

Parent/Carer Weekly Bulletin

Week Ahead

Monday 13 July	Year 13 Reward Trip Year 9 DofE Bronze Expedition – Day 1
Tuesday 14 July	Year 9 DofE Bronze Expedition – Day 2
Wednesday 15 July	Forge Pride – All Day Prizegiving Ceremony 6PM-7.30PM Postponed
Thursday 16 July	Flu Vaccine Mop Up- 10AM-11AM Sports Day – 11.20AM – 3.15PM
Friday 17 July	Forge Summer Festival – All Day School Finishes 1.20PM
Monday 31 August	BANK HOLIDAY – School Closed
Tuesday 01 September	INSET DAY – School Closed to Students
Wednesday 02 September	INSET DAY – School Closed to Students
Thursday 03 September	School Reopens – Year 7 and 12 only
Friday 04 September	School Open for All Year Groups

Our theme this week has been **"Follow Wisely"**, and at Forge we encourage all students to apply this message both in and out of school. Following wisely means making positive choices about who we listen to, learn from and spend time with. Whether in the classroom, around the Academy, within the wider community or online, the people and influences we choose to follow can have a significant impact on our attitudes, behaviours and success. Following wisely means:

- Following the guidance of staff and trusted adults.
- Choosing friends who encourage positive behaviour and good decision-making.
- Being a positive role model for others.
- Following the Academy's expectations and values every day.
- Thinking carefully about who and what we follow online, and being mindful of the information we share.
- Showing respect, kindness and integrity in all our actions.

Remember, good leaders are often good followers first. By choosing positive influences and making responsible decisions, we help to create a safe, supportive and successful Academy community where everyone can thrive.

1. Attendance

Year 07	Year 08	Year 09	Year 10
91.75%	86.6%	87.5%	90.4%

2. Key start dates for September 2026

The academy will be closed to students on Tuesday 1st September and Wednesday 2nd September. It will reopen on Thursday 3rd September for students **in Years 7 and 12 only**, during normal school hours. **All students are expected to attend on Friday 4th September.**

On Thursday 3rd September, there will also be a Year 10 Matters Evening from 3:45pm to 4:30pm. Information about this evening will be sent to you via email.

3. Year 10 Mock Interview Week

We are incredibly proud of our Year 10 students, who completed their mock interviews this week with 25 different employers. The experience gave students a valuable opportunity to practise their interview skills and build confidence ahead of college, sixth form, and part-time job interviews next academic year.

4. Uniform Expectations

As the warm weather continues, we are relaxing our uniform expectations until Friday 17th July. Students may choose from the following uniform options:

- **Summer uniform** – school polo shirt with trousers or a knee-length skirt, with usual black footwear (blazer not required).
- **Full Forge PE kit** with usual PE trainers.
- **Full school uniform** without a blazer, with the top button undone (ties must still be worn) and usual black footwear.

5. Sports Day

Following the warmer weather this week, Sports Day will now take place on **Thursday 16 July**. All students will be required to attend period 1 and 2 as normal with normal morning break times. Please ensure your child brings the correct equipment they would need for these lessons.

All other Sports Day arrangements remain unchanged. Please refer to last week's Parent Bulletin if you are unsure of any details. Any further changes will be communicated directly by email. If you have any questions, please contact info@oatforge.co.uk.

6. Forge Summer Festival

On **Friday 17 July**, to celebrate the hard work, determination and resilience shown by our students throughout this academic year, we are excited to be hosting our **Forge Summer Festival**.

Students are invited to wear their own clothes for the day (even better if they are in their House colours!) in exchange for a **£1 donation**, which will be collected at the gate. Please ensure that all clothing is appropriate for a school setting and does not feature any offensive or inappropriate language or imagery.

Throughout the day, students will have the opportunity to take part in a variety of exciting activities, including **The Big Forge Quiz, The Enchanted Library Escape Room**, and more than **15 traditional summer fair games**. Most games will cost **50p per go**, with fantastic prizes available for our top three highest scorers.

There will also be a range of refreshments on offer, including **delicious burgers, freshly made doughnuts and ice creams**, alongside House merchandise and live music from **DJ Meds** to help create a fantastic festival atmosphere.

All money raised will go directly towards improving facilities for our students. Our ambition is to enhance our outdoor provision by upgrading the **Astro area** and developing a **Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA)**, creating even better opportunities for sport, recreation and enrichment across our school community.

We look forward to a fun-filled day and thank you in advance for your support.

7. Toilet Usage

Following on from last week's message about the number of students missing valuable learning minutes, we will be introducing a new system in September. Ahead of this, if your child requires the use of a toilet pass, please could you ensure that you **email our medical officer, Mr C. Ashford at info@oatforge.co.uk by Friday 14th August with the reason your child requires one and any supporting medical evidence**, if appropriate. To ensure our records are up to date, **this applies to all students, including those previously issued with a pass.**

8. Collecting Medications

To ensure we are compliant with our **Medical Needs Policy**, all medication stored on site must be collected at the end of the academic year. This includes both **prescribed and over-the-counter medication**. All medication must be collected by a **parent or carer** from **reception** as soon as possible, and no later than **10 August**. If you feel your child will not require their medication during the final week of term, you are welcome to collect it now, during normal office opening hours. The office will be open during the summer holidays between 8:00AM – 3:00PM

Please note that any medication remaining on site after **10 August** will be disposed of in line with school procedures.

9. Lost Property

If your child has lost any belongings at school, please ask them to visit the **main office** at the end of the school day between **Monday 13 July and Friday 17 July** to check our lost property collection.

Please be aware that any unclaimed items remaining after **Friday 17 July** will be donated during the summer holiday. As a result, there will be no lost property available for collection when students return in September.

To help us return items to students as quickly as possible, we kindly ask that all belongings are clearly labelled with your child's name.

10. Sandwell SEND Bulletin

Please visit [Sandwell SEND Bulletin - \(Issue 4\)](#) to view issue 4 of the Sandwell SEND Bulletin. This contains useful information regarding changes with travel to school, activities, events and clubs, information regarding Sandwell HAF bookings and so much more!