



SPECIALIST | COMMUNICATION
UNIT | AND INTERACTION



School

SET Ixworth

Specialist Unit

Communication & Interaction

Number of places

18

Address

Walsham Road
Ixworth
Bury St Edmunds IP31 2HS

Email

bhale@seckfordeducation.org.uk

Phone

01359 234050

Head of School

Pia Parker



SENDCo

Barry Hale



Description of Unit

Forge is a unit for students who have been diagnosed as having a SEN need which makes mainstream schooling a difficult environment for them to navigate.

Forge closely models the approach of a Scandinavian school with an emphasis on the curriculum being tailored around the interests of the individual student. Each of the subjects is delivered with a focus on “life skills” and is explored through areas that the individual student is passionate about.

Forge is led by Baz Hale, the SENCO at Ixworth, along with two highly experienced, SECO qualified teachers and three HLTAs. The high staff to student ratio enables support to be personalised offering students every opportunity to learn and succeed. The curriculum covers both the academic content whilst valuing and incorporating the development of life skills.

The role of the parent / carer is invaluable; we communicate openly and regularly to support each and every student.

Overview

The school day at Forge begins at 9:00 a.m. The unit is an annex to the main school building allowing for a close and regular interchange between the two buildings. The students follow three routes whilst at the unit. Some spend a minority of the time at the Forge and the bulk of their day in the mainstream school. Some students spend the majority of their day with us but join into the mainstream lessons if at all possible, whereas some are with us for the whole day, depending on need.

The students wear the same uniform as the mainstream students as Forge is an integral part of SET Ixworth and the expectations and aspirations for the students are exactly the same: we are building a foundation for life. The unit however allows us to manage the individual learner needs and one example of the benefit of Forge is that if the uniform creates sensory difficulties, we are perfectly placed for adaptation. There is a morning and afternoon break either side of lunch with the school day finishing at 3:30 p.m.

The lessons consist of highly individualised curriculum based upon the interests and skills of the learner. For example if a student has a particular passion for wildlife then the curriculum is delivered incorporating this interest into the lessons. We are establishing a forest school in the grounds through which we would explore creative writing. Or perhaps an art lesson studying local birds and flora? The needs of each individual are at the forefront of our teaching.

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