

Parent/Carer Weekly Bulletin

Week Ahead

Monday 13 April	INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED FOR STUDENTS
Tuesday 14 April	School Reopens for Students
Wednesday 15 April	Year 8 Parents Evening 3.45-6PM
Thursday 16 April	
Friday 17 April	Year 7-10 Forge’s Got Talent- All Day
Monday 20 April	Year 10 Assessment Window Opens (Full Mocks) Year 9 Army Day (All Day)
Tuesday 21 April	
Wednesday 22 April	Year 13 D&T Moderation Day
Thursday 23 April	
Friday 24 April	Computer Science Moderation Day

Our theme this week has been **“Celebrating Together”**, and at Forge we believe that every achievement, big or small is worth recognising. Throughout the week, we have celebrated the hard work, kindness, and unique strengths of our students. From classroom achievements and exceptional effort to teamwork on the sports field and creative talent in the arts, our students continue to make us incredibly proud.

Thank you to all pupils, staff, and families for supporting one another and helping to create a community where everyone feels valued and encouraged. As we move forward, let’s continue to celebrate our successes, lift each other up, and show what we can achieve when we work together.

We wish you all a restful Easter break and we look forward to welcoming all students back into the academy on Tuesday 14th April.

1. Attendance

Our attendance figures for last week are:

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13
88.7%	88.2%	84.2%	87.9%	85.6%	90.1%	83.75%

2. Change to Absence Reporting

After the Easter break, the MyEd app will no longer be used to report student absences. **All absences must instead be logged via the Arbor app** using the green “Log Absence” button, including the date, time, and reason. Please ensure you can access Arbor before this change. If you need support, please email info@oatforge.co.uk.

3. Arbor Communication

We are aware that some parents have found emails from Arbor going into their junk folders. To help prevent this in future, please **add Arbor to your trusted or safe sender list in your email settings**.

We also kindly ask that you monitor your emails regularly for any communication from the academy and check your junk folder to ensure nothing has been missed. If you are not receiving communication from Arbor, please email info@oatforge.co.uk with your details and your correct email address. It may be that the contact information we currently hold for you needs updating.

4. 🐣 Easter Eggsellent Attendance Challenge – This Half Term’s Winners!

This half term we launched our **Easter Eggsellent Attendance Challenge**, celebrating students who showed exceptional commitment to being in school every day. We’re thrilled to share that the challenge has been a huge success, with **302 students with 100% attendance and 860 students who have improved their overall attendance this term** demonstrating fantastic dedication to their learning.

A huge **congratulations** to our winners:

1st Place - Archie S (Year 8)

2nd Place – Autum-Lily S (Y7), Larna W (Y8), Lailah P (Y9), Amelia W (Y10), Faizan N (Y11)

3rd Place - Harper H (Y7), Rayyan A (Y8), Ryan H (Y9), Sophia M (Y10), Samreet S (Y11)

Each of these students achieved **100% attendance** this term and were randomly selected to receive our Easter prize. Their vouchers have been sent directly to their school email accounts, and we hope they enjoy their well-earned reward.

Maintaining strong attendance is one of the most important factors in helping students achieve their best. Being in school every day supports learning, builds confidence, and helps students stay connected with their peers and teachers. We are incredibly proud of all the students who have worked hard to improve or maintain excellent attendance this half term.

We also want to extend a heartfelt thank-you to our parents and carers. Your support at home — from morning routines to encouragement on tougher days — plays a vital role in helping students succeed. We truly value the partnership we share.

We look forward to continuing this positive momentum next term and celebrating even more attendance achievements.

5. Celebration Assemblies

This week, we celebrated the fantastic achievements of our students this term. Here are the highlights:

- **302** students achieved 100% attendance, with **860** improving their attendance
- **842** subject nominations and **116** Star Student Awards were given
- **25 Enrichment Awards, 20 House Awards, and 14 Forge Value Awards** were presented
- **1021 Bronze, 279 Silver, 52 Gold, and 14 Platinum Awards** (*well done to Team Y8 for leading at Gold and Platinum*)
- **5 Tutor Groups of the Term, 5 Tutees of the Term, 5 Most Improved Students, and 5 Students of the Term** were recognised

We are incredibly proud of all our students for their hard work and achievements this term.

6. Vaccine Catchup Session Year 9

On **Wednesday 13th May**, the **Sandwell Vaccination Team** will be in the academy to carry out a catch-up session for the **Diphtheria, Tetanus and Polio (DTP) vaccine**, as well as the **Meningococcal ACWY (MenACWY) vaccine**. These vaccinations will be offered to students in **Years 9** where consent has already been received.

7. Year 8 Parents Evening

We will be holding our **Year 8 Parents' Evening on Wednesday 15th April**, from **3:45pm to 6:00pm**. This event will give you a valuable opportunity to discuss your child's progress with their teachers.

Parking will be available on-site, and we ask that you enter through the **main gates on Wrights Lane**. If you plan to attend, please arrive **no later than 5:45pm** to allow staff sufficient time to meet with you.

Please complete [this form](#) to confirm whether you will be attending or not.

8. School Menus and Prices

There will be a **small increase** in the price of food and drink items available from the canteen during lunch and break times. This change will take effect from **Tuesday 14th April**. Please note that the cost of the lunch meal deal will rise from £2.58 to £2.61. The free school meal allowance will also increase to £2.61 to cover this adjustment.

After the Easter break, we're excited to introduce our new menus. Please [click here](#) to view the updated options.

We're also pleased to announce that our outdoor food hut will be opening after Easter.

9. Summer Uniform

Our optional **Forge-branded summer polo shirt** is now available. We recommend checking stock levels before visiting the Crested Schoolwear store to avoid disappointment. Polos can be ordered in the following ways:

- **Website:** [Forge Academy Summer Polo – Crested School Wear](#)
- **Store Address:** Churchill Shopping Centre, Dudley, DY2 7BJ

Students may wear the summer polo **from 13th April until 17th July 2026**. It may be worn **in place of the usual shirt, tie and blazer**. Please note that **non-branded or alternative polo shirts are not permitted**. This item is optional, and students who choose not to wear the polo must continue to follow the standard uniform policy. **All other uniform expectations remain unchanged:**

- **Trousers/Skirts:** Plain black school trousers or knee-length skirts only (no jeans, leggings, jeggings or lycra styles).
- **Footwear:** All-black footwear only (no colours, Crocs, sliders or tags).
- **Hoodies:** Not permitted.
- **PE Kit:** Students must continue to wear the correct PE kit; the summer polo is *not* allowed for PE lessons.
- **Additional layers:** The polo shirt may be worn with a plain black V-neck jumper, either knitted or made from jersey material, or with the school blazer if an extra layer is needed. Hoodies, zip-up jackets, and items with logos are not permitted.

10. Year 9 Army Day

Year 9 Army Day will be taking place on Monday 20th April. This is an opportunity for all Year 9 students to complete teambuilding and leadership tasks alongside soldiers from the British Army. Students will need to come into school in their Forge PE kits (normal PE uniform rules apply with no hoodies and no jewellery). There will be **no combat activities** involved.

11. Ramp Gate Closure

We are pleased to confirm that all works have now been completed. If your child normally uses the entrance on Waggon Street, please let them know that it will reopen from Tuesday 14th April.

12. School Book Fair Update

We would like to thank all the students and staff who visited our book fair last week. Thanks to your support, we achieved an incredible £2,500 in sales, earning approximately **£1,500 in funding for our school library**. We truly appreciate everyone who made a purchase and helped contribute to this success.

13. Free School Meal Supermarket Vouchers

Those eligible for the free school meal supermarket vouchers should now have received theirs via email or text message. Each voucher is valued at £20 per eligible child to cover the Easter break. If you have not received your voucher, please email info@oatforge.co.uk.

Following the introduction of the government's Crisis and Resilience Funding, the authority will now be prioritising other areas of support for individuals in crisis. As a result, **the authority will no longer be providing food voucher funding during school holiday periods.**

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

14. Uniform Donations

If you have any school uniform that you no longer require such as blazers, trousers, shirts, and PE kits, we would be grateful if you could donate them to the academy. Your donation will make a big difference to another student and support our school's efforts to reduce waste and help one another. Please make sure that any items you donate are in a good and clean condition.

15. Introducing Yondr: A Phone-Free School from September

Further details about how the Yondr system will work will be shared with families soon.

16. KS3 ERIC Reading Leaders

Here are the names of our current KS3 leaders in ERIC points:

7B2 - Ayla S with 10 points

8M1 - Olivia S with 10 points

9M1 - Khalil A with 12 points