

Venture VOICE

Ormiston
Venture Academy



Edition 16: Summer 2015

Top of the Class

Highest results in the East Coast

Venture Star Awards

Celebration time... Come on!

Summer School

Schools in for Summer



Open
Evening
2015

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Our students are passionate, engaged,
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24th September

For more information please contact the Principal's PA on:
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Nicole McCartney - Executive Principal



Simon Gilbert-Barnham - Principal

WELCOME BACK...

Congratulations to the Class of 2015, their families and staff at Venture for a record breaking set of results this summer. Not only were these results the highest that students at Venture have ever achieved but at the time of going to press they were the highest figures for 5A*-C English and Maths in the local area!

These results make me especially proud as these students were the first Year 7s to begin at Ormiston Venture Academy in its opening year in 2010. Five years on and Venture students have achieved so much not just at the Academy but within the community, in local businesses and in their further education. Our Alumni programme ensures we get to hear how well former students are doing and we have been celebrating the news of former students including Leah Teasdel, Ryan Martins and Jacob Talkowski achieving the highest grades in their A Level and BTEC courses. Similarly it was with great pride that our Principal watched former student Hannah Crouch receive an Apprentice of the Year award this summer. Once a Venture student, always a Venture student!

I know that as you read this edition of the Venture Voice you will be equally proud.

Welcome back to another amazing year at Ormiston Venture Academy. We are all extremely excited about the coming year and we have some really ground-breaking plans to make it our best ever.

Following not only a hugely successful Summer School involving over 150 students, we have also celebrated the achievement of our Senior Year and their amazing results. They not only achieved some fantastic individual results but also secured the best overall results at Venture. A huge congratulations to our Senior Year and all the best for your exciting futures.

There is a lot to celebrate in this issue and I am sure you will join me in congratulating the achievements of everyone at Venture.

The successes we achieve are based on the fantastic effort from our students, staff and community and I thank you all for making our academy the wonderful place it is each and every day.



Ormiston Venture Academy is once again celebrating the outstanding achievement of their students with an impressive 61% of students gaining 5 A*-C including English and Maths.

Top of the Class

This is not only the best results for Venture but also places the students achievement as the highest in the Greater Yarmouth area. With exceptional progress across the board, reinforcing the the top 10% national award in 2014, the students have once again been rewarded for their hard work, commitment and desire to succeed.

Kate Williams, Vice Principal summarised how everyone felt when she stated "A fantastic set of results for an incredible group of students whose determination to succeed was awe inspiring. I could not be more proud!"

Speaking to the students, Principal Simon Gilbert-Barnham not only congratulated the hard work the students had done but the effort by over the past 5 years...

"The class of 2015, our first Venture year 7 students and a group we all at Venture have had pleasure of teaching for the past 5 years, have achieved our best ever results. More so you have unlocked exciting futures and we are proud to be a part of that for each and every one of you.

It is with pride that we congratulate so many individuals who have worked as a part of our team to achieve these outstanding results. Students, staff and parents have collaborated in ensuring



the exceptionally high progress made and the fantastic grades achieved. Well done on a superb outcome and exciting futures await you all!"



But what is it that makes this impressive level of achievement possible?

Venture has a high quality, personalised, exciting and broad curriculum, including opportunities for students to engage in a wide range of experiences beyond the classroom. Opportunities to extend and enrich learning are a key part of what makes the education for all students exceptional.

Guilds offering learning experiences, extensive before and after school extra-curricular programs, weekend boosters, summer school and many other activities.

We not only state of the art facilities but a culture throughout that ensures every child receives the high quality education they deserve.

Continues overleaf...



The innovative use of the exciting resources and maximising the benefit of students, be it through a valued praise culture and reward system, targeted resources to ensure every child achieves or just making the environment one that is about positivity and collaboration between students staff and the community.

In fact, Ofsted reported that

"The concerted drive for sustained improvement is based securely on rigorous, regular monitoring of individual students' progress and well being".

The vision and ethos of Venture has never changed. Being an Ofsted rated "Outstanding" Academy is the baseline expected for the students on a daily basis.

The watchwords of Achieve, Aspire, Create and Innovate are pillars of what are seen as preparing Venture students as global citizens of the 21st century.

Every day is an opportunity to improve something and ensure that the Academy continues in its aim of offering a world class education to all.



Work Experience

Work experience week is always an anticipated event in the Academy calendar and this year was no different as Year 10 headed out into the real world to experience what working life might be like.

We had students going to a huge range of employers from offshore engineers to primary schools, from vets to holiday resorts, from shoe shops to British Telecom. Over the course of the week the students were visited by staff from the Academy as they were put through their paces by the employers, they also had to complete a work experience booklet which helped them to reflect on their process throughout the week.

The booklets combined with the visits also allow us as an Academy to see who has excelled in their placements and this year we probably had the most yet in terms of positive reports.

Several students have been offered part time jobs either now or when they finish year 11 and some of those, along with several others have also been offered an apprenticeship.

Billy Wright is in a position now to choose from two apprenticeships within the catering field due to the quality of his application and his commitment to work experience. Ruby Hall did so well that it may open the opportunity not just for her own apprenticeship but also for a new annual opportunity for Venture Students. Chantelle Kirton, Francesca Watson, Shaamiga Sivasathiyaselan and Drazic Betts all received

outstanding reports from their employers, with Drazic being 'the best student the company had ever had on work experience' and the girls all receiving offers of employment.

This year group have proven that when you apply yourself to a work experience placement that not only do you reap the benefits in terms of gaining an insight into the world of work but also that you may well be rewarded with life changing opportunities on the back of it, which hopefully gives the current year 9 something to think about as they search for their placements for June/July 2016 over the summer holidays.

Generation Cafe

Students cooking up an opportunity to bridge gaps between generations.



The Union of Venture Students in association with MESH have successfully been awarded funding by Momentum Norfolk to set up a project that provides for the local community and aims at bridging the gap between generations. Aimed primarily at 50+ but not exclusively the students are running a 'Generation Cafe' where every Wednesday afternoon they cook up a free hot meal between 1:45pm and 2:15pm. Tea, coffee and biscuits are also available along with the offer of a game of cards or social interaction with new people.

The idea was born at the Venture Christmas Fayre where students donated a huge amount of food to be shared between two local foodbanks and a discussion with Julie Green from MESH who had a stall at the fayre. The students were keen to develop a way of providing meals for those who may want or need them in the community and so plans were put in place to fund this new venture.

Students serve the meals and drinks and are hoping to forge new links with our immediate community over a board game or a chat, they are now hoping to attract more people to the cafe so that it has a greater impact. The Cafe will run every Wednesday until the end of July initially and hopefully continuously after that. Anyone interested in coming along for a meal, coffee or just a chat with friends old and new can come to the main reception at 1:45pm where the Union of Venture students will meet them and show them to the cafe area.





The inaugural Venture Stars evening was held on 16th July to celebrate excellence at the Academy.

Following a walk down the red carpet, nominees and their families were welcomed to the Great Hall which was suitably decked out with silver and black balloons, round tables and a lit curtain to create an Oscars feeling to the ceremony. Once seated guests were welcomed by Simon Gilbert-Barnham, Principal and advised to "reach for the stars". Sponsors announced nominated students before revealing the overall winner, whose name was concealed in a special envelope. In addition to the awards, guests also enjoyed a stunning piano performance from Venture's Kaitlyn Hudson and an inspiration speech from Sophie McKinna. Sophie spoke passionately about working hard to achieve your dreams and never giving up, proving to students that anything is possible. Finally Nicole McCartney, Executive Principal and Ormiston Academy's Trust Director of Performance and Partnership presented the final and most significant award of the evening. The OAT Outstanding Achievement Award was presented to Susan Hart, for receiving the most nominations for the evening, being nominated for 5 awards in total. Before revealing the winner, guests were treated to a film montage dedicated to this exceptional student, without of course revealing her name. Ormiston Academies Trust generously donated an "experience" of Susan's

choice to enable her to try something different.

The exclusive evening was supported by a range of sponsors who welcomed the opportunity to build even stronger links with the Academy. Sponsors not only presented awards but also provided many generous prizes to well deserving winners including tickets to watch Norwich City Football Club, BWell gym memberships, show tickets, books, a wok and much more.



The sponsor's representatives presented awards on the evening and made an invaluable contribution to the success of the evening. The Academy is immensely grateful to all for their involvement and to the many who have already expressed a keen desire to be involved again next year. If you would be interested



in sponsoring an award please contact kwilliams@ormistonventureacademy.co.uk. The evening consisted of 16 prize winners in total (listed below). Their photographs will soon be appearing on a Wall of Fame at the Academy.

Name	College	Year	Award
Kayleigh Balfour	Achieve	Ach-3	8 Outstanding Linguist Award
Taylor Ball	Create	Cre-8	8 Achievement Beyond the Curriculum Award
Taylor Ball	Create	Cre-8	8 English Laureate Award
Daniel Blake	Create	Cre-2	10 Ultimate Sports Personality
Bradley Chilvers	Create	Cre-6	10 Venture Spirit Award
Beatriz Fonseca	Create	Cre-1	9 Outstanding Humanities Student
Willow Gillett	Innovate	Inn-8	7 Venture Philanthropist Award
Susan Hart	Achieve	Ach-2	10 Extended Learning Award
Susan Hart	Achieve	Ach-2	10 Innovative Scientist of the Year Award
Susan Hart	Achieve	Ach-7	10 OAT Outstanding Achievement Award
James Homer	Aspire	Asp-7	10 Masterchef Award
Maise King	Innovate	Inn-8	9 Outstanding Visual Award
Chloe Southerwood	Create	Cre-3	10 Outstanding Performance Award
Mariana Teixeira	Aspire	Asp-6	10 First Class Computer Science Award
Reece Trett	Aspire	Asp-3	7 Master Mathematician Award
Ellie Wilkinson	Create	Cre-3	10 Venture Craftsperson Award



www.ignitetsa.co.uk

ignite

We are a Teaching School Alliance of cross-phase schools based in Gorleston, Norfolk but with partners across the East of England and the country.



To find out more follow us @Ignite_TSA

For more information please contact:
Ormiston Venture Academy, Gorleston, Norfolk. NR31 7JJ
Phone: 01493 662 966 | Fax: 01493 660 329
Email: Info@ignite.co.uk

'School's in for Summer'

This years Venture Summer School saw 120 new year 7 students along with some current year 8 students attend a range of sessions over two weeks of the summer holidays.

Each day students had a choice of 6 sessions to take part in. Sessions included daily sports activities such as football, zorbing, trampolining and dance.

Craft activities such as mask making, puppet making and photography sessions were available for those with a creative flare.

There were also sessions with a focus on preparing students for life at Venture, as well as a team building day.



On the final day of Venture Summer School all students who had attended sessions throughout the two weeks joined staff on a day out at Pleasurewood Hills.

Partnerships...

Literacy Partnership with Ormiston Herman Academy and Ormiston Venture Academy.

The original aim was to build a yearlong partnership literacy with Ormiston Herman Academy in 2013/2014, here we are at the end of the second year of running it because, all participants valued it so highly. This year the partnership doubled in size and there are plans for next year to increase the capacity of it further.



The partnership programme is aimed at working with year 6 pupils weekly to prepare and support them for their transition to secondary provision.

The programme began in September and was supported by Venture staff

and initially Venture pupils, to show how exciting life at Venture is.

The programme moved on by using social and emotional literacy stories with activities to promote emotional wellbeing and build on literacy skills. The pupils developed ideas for coping with the world of secondary education and made some amazing stress relievers in the process. As the programme progressed the pupils came to Ormiston Venture Academy to access our facilities and resources on a regular basis.

Titan and our Tools for Life programme built on this work to create greater independence, communication and interaction.

All the pupils taking part have hugely benefited from this experience and are very excited about being part of Venture in September. We are also excited to welcome them.



Staff Changes at Venture

At the end of the academic year 2014-15, we bid fond farewells to the following members of our team as they embark on new ventures elsewhere:

- Elizabeth Haddleton, teacher of photography
- Lee Robinson, teacher of science
- Lewis Davey, teaching assistant
- Luanna Roberts, teacher of humanities
- Victoria Swanston, teacher of graphics
- Matthew Collinge, teacher of mathematics
- Lana-Sian Brand, teacher of performing arts
- Louise Clements, teaching assistant
- Nicole Soards, KS3 Mentor

We wish all of the above the very best in their future endeavours and thank them for their hard work at team Venture.

We also extend a very warm welcome to a number of new staff joining us from September 2015:

- Chloe Lambert, teacher of geography
- John Wayman, teacher of geography
- Paul Sutton, teacher of science
- Jake Sewell, teacher of science
- Eddy Clark, teacher of mathematics
- Amy Fordham, teacher of English
- Dr. Nadhim Shamoon, teacher of mathematics
- Spencer Doggett, Assistant Principal
- Richard Harvey, teacher of history
- Tom O'Donoghue, teacher of science
- Travis Lilley, teacher of science
- Mia Bulloch, raising achievement mentor
- Nick Tuley, teacher of photography
- Emily Sims, teaching assistant
- Keeley Greenwood, teaching assistant

Celebrating success!

The end of term was an extremely busy time for students who had truly encapsulated the Venture way during the year.

Students with 100% attendance and impeccable behaviour were invited to the celebratory 'Sundaes in the Sun' event, enjoying ice cream sundaes in the beautiful summer weather with the Principal, in reward for their excellent efforts.

Similarly, students with excellent behaviour and attendance were invited to the end of term disco, enjoying dancing, games and a buffet style meal to the music of a professional DJ.

Youth Club

This term saw the successful launch of the first Venture Youth Club, with students from Years 7 and 8 invited to join staff in a host of exciting activities on a Friday evening.

Activities ranging from table football, pool, table tennis, computer games to football and rounders are were on offer each week from 5pm and until 6.30pm. In addition to this, the 'tuck shop' selling penny sweets proved to be a great hit, with on average 45 students attending the club each week! Should your child wish to attend, Youth Club re-launches on Friday 18th September 2015.

Transition days

On Monday 29th and Tuesday 30th June Venture welcomed the class of 2020 from their primary schools for two transition days.

This year saw the most amazing transition days yet, focusing on the theme of 'Space and Exploration'. Students were engaged in a range of fun activities, ranging from 'Space Dust', 'Capture the Space Flag' to maths activities on the solar system.



Summer Sundaes @ Venture

Diary Dates

What's coming up at Venture Academy

July 2015

- Thursday 24th October - Year 6 Open evening 5pm - 7pm
- Wednesday 7th October - No Pens Day
- Thursday 15th October - Academic Review Day 11am - 7pm
- Thursday 22nd October - Half Term online report available
- Thursday 22nd October - Students break for Half term
- Friday 23rd October - Academy Closed for Half Term Break

November 2015

- Monday 2nd November - Students return to the academy

We are The Union of Venture Students - giving the student body at Ormiston Venture Academy their voice. Follow us @Venture_SU

James Paget Project

Students from Ormiston Venture Acadmey have been working with students from Cliff Park Ormiston Academy and local historians to complete an interactive exhibition about the life and times of Sir James Paget.

Zak Buttifant, Cameron Robinson, Ryan Nicol, Kain McBarron and Paige Lovick have worked over the last 6 months to research, design and bring together the final exhibition. Sir James Paget was a surgeon and lived in 1800s Great Yarmouth and London, even becoming royal physician in his illustrious career. As part of their initial research, the students went on trips that included visiting Lacons Brewery, James Paget Hospital and the Time and Tide Museum.

The project culminated in a Dragons Den style ideas workshop for an interactive display on the man himself, as well as conditions in Victorian Great Yarmouth. Tuesday 7th July saw the grand opening of the exhibition at Great Yarmouth library where the public can go along and view



(and interact with) the efforts of the Ormiston Venture and Cliff Park Ormiston students until the end of July. Somehow, museum display designer Jeremy Moore took the 'Box of Shocks' display from a drawing on a piece of paper to the wonderful interactive spectacle



you can view in the exhibition. You will also be able to see the 'Amputation Station' and see how difficult it is to amputate a hand

against the clock. Nexus engineering really helped to build this exhibit. You will also view 3D print of Sir James Paget as part of 'Paget's Picnic', built at Cliff Park by the students and DT teacher Bob Groome; where students have dreamed up a picnic between Sir James and some of his contemporaries. The students recorded sound bites as Charles Darwin and Florence Nightingale among others, all of who worked with Great Yarmouth's most famous surgeon.



The students even had the pleasure of meeting Sir Julian Paget, Great Grandson of Sir James, who was very impressed with the exhibits.

Any one of these would have been pride of place at the interactive exhibition, but to

have all three-in such a short space of time-is truly staggering. The exhibition really is a worthwhile trip to Great Yarmouth library, where you will also have the opportunity to find out all about the conditions James grew up in and his contribution to medicine.

The exhibition will spend some time in the Great Yarmouth Minister during the summer holidays and is planned to spend a week at OVA in September for the rest of the academy to appreciate.

As part of our involvement with Heritage Schools and Historic England, OVA has been awarded Heritage Schools status. This award was accepted on behalf of the Academy by Kain McBarron during the exhibition launch.



Teach First

Educational charity Teach First, which was featured in the fly on-the-wall documentary series 'Tough Young Teachers', officially launched its expansion into the East of England with a ceremony at Ormiston Venture Academy.

Students from Ormiston Venture Academy and Ormiston Victory Academy performed at the ceremony. Participants were welcomed to the East of England by Nicole McCartney, Executive Principal of partner school Ormiston Venture Academy and National Director of Performance and Partnerships, who drew parallels between her school's motto, "Nobility comes from virtue, not from pedigree," and the Teach First vision to give all young people a fair chance to succeed, regardless of their background. This common goal was evident throughout the evening.

William Stow from our university training provider Canterbury Christ Church University spoke about the educational challenges that we face in the East of England, particularly working in such dispersed communities. He described how: "It is only with sustained engagement, collaboration and partnership that these challenges can be met." He also encouraged

participants not to worry about the wider challenge, but to focus on the little things they could do to make an impact on the young people they would be working with.

Dr Tim Coulson, Regional Schools Commissioner for East of England and North-East London, shared his excitement at the new cohort beginning their training: "Although they are not teachers yet, they are the very best people to have recruited to train to become teachers." He ended by wishing them well over the next two years and beyond and stressed the potential impact of the cohort as they begin teaching in the Local Area as a group.

This is an excellent opportunity for Ormiston Academies across the region to be on the forefront of recruitment and teacher training.



SEN Summit

June 2015.

The first SEN Summit was launched in the Summer of 2014 to embrace the changes that were forth coming with the new SEN code of practice from September 2014.

This was put in place to support all colleagues across the OAT network in ensuring their provision would be outstanding come the 1st September 2015. This event was so successful and warmly embraced by all that the second summit was planned to coincide with the launch of the teaching school Ignite in July 2015.

The Summit this year was just as successful and attended not only by SENCo`s but Mr & Mrs Murray the founders of Ormiston, Principals and Vice principals from across the OAT network.

The focus this year was the practicalities of the new code of practice and how across OAT we can ensure outstanding provision for SEND pupils. It was time to share and personalize our approach to SEND. The foci of the presentations and activities were broad:-

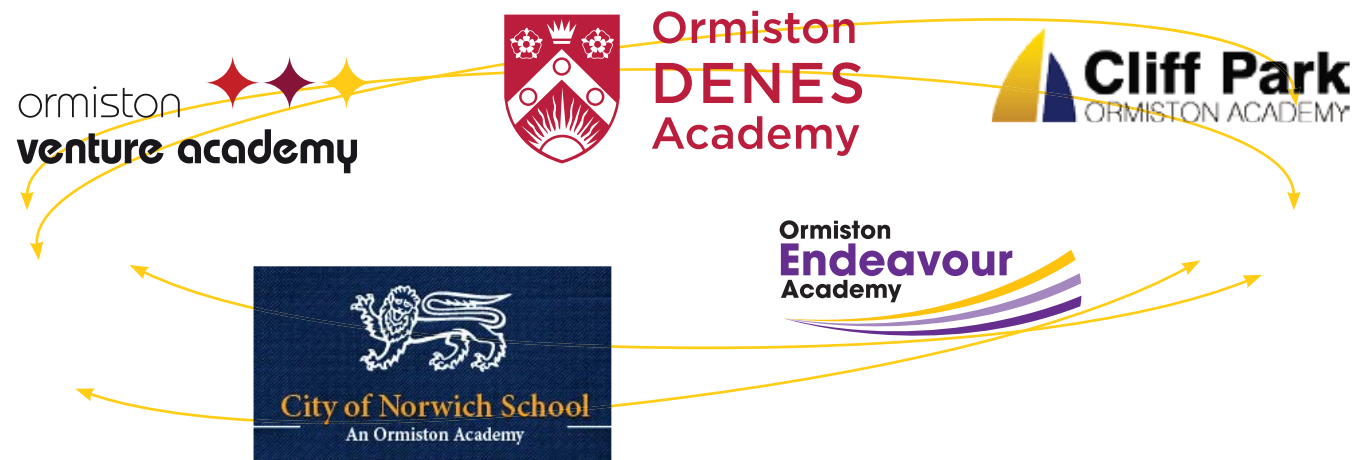
- An update on the National context and how to make the best use of teaching assistants and the implications for us as leaders.



- Tools for success incorporating high impact strategies for support staff and how to create a personalized kit bag that will create instant impact in the classroom and further promote personalized learning to meet the need of every pupil.
- The new code of practice and the APAR system of Assess, Plan, Action (do), Review. How to implement it, track it and analyze its impact. A system that promotes a holistic approach to supporting pupils, teachers and their families.

All attending found it valuable, thought provoking and guiding them to a new way of working. Is another planned? Absolutely!

Pupils created their own thoughts of what they think of support at Venture and how it supports them and their learning to make good progress.



Cross Academy Student Leadership Conference



On Wednesday 8th July, not only did the Union of Venture Students speak at yet another high profile event by being the Key Note speakers at the NSEL Teaching and Learning Summit they also hosted a cross academy student leadership conference.

Some brilliant ideas were created and students were sharing best practice throughout the event, with all schools going away with a bag full of ideas to implement in their own academies. The final part of the day saw each academy give a quick presentation on an element of student voice they were proud of.

All participants spoke superbly and again gave the other academies some real gems to take away with them. For some of the presenters their talks were even more impressive given that they were presenting in front of a large crowd of rather esteemed educational figures who were attending the Ignite TSA Launch, including the Regional Schools Commissioner Tim Coulson.

The students were fantastic and all went away hoping to reconvene in the Autumn term and look at how we can make this collaboration a regular event that benefits all, and potentially growing to include more schools and academies.

Who knows? Maybe an Eastern Region Schools Parliament or similar is on the horizon!

A huge thank you and well done to all the schools involved including our own Union of Venture Students.

It was the first time students had attempted to hold a collaborative event between schools so it was kept small for this first time with Ormiston Venture, Ormiston Denes, Cliff Park, CNS, Ormiston Endeavour and Downham Market Academy all sending their student leadership teams to take part.

The day started with each academy noting down what they hoped to gain from the day and then students were split into 3 groups with students from each academy on each table. The staff formed a fourth group and had a great day exchanging ideas and discussing student leadership from a staff point of view whilst their students all collaborated superbly.

You wouldn't have known the leaders had only met that morning as they thrashed out opinions and ideas on how student leadership and student voice can have a greater impact on teaching and learning, student support systems, fundraising and more.



Apprentice of the Year

On Wednesday 8th July Mr McInally and Mr Gilbert-Barnham were invited to join representatives from Simmons Edeco at the Great Yarmouth Minster, to celebrate Great Yarmouth College's Further Education and Apprenticeship awards.

Hannah Crouch was awarded Apprentice of the Year at the ceremony having taken up a place at Simmons Edeco last September.

This role was one of the prestigious apprenticeship places the company offers to Venture students exclusively.

We at Venture are extremely proud of Hannah and all of her achievements and look forward to future Venture students gaining awards such as this.

A pleasing note was that Hannah was not the only Venture Alumni student at the awards. Brogan Lawes, Coral Payne, Daniel Shales, Shelby-Jae Yaxley and Molly Soanes were also recognised for their achievements and efforts whilst at GY College.



Keep up to date with all that is going on a Ormiston Venture Academy at:
www.ormistonventureacademy.co.uk

Here you can read about all that is available to the students and the community.

Lets get social on Twitter: @OrmistonVenture

And... let us Ignite your teaching future on Twitter: @Ignite_TSA

Meet our Governors...

Hi, I'm Chris and I am a Parent Governor at Ormiston Venture Academy.

I have lived in Gorleston since 2006 emigrating down from Manchester! I have 3 children Lucas 12, Jack 9 and their little sister (or should I say princess) Charley who is 5.

I work for ZAKS as their Chief Operating Officer. I was born in Sheffield where I went to school and college then left to go to Uni over the hills to Manchester where I stayed after graduating.

I have over the years done many different things and what I do now is certainly not what I trained for. I wanted to be famous from a young age and did everything from dancing, singing, acting, being in a band to being a DJ! I then changed my mind and wanted to go into technical theatre design (which is what my degree is in)! Then I decided to try my luck at running restaurants and bars and love it and that is what I still do now.

I am very proud to be a Governor at such a fantastic school and it is the first educational institution I have come across to really inspire me and give me faith in the education available for our kids. I have facilitated days in schools over the years and done volunteer work in preparing our future leaders to get ready for the big wide world and it is great to see so much of what I have preached to be part of Ventures vision from the students first day.

I love spending time in the academy as there is a great atmosphere and a real sense of the whole team really wanting to achieve and release everybody's potential and more importantly they genuinely care. It is an exciting place to be and makes me wish I could go back to school!

I recently spent some time with year 7 as part of an enterprise day and I was blown away by the energy and enthusiasm they have alongside some fantastic ideas that only young people could come up with!

I am particularly impressed with the catering team and I think it was a great decision to take the catering in house and it has been a great success (I wonder if I can get Zaks burgers on the menu...)

I hope I can bring some of my experience of both being a parent and from my life to the Governing Body as a relatively new member and I am very excited about what the future for Venture holds.



The Create Show 2015



On Tuesday 7th July, the Create faculty staged its first showcase of work from the entire faculty.

Singers and actors demonstrated their talents amongst a plethora of creative displays and nibbles! Art and photography work lined the corridors, Craft and Graphics work drew people's admiration downstairs.



The event however, kick started with a bang from the Textiles classes who put on a superb fashion show on the walkway leading to the academy.

Parents, staff, students and members of the community who attended the event commented on the fantastic quality of the work and what bright futures the students at Venture have.

A special thanks goes to the entire Create team including Colin Chilvers and Eloise Cornwell, for such a lovely and inspiring evening.





The exciting partnerships and additional opportunities forged by Ignite TSA, Norfolk's first secondary teaching school alliance, based at Ormiston Venture Academy in Great Yarmouth were celebrated at the official launch.

Members of the Ignite Teaching School Alliance came together with key partners to celebrate the achievements made this year and set the direction for the year ahead. On Ignite's role in Norfolk, Nicole McCartney, Executive Principal of Ormiston Venture Academy, said: "We are proud to be a part of the Norfolk solution to improved outcomes for our young people".

On a day of celebrations and the formal event, it was a true recognition of how Ignite has worked with a wide range of partners. The day included the Norfolk Learning and Teaching Summit hosted in partnership with Norfolk Secondary Education Leaders; an SEN Summit sharing best practice on the provision of Special Educational Needs for children in the region; and a "Student Conference" with the student leaders from 5 schools. Speakers including Regional Schools Commissioner for the East and North East London, Dr Tim Coulson and Assistant



Director for Education Gordon Boyd supported by speaking at the event recognising the important role of teaching schools and Ignite across the region in raising standards. Gordon Boyd said:

"The work of Ignite Teaching School alliance ensures that the outstanding practice at Ormiston Venture Academy is shared widely across the Norfolk education system to promote our shared drive for there to be 'A Good Education for Every Norfolk Learner'. The new Teaching School joins forces with Norfolk's four other Teaching School Alliances, the Headteacher Associations and the Local Authority in leading our strategy for 'Norfolk Schools Supporting Norfolk Schools'. This underpins the ambitious, self-improving system that is swiftly emerging and that draws highly qualified newcomers to Norfolk's teaching force under the banner of 'Educate Norfolk'"

We were pleased to have national partners to Ignite celebrating an exciting future. James Toop CEO of Teaching Leaders, a national charity committed to addressing educational disadvantaged by growing the number of outstanding middle leaders in schools in challenging contexts, said:

"Teaching Leaders are delighted to be a partner with Ignite. Our shared collective vision to address education disadvantage means our partnership is a natural one and allows us to deliver a nationally recognised leadership programme locally, using Ignite's trusted reputation to promote to schools and using their expert trainers and coaches to deliver the highest quality programme. Together we are growing the next generation of school leaders who will transform the life chances of Norfolk and Suffolk's children."

It is an exciting time for the schools in the East and Ignite looks forward to contributing to the work of school leaders, teachers and other partners to drive improvement for all.

The National Teaching School programme is a Government initiative, marking a shift towards school centered training and development. To be designated a Teaching School it is essential for the applicant school to be judged outstanding by Ofsted and demonstrate a history of collaborating with other schools to secure pupil improvements.

Teaching schools work across different strands to lead a school led improving system. This includes working with providers of initial teacher training such as SNITT and the UEA to bring applicants into the profession; offering a wide range of CPD to staff at all stages in their careers and collaborating with schools to support improvements.



Shakespeare comes to Venture

Students in years 8 and 9 were treated to productions of Shakespeare's 'Much Ado about Nothing' and 'Romeo and Juliet' from the amazing Say 2 Theatre Company.



Say 2, an international theatre company, visited the Academy to bring the writings of Shakespeare to life for Venture students while allowing students to gain a greater understanding of the texts they will study for their GCSE in English.

Students watched the abridged productions performed by a cast of five with amazement. Laughing, booing and even the odd sob could be heard as students became engrossed in the plot of the plays.

The performances were followed by workshops seeing all students performing the Shakespearian works. Many students took to the stage for the first time reciting lines from the plays, learning the skills of jousting and Shakespearian dance to convey their understanding of the characters and their actions within the plays.

Venture students cannot wait for the next visit from Say 2.

Year 7-9 Summer Learning Institute

The week that year 10s were away on work experience provided us with an opportunity to change the normal timetable for the rest of the Academy.

Each day would provide each year group with something that we wouldn't usually get time to work towards. The week looked a little something like this. On Monday Year 7's worked on an team building and personal skills workshop in the hall where all 168 students worked in teams on building important qualities. Year 8s were in one of their new options allowing them a taster day of what was to come whilst year 9s were involved in a drugs and substances education day.



to around 20 others in heats and the winner of the heats then presented back to the whole year group in the hall which was a pretty daunting task, but all groups handled it superbly and came up with some fantastic ideas. The year 9s were a real credit to themselves and the Academy.

Meanwhile on Tuesday the year 8s were in their second option and the year 7's were receiving five separate sports workshops from Norwich City Community Sports foundation. In groups of around 30 the students took part in Handball, Netball, Goal Ball, Futsal and Nutrition & Fitness sessions led by Norwich City community coaches and members of the football Academy. Lucky the weather held out to enable all the outside sports to take place and give everyone an enjoyable day. Also on Tuesday ten students went to another local Academy to take part in the Diana Award Anti-Bullying Ambassador training. More will come of this in the upcoming months as the ambassadors look to develop their roles in the Academy as part of the Union of Venture Students.

Wednesday saw the return of the Guilds for a one off day and a Year 7 trip to London for the Lion King. Around half of year 7 got to the Academy nice and early to depart for London with the Miss Ditcham and members of the Create team organising an planning a fantastic day out at the theatre in the West End of London. Back at the Academy Year 8 and 9 students got to partake in two one and a half hour Guild sessions and the other of their sessions was spent watching and taking part in a Shakespeare performance in the hall to help support them in their English studies.



Year 7's had three Guild sessions. As always with Guilds a great day was had by all and it was brilliant to see some new sessions such as Animal Care and Hairdressing Tasters, First Aid, Zorbing along with the usual favourites such as Astronomy, Bushcraft and Chess. A big thank you to ex students and members of the community who came in to support the running of those Guilds.



Thursday saw another trip running with a mix of students in years 7,8 and 9 heading to the National Space Centre in Leicester thanks to Mr Robinson organising the trip to the truly inspirational destination for all of our budding astronauts and astrophysicists.



Year 9 were involved in a whole day of PE organised by the brilliant Venture PE team whilst it was year 8's turn to work with Inspired Youth in designing their new tourism attraction for the local area in the same format that the Year 9's had used earlier in the week. Year 7 were on a rotation of lessons mainly to do with careers. All year 7s now know what a CV is and have started to add information to them including what type of personality they are having measured this in the packtypes activity. They also got to grips with how to earn digital badges on Makewaves, where they will receive a badge for all of the Academy awards they are awarded from now on.

On Friday, the final day of a busy but fun filled week, it was Year 7's turn to work with Inspired Youth but rather than a new tourist attraction this time the students had to work in unfamiliar groups to come up with a new cookie design and plan how to get the cookie to market.

The great thing about the Inspired Youth activities all week was that in addition to our staff supporting, Inspired Youth brought several business mentors from the community in with them so all week our students got to interact with real business men, women and entrepreneurs and gaining their advice whilst building their product and activity.

Just like the year 8's and 9's before them some of the ideas were fantastic and the way students were able to present their ideas was extremely impressive. Year 8 were working on the careers sessions so also now all have their own CVs. Year 9 meanwhile were pitted against each other in a big intercollege competition on a range of team activities. Included in this was who could trade a paperclip for the biggest and most valuable item.

Claims in this competition got pretty outlandish with the building, the minibus and the tractor being thrown in as the final items 'owned' by each college. Other competitions included the strongest three man shelter built out of newspaper and the best mechanism made from straws to catch a golf ball and protect an egg when dropped from a reasonable height. In what was a tightly fought and apparently controversial competition Aspire came out on top to finish off a brilliant week.

Plans are already afoot to make it bigger and better next year.



On Tuesday the Year 9s were in the hall this time to design a new tourism business for the local area with the help of Inspired Youth. The students were split up into groups that didn't necessarily include their friends and had to allocate themselves roles in their mini company. All of the groups presented initially



Young Promoters Project

Ten Year 9 students have taken part in the Young Promoter's project. The project is run by Creative Arts East and funded by Youth Music.

Left – Right:
Elisha Long,
Paul Lacey,
Anna French,
Olivia Secretan,
Daniella Stevens,
Rhiannon McDonald,
Adam Ferguson,
Ashley O'Connor,
Kerry-Ann Stone.

This is the second year Venture has been chosen to participate in this exciting opportunity. The project involved the students selecting an act followed by planning, promoting, organising, managing and hosting a live performance for that act. They learn work based skills and get to experience what it is like to work within the music industry. The students log the whole process and complete an 'arts challenge'. These two aspects are used as evidence for their 'Silver Arts Award'. This is a national level 2 qualification.

This year's team was given the chance to select an act to perform and run a workshop in the 'Inbetweeners Area' at the Latitude Festival which took place at Henham Park in Suffolk.

The 'Inbetweeners Area' is a zone at Latitude specifically aimed at 12-17 year olds. It is currently run by Culture Works East.

Planning for the event began in January with the team attending a showcase to watch 3 possible acts. The team met afterwards and took part in a series of workshops where they completed all the planning and promotion activities.

The team were provided with a mentor from the music industry to guide them in the world of music promotion. They chose The Anna Mudeka Band to perform at Latitude. Anna is a musician from Zimbabwe who has made her home here in Norfolk and together with her band performs all over the country and delivers African drumming workshops.

Saturday 18th July saw the students depart early for Latitude with Miss Ditcham, Miss Cornwell and Miss Getvoldsen tagging along.

Both the workshop and the concert were a huge success. The students were able to get the full Latitude experience. The highlights were Wolf Alice on the BBC6 stage and James Blake in the Obelisk Arena.

Mary Hewett-The BBC Radio 6 Music Stage was my highlight. The best act I saw was James Blake. I improved my confidence and learned new teamwork skills during the project.

Adam Ferguson - *My favourite part was watching the acts in the BBC R6 tent. It was heavy metal madness!*

Olivia Secretan - *I think James Blake is really talented as he makes his own music in his own unique style. I learned about responsibility and how you play a small part in a bigger project but that it's important.*

Rhiannon McDonald - *The highlight of the day was going to the BBC Radio 6 stage in the massive tent! I think the best band I saw was Anna Mudeka. The skills I got from the project were my people skills and I managed to speak to different people.*

Ashley O'Connor - *My highlight was seeing Savages. I enjoyed learning how to put on a performance.*

Kerry-Ann Stone - *I enjoyed looking around the festival and the heavy metal on the BBC R6 stage.*

Daniella Stevens - *James Blake was my highlight. He got the audience involved and his music was unique. The audience really enjoyed it.*

Elisha Long - *My highlights of the project at Latitude were seeing James Blake and putting the Anna Mudeka Performance on. I have learnt to be more independent and I feel inspired by the creativity at Latitude.*

Paul Lacey - *The best bit was the event and seeing all the excellent music at the festival.*

Anna French - *The best bit was putting on the event and seeing the end result of our hard work.*

HSBC Offer Venture Students Once in a Lifetime Opportunity

A matter of weeks before the end of the school year, Ormiston Venture Academy were contacted by HSBC with the offer of an incredible opportunity for 10 of our Year 9 students who would be going into year 10 in September.

This opportunity was to join three other schools from around the country in becoming crew on a tall ship that would embark on a 10 day adventure sailing from Southampton, across to Europe and back into London sailing underneath Tower Bridge before docking next to the iconic HMS Belfast. The trip is worth £1000 per participant but this is fully funded by HSBC.

Obviously we were quick to take them up on the offer and put in motion a selection process for the trip. All of year 9 were gathered for a collective and the trip opportunity was launched to them. The students had to declare their interest by writing a short paragraph on why they felt they should be the ones to take on the opportunity.

It was a tough process for the academy to get the applicants down to those who would be lucky enough to take a place but eventually we were able to get a list of thirteen students, ten who would be taking their places on the ship and three in reserve should any of the initial ten be unable to take their place.

It was great to read through all of the passionate arguments for why our students deserved that opportunity and we wish we could provide it for all of them but in the end the ten students who will be heading off on this adventure are:

Michael Nicholls, George Needham, James Homer, Dovydas Valma, Kain McBarron, Jake Soards, Jasmine Carrier, Tiah-Paige Davie, Abby Stranks and Beatriz Fonseca.

They will be accompanied by a member of staff, although the staff are still debating over who should be allowed to join the students so this has yet to be decided, they will also be accompanied by a member of staff from a local HSBC branch, Paul Stroud.

On the 15th July Paul and Chas Cowell from the Tall Ships Youth Trust came to meet with the students and parents and go over some of the main aspects of the trip, from where students would be sleeping to the work they would be doing.

It definitely will not be a holiday with lots of hard work required from the students who will act as the ships crew but it will be an unforgettable experience taking part in a live voyage that will reward our students not only with memories but with new skills and qualifications.

We look forward to being able to update you on how the voyage went in the next Venture Voice.





Prom 2015

On 25th June 2015 Venture bid a fond farewell to its Class of 2015 at the Senior Year Prom held at the stunning Somerleyton Hall.

Students arrived at the grand entrance to the Hall in a range of classic cars and more unusual vehicles. Four incredibly hard working students won the opportunity to arrive at the prom by helicopter, making a truly memorable arrival.

As always the Best Dressed awards were incredibly difficult to award with all students looking glamorous and Venturastastic! However voting on the night confirmed Kyla Chadwick and Derry Rose as best dressed students. Prom King was awarded to Jake Honey and Prom Queen went to Shannon Wicklow.



Senior Year fundraising for the event secured some lovely extras for the evening including a photo booth which caused great hilarity amongst staff and students alike, and a sweetie bar which everyone enjoyed tucking into.

Thank you to the hard work of Venture staff for organising a truly memorable evening for our fantastic Senior Year.

It was a fitting send off for a fantastic bunch of young people.



Ormiston Cup Success

Ormiston Venture had a pretty good record in rounders and went over to Cliff Park confident that they could match Cliff Park's two teams and a team from Ormiston Denes and bring the prestigious Ormiston Cup back to the Academy after it was lost earlier in the year. The Venture team was made up of Chloe Hodgkinson, Nicole Dias, Jessie Smith, Lauren McMurdo, Ally Hitchin, Jess Carlyon, Chantelle Kirton, Mariana Texiera and Iveta Pociute. The girls were led into competition by Miss Hollis and support was provided by Miss Ermini.

First up was one of the Cliff Park teams, Venture batted first and four players were out so the remaining players had to fight to achieve a good number of runs led by Jessie Smith, then it was the turn of the fielders to keep Cliff Park at bay. The Venture fielding was impressive managing to stop Cliff Park from ever getting past 2nd base meaning they couldn't score any runs, Venture's

tight fielding won us the match. Next up the other Cliff Park team were out for revenge and to earn back some pride for their school. Cliff Park really struggled to stop the Venture batters from scoring with Ally Hitchin in fine form, and only one Venture team player was out. However when the roles were reversed the story changed and Venture were able to get most of the Cliff Park team out with Lauren McMurdo having a great catch to sum up the impressive fielding once again. Venture headed into a 2-0 lead, but so did their opponents in their next game Ormiston Denes.

Whoever won the third and final match would take home the cup, Venture vs Denes. This was the hardest game and Venture fielded first carrying our fine form on from the previous games restricting Denes to two and a half rounders. When it was Venture's turn to bat two



Venture Vixens: Cheer Report

Since the start of June this year, we've practised non-stop in preparation for our 'School's Out Future Cheer Competition'.

Our squad as a whole have worked so hard and were so focused for the event; I think we all forgot about what else we were doing! We sometimes trained for three hours in a day to get our routine polished and clean and even went to the University of East Anglia (UEA) to get used to the sprung floor that we would be performing on in the actual competition. We had a lot of help from our coach, Miss Ermini, and previous head cheerleader, Shannon, to accomplish what we wanted to do, which was to be the best we could possibly be.

During the day of the competition, all you could see were the bright colours of every team's uniform, rushing around and getting ready to perform. There were three categories in total, level one, level two and level three, our team were competing in the level one category so we could include all the stunts and skills our squad were capable of. Once we'd finished our first performance, we raced around to watch ourselves back on the TV screen to see how it went, there were a couple of slip ups but we were sure that it didn't matter too much. Since we were performing twice, we had a few hours to watch the other teams' routines. Once it got up to level three,

I think all of our jaws stayed open because of how amazing they were! A certain team even threw their flyers so high they could probably touch the ceiling and at the end of it, one of the boys, by himself, held a flyer above his head in extension! So after we'd recovered from seeing the level three squads, it was our turn to perform again. Once a few changes were made, we were ready to go. We all threw our flyers as high as we could, jumped as high as we could and smiled as much as we could to get the highest score we could possibly get. Yet again, once our performance had finished, we all ran around to the TV screen and watched ourselves back and we were much, much better!

We watched a few more teams perform, joined in with every team by having a massive group dance and got a lot of new ideas and even some new warm up games to play in our sessions, but I think everyone's favourite part of the day was the actual performance and watching how good all the other teams were.

If we go back next year, we will incorporate a lot more lifts and better skills we have picked up from watching the other competitors, and also some we've thought of ourselves. But overall, even though we came in ninth place, our team did absolutely amazing and should be very proud of ourselves for winning a trophy and we'll all look forward to coming back fighting next year.



Venture Games 2015



This year's Venture Games saw the whole Academy from staff to student taking part in sporting events.

Emerald Park hosted Capture the Flag which was commanded superbly by Miss Clarke and her band of support staff. Tennis was run by Miss Poole who led the students in a fun session of skills and matches. Rounder's was as popular as ever with 4 matches being played at once under the eagle eye scrutiny our Venture Alumni students who came back to lead some sessions. There was also the usual dodgeball sessions for all those crazy students. A special thanks goes to all the teachers who managed to survive and officiate that particular event.

Over the course of the day students took part in three sporting sessions of an hour and a half, and as students were able to opt into a variety of sporting events there was something for everyone including yoga and sports animation.

Looking forward to next years all ready, any new sports that we can offer just let us know.



"May the Games Be Forever In Your Favour"

WELLESLEY 2015



Over 150 students represented the Academy at this year's district athletics event.

The students had trained really hard and committed after school for over a month in preparation for the big meet. The day was a massive success with the Academy getting an overall third place finish meaning we are one of the top three schools in the area for athletics.