preferential rate of interest, as well as their current account which entitles them to monthly statements, a cash card and PIN number. They will need to complete an application form and parents/guardians will need to sign their consent. With their £10 initial deposit students get a free money box.

The bank is run by students who have been chosen after a lengthy recruitment process and have been trained by a representative from the local branch of HSBC. The Academy Bank will be overseen by Miss Bennett from the Business Studies Department.

Bank opening times are announced on the Academy Facebook and Twitter accounts.

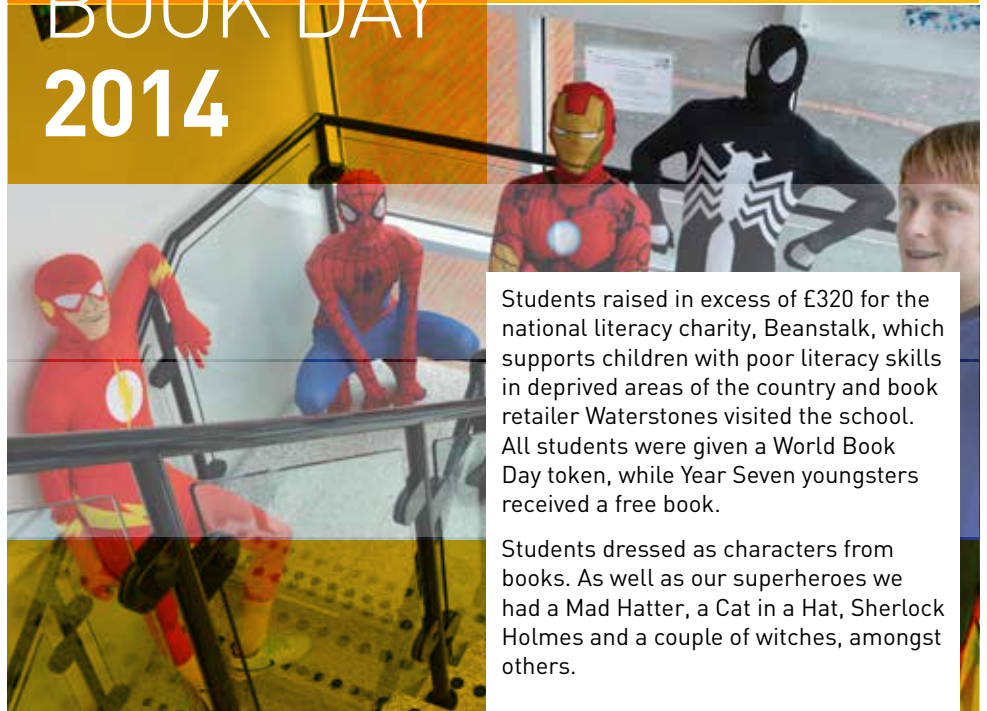


These are the latest photos of our Mountain Centre in Dinas Mawddwy, in the Dovey Valley in Wales. It is located in the Snowdonia National Park, about 90 miles from Birmingham and 20 miles from Barmouth.

It has undergone extensive renovation and will soon be ready for students to start visiting it again.

Some of the activities available at our Mountain Centre include camping, cooking, canoeing, horse riding, caving, hiking, beach activities, team building activities, orienteering, rock climbing, mountain biking and abseiling.

## WORLD BOOK DAY 2014



Students raised in excess of £320 for the national literacy charity, Beanstalk, which supports children with poor literacy skills in deprived areas of the country and book retailer Waterstones visited the school. All students were given a World Book Day token, while Year Seven youngsters received a free book.

Students dressed as characters from books. As well as our superheroes we had a Mad Hatter, a Cat in a Hat, Sherlock Holmes and a couple of witches, amongst others.

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**[OAT]**  
Ormiston Academies Trust

Achieving more together