

Parent/Carer Weekly Bulletin

Week Ahead

Monday 16 March – Friday 20 March	Book Fair in School
Monday 16 March	
Tuesday 17 March	
Wednesday 18 March	
Thursday 19 March	Year 9 DTP/Men Vaccines – All Day Music Concert – 6-7.30PM Year 8 House Maths Challenge – 3.30-4PM
Friday 20 March	Year 9 Options Form Deadline
Monday 23 March – Friday 27 March	Year 10 Work Experience Week Year 8 – 10 Spain Trip
Monday 23 March	
Tuesday 24 March	Year 11 Parents Meetings 4-6PM
Wednesday 25 March	Sixth Form Parent Consultation Evening 4-6PM
Thursday 26 March	
Friday 27 March	

Our theme this week has been **‘Discovering Together’**, and we have been encouraging students to explore new ideas, support one another, and grow in confidence. Whether they are solving problems, experimenting, or sharing new perspectives, our students continue to show what can be achieved when we learn as a community. We have seen them embrace curiosity and creativity throughout the week, and we are incredibly proud of their teamwork, resilience, and enthusiasm.

1. Attendance Easter Egg Challenge

Our attendance figures for last week are:

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13
90.3%	89.4%	89.9%	92.5%	90.1%	90.1%	96.4%

We would like to congratulate all students who have been present every day this week. We hope you can keep this attendance streak going for a chance to win one of our **Easter Egg Challenge prizes**. A reminder that any student who attends all 24 days of this half term will be entered into our **special prize draw**. The prizes for this are:

1st Prize: Easter Hamper and a £20 One4All Voucher

2nd Prize: £10 One4All Voucher (One per year group)

3rd Prize: £5 Just Eat Voucher (One per year group)

2. Free School Meal Supermarket Vouchers

Sandwell has confirmed that funding is now available for free school meal supermarket vouchers over Easter. Eligible parents and carers will receive a £20 voucher per child, sent via text message or email. This will be sent over the 2week Easter Holiday. Following the introduction of the Crisis and Resilience Funding received from the government, going forward, the authority will now be prioritising different areas of support needed for those in crisis. This will therefore mean the authority will no longer support funding in the form of food vouchers during the school holiday periods.

For further details, please visit [Ormiston Forge Academy - Free School Meals update - Easter 2026](#)

3. Ramp Gate Closure

The ramp gate entrance on Waggon Street will be closed from Monday 16th March for at least one week while repair work is carried out.

While this entrance is closed, please remind your child to use either the main entrance on Wrights Lane or the side entrance on Blossom Grove. If this affects your child's usual route, please ensure they plan their journey accordingly.

Students are expected to be on site and in line-ups no later than **8:35am** each morning, so we advise that they are walking through the school gates by **8:30am** at the latest.

4. Student Arbor Log-Ins

Thank you to all students who have already created their Arbor account. If your child has not yet done this, please encourage them to complete the setup as soon as possible. Account activation links have been sent to students via their school email.

If they are unsure how to access their email, please advise them to log in through Outlook. Their email address is the username they use to sign into school computers, followed by **@oatforge.co.uk**, and their password is the same one they use for all school systems. If they experience any difficulties, they should speak with **Mr Kirby in room 2T2 during lunchtime**.

5. ClassCharts

We would like to remind you that we no longer use ClassCharts. You can now view detentions, behaviour information, and homework through our new system, Arbor. Thank you to those who have already activated their accounts.

If you have not yet done so, please **check your email for your Arbor activation link** and create your account as soon as possible.

6. Barcelona Trip Information

An email has been sent to parents and carers of pupils attending our residential trip to Barcelona. This message contains important information you will need before your child departs, so please check your inbox and read it as soon as possible.

Please ensure your child arrives at the academy wearing their red Barcelona hoody. If you have not received the email or have any further questions, please contact info@oatforge.co.uk.

7. School Reports

All students in Years 7, 8, and 9 should have brought their school reports home this week. If your child has not received theirs, please ask them to speak to their form tutor to collect it.

Students in Year 10 will receive their reports during the week commencing Monday 16th March. Please remind your child to collect theirs from their form tutor.

Students in Year 11 should receive their reports by Wednesday 25th March. Please note this is a provisional date and reports may go out after the half term break.

8. Leavers Hoodies

An email has been sent to parents and carers of our Year 11 students with information about leavers' hoodies. To place an order, please visit: <https://shop.fizz-group.co.uk/>

Please note: The deadline for ordering is **Sunday 12th April 2026 at midnight**. It is essential that all orders are placed before this date, as no spare hoodies will be available and we do not want anyone to miss out.

9. The Forge Reading Lounge

We sent out communication yesterday about our new book club for parents, carers, and staff. We are delighted with the level of interest we've received so far. **If you would like to register your interest, please email Cunningham-smiths@oatforge.co.uk.**

Please note that this is a very flexible club with no required meetings or pressure to attend. Our first book is ***The Housemaid* by Freida McFadden**, and we aim to finish it by **29th April 2026**. Once you email to express your interest, all further information will be sent directly to you.

10. Book Fair

The Book Fair is back! **Years 7, 8 & 9** will be given opportunities to browse the Book Fair during a selected lesson during the week, and we have lots of exciting brand-new titles available to buy. The Book Fair will also be open to students before & after school, and at break & lunchtime. You can find us in Safeguarding (bottom of Block 2). Every purchase made also earns us free books for the school library!

We are unfortunately unable to take cash payments. Students may come home with a 'wishlist', with details of the books they would like to buy. **Payment can then be made at the following link:** <https://bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/pay/84576115>, with collection of the items available from the Book Fair. Please note that some items may need to be collected from the library from 23rd March when more stock is delivered from Scholastic.

Alternatively, you can purchase pre-paid vouchers here <https://bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/gift-vouchers> to be spent by the student when they visit.

Students in receipt of Free School Meals will be able to claim 1 free book of their choice from the Book Fair. Please see Mrs Miles at the Fair to claim this.

11. Easter Holiday Activities

There is still time to book your child onto one of the fantastic holiday activities available across Sandwell. With opportunities ranging from horse riding to rock climbing, there truly is something for everyone. These Holiday Activities offer a wonderful chance for children to try new experiences, make friends, and develop new skills.

Bookings opened on **9th March**, and all **E-vouchers** were sent out on the same day to give all parents an equal opportunity to secure places and ensure consistency across the borough.

Unsure about eligibility? Please visit [FAQ - Get to Know About Sandwell Holiday Activities](#)

If you have any question or queries, please follow this link to the Sandwell HAF website [Sandwell Holiday Activities](#) or contact HAF_Sandwell@sandwell.gov.uk