



ORMISTON **FORGE**
ACADEMY

SIXTH FORM

Hi, my name is K-Ryan Hinds. I joined Forge back in 2010 as a year 7 student. Looking back on my journey to where I am now makes me extremely proud and thankful for the support I had at the Academy.

In 2015, I received my GCSE results and did much better than I had expected. I knew I wanted to eventually study Astrophysics at university, particularly because I really enjoyed the GCSE Physics course. I also knew staying on at the Forge was the right decision for me as I knew the close community that staff foster in the sixth form would help me immensely. This was certainly the case; the support I received throughout my time in sixth form really encouraged me to go the extra mile. The smaller classes also meant I could focus more on my work and receive the teaching that enabled me to excel at A-Level.

Knowing I wanted to progress in academia, specifically Astrophysics, I was encouraged to apply for a place on The Access Project and, after securing a place on the programme, I was paired with Rob Laker, an astrophysicist who became my academic tutor. I received weekly tutoring for the duration of sixth form, which allowed me to engage more thoroughly with the content and develop my understanding of the fundamentals which was critical for the pathway I ultimately wanted to pursue.

Looking back, The Access Project was a great opportunity I'm very glad I took part in. They offered workshops and events that taught me how to make the most of university open days, applicant visit days and how to go through interviews by holding several mock interviews. I also got to go to events and network with various members of the The Access Project community. The sixth form team were a huge help when applying to university. I was able to spend a lot of time with staff perfecting my personal statement for university and the enrichment programme helped me to stand out from other applicants.

I completed my A-Levels in 2017 and secured a place at the University of Birmingham, where I studied Astrophysics. I graduated in 2021 and a few months later started my Astrophysics PhD at Liverpool John Moores University. I'm thriving in an environment in ways I didn't think I could.

Without the support from Rob, my academic tutor, and everyone at Forge, the journey to where I am now would have been much more difficult. Their encouragement and enthusiasm throughout my entire time at the Academy made a huge difference and I will always be thankful for the help and support staff gave me.