



ORMISTON **FORGE**  
ACADEMY  
  
SIXTH FORM

Hi there! My name's Aqib, and I joined Forge way back in 2012 as a year 7 student. After completing my GCSEs in 2017, a big decision was at hand; whether to remain at Forge as a sixth form student, or move to a local college. In the end, I decided to stay at sixth form to study A level Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Hopefully this short passage will show you why that was 100% the right choice.

As one of two students at the time who had aspirations to study medicine at university, sixth form provided me with so much support. Firstly, Bev (*the Academy careers advisor*) was able to point to the right direction of gaining work experience at Russells Hall hospital, which massively improved my patient centred care and team working skills; necessary skills to excel in interviews/applications for medicine. Furthermore, she helped me secure a place on the 'R2P scheme' offered by the University of Birmingham; an exceptional access programme that helped me understand what it's like to be a medical student, and gain invaluable work experience at a GP surgery.

The Access Project (TAP), was also a fantastic opportunity during my time in sixth form. TAP provided me with an additional academic mentor, as well as additional tutoring to help me get the best possible grades in my A levels. TAP also arranged work experience on a paediatric ICU, as well as cardiology, and neurophysiology units. These experiences gave me an insight into the life of a doctor. Aside from work experience, TAP also invested time into helping me prepare for my UKCAT (*now known as UCAT*) test. Of course, I can't forget the number one reason for having being part of TAP, which was having the best tutor ever; he knows who he is ;-).

It wasn't just the extracurricular and enrichment programmes that attracted me to sixth form; the teaching I received whilst studying my A levels was phenomenal. The teachers provided support both during, and outside of lessons if needed; it was this 'open door' policy that played a major factor in my decision to go to sixth form.

During year 13, I jumped off the medicine train due to personal circumstances. This left me with a tough situation as I still wanted to pursue a career in a medical field and this is where sixth form really supported me. Bev spoke to me about doing a degree apprenticeship; I'd never really considered this as an option until then as I didn't really think there were any in the healthcare field. However, after some research I came across a few apprenticeships; some local and others as far away as Bournemouth! After some interview practise with Bev, and some praying I was able to gain a place on a NHS degree apprenticeship and an exciting position at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital as a Cardiac Physiologist Apprentice! Such an opportunity provided me with the ability to learn on the job, whilst studying at university. Fast forward to June 2023, I have graduated with a BA (Hons) in Healthcare Science specialising in cardiac physiology at the University of Wolverhampton. Recently, I have ventured from QEHB, achieving a permanent position at Sandwell West Birmingham NHS Trust. Here I am currently working as part of the on-call PPCI team to provide emergency care to those suffering from STEMI (heart attacks), whilst also carrying out my specialist training in cardiac ultrasound!

I'm looking forward to seeing what the future has in store for me as I progress through my career. However, I will always be grateful for the support I had at sixth form; the committed teachers, kind peers and the exceptional support which helped me get to where I am today!