



ORMISTON **FORGE**
ACADEMY

SIXTH FORM

Hi! My name is Emily and I began my journey with Forge back in 2013 as a Year 7 student. I received my GCSE results in 2018 and initially headed off to a sixth form college to study for my A levels. After several weeks at this college, I made the decision to return to Forge and join the sixth form, as deep down I knew this would be the place where I would thrive and realise my full potential.

In hindsight, I definitely made the right choice. The small class sizes meant the core material was covered thoroughly, with plenty of time for students to ask further questions or to ask for help on trickier topics. From the age of 14, I knew I ultimately wanted a career in science, hence choosing Chemistry, Physics and Geography at A level, as well as Spanish at AS level to ensure that I had a variety of skills.

Not only did Forge allow me to develop vital skills through learning these courses, there were several enrichment opportunities that allowed me to gain skills and experience necessary for life after post-16 study. One of Forge's biggest assets is that the school recognises its role in the community. To this end, there were lots of enrichment activities for me to choose from as a sixth form student, including activities based in the wider community such as visiting local primary schools to support younger students with their reading and voluntary work in a local hospital.

Deep down I always knew I was a follower more than a leader, and this was something I needed to work on to be successful as an adult. As a result, I applied for position of Head Girl whilst in sixth form and secured the position at the end of year 12. Becoming Head Girl allowed me to develop myself as an individual and gain leadership experience from responsibilities such as organising charity events or delivering a speech in front of more than 800 people.

One of the greatest aspects of sixth form was the focus on supporting students in planning what to do at the end of year 13. Right from the beginning of year 12 I was given lots of information about the different options available to me once I reached 18. For me, I always knew that university was where I wanted to go, so I attended weekly afternoon sessions in year 13 help me with my UCAS applications and the writing of my personal statement.

The main reason I initially chose to go to a larger college instead of the sixth form at Forge was because I was worried I wouldn't be prepared for the transition from A level to university studies. As someone who is about to enter my final year at a top five U.K. university, I can confirm that the learning style Forge provided definitely mirrors several aspects of a demanding degree course. Right from the start, we were encouraged to take charge of our own learning, and as time went on, we subconsciously became more independent learners. We were encouraged to ask questions to both develop our knowledge and understand unfamiliar topics; in my experience, this is also encouraged at university.

Thanks to the support from staff at Forge, I am currently studying Chemistry at the University of Bath, which despite being my absolute dream destination since the beginning of year 12, I was reluctant to apply for out of fear of being rejected. The encouragement I received from both teaching and pastoral staff at Forge to apply was second to none and moving to Bath is definitely one of the best decisions I have ever made.