




ORMISTON **FORGE**  
**ACADEMY**  
  
SIXTH FORM

Hey! My name is Precious Ika-Oqua, and I started Ormiston Forge Academy in 2015 as a year 7 student. I always knew that I wanted to eventually join the sixth form, so I didn't really bother looking at any other colleges around the area. I always felt incredibly supported by my teachers and I knew that if I stayed at sixth form, staff would continue to support me as I worked towards my goal of going to university to study physiotherapy. Throughout my first 5 years at Forge, I never felt forgotten by any of my teachers and was never made to feel that I was just a number; all teachers made sure they knew me as an individual and this hugely influenced my decision to stay on into the sixth form.

In year 11 I was given lots of help and support when putting my sixth form application together and choosing appropriate courses. The sixth form open evening gave me the opportunity to meet A level and BTEC teaching staff and ask questions. To be honest, I had loads of questions that I wanted answers for: What's the difference between A levels and BTECs? Do I need to take specific courses to progress to physiotherapy? What are the entry requirements for different courses? What sort of topics are covered in different subjects? I came away from the evening with all of my questions answered and made the decision to apply to study A level Biology, A level Sociology and BTEC Sport.

Fortunately, I secured the GCSE grades that allowed me to study each of these subjects and once I was in sixth form I never looked back. I can definitely say that joining the sixth form was the best decision I made. I was supported by my teachers and thoroughly enjoyed all three of my subjects.

By the time year 13 came around it was time to apply for university, go through the UCAS process and write my personal statement. To be honest I wasn't actually very worried about the application process. I think it was because of how much guidance and support I was given from staff regarding the options available to me after sixth form and how to put a good university application together. In year 12 Higher Education and Employment Week proved really valuable as it included university visits and talks from employers. In year 13 there were also timetabled sessions on Wednesday afternoons where everyone would come together to receive help with their university applications and the writing of their personal statements.

During my time in sixth form, I was also involved with The Access Project. This helped me massively as the project provided me with an additional tutor in Biology, who gave me weekly tuition. The project coordinator at the time, Penny, also gave me additional help with my personal statement and the picking of suitable university courses. I really believe that the opportunities that were given to me during my time at Forge helped develop me into the woman I am today.

In August 2022 I achieved the grades necessary to progress to my first-choice university: The University of Nottingham. I started a degree in physiotherapy in September 2022 and I am well on my way to fulfilling my career ambition of becoming a fully qualified physiotherapist.

I am so thankful to the staff at Forge, who created an environment that allowed me, and many of my peers, to thrive and reach our full potential.

Precious Ika-Oqua  
*Ormiston Forge Academy student 2015-2022*