

Venture voice

Ormiston
venture academy

Edition 10: Autumn 2013 - 14

World Class Building

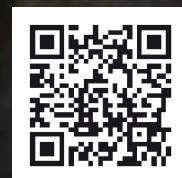
Welcome to Ormiston Venture Academy 2013

Venture Rocks

Students Take on the West End

Hub Challenge

Let The Challenge Begin





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Do you love reading? Do you have a couple of hours to spare each week? Would you like to help make a difference? If so, perhaps the Community Reading Group is for you?

Every Wednesday afternoon a group of volunteers work in our Learning Resource Centre with younger students at the academy, listening to them read on a 1-2-1 basis. This valued support helps youngsters to gain in confidence and to develop important reading skills, which will help them for the rest of their lives.

The impact of this and other literacy strategies contributed to the Ofsted Outstanding judgement in May with inspectors commenting that "Students who join the academy with low levels of literacy are promptly taught how to read and write, enabling them to enjoy learning and achieve well. Gaps in their basic skills are filled through intensive, personalised support". Benefits though are not just for our students as Eva Snooks, a regular volunteer recognises and said "Who would have thought just one hour each week with the reading group would be such fun? It is so rewarding listening to the children's reading improve each week"

With the new academy building comes an opportunity to extend our Community Reading Group as we now have more space and a vibrant new Learning Resource Centre. If you have a couple of hours to spare and would like to get involved please call or email Venture's Vice Principal at the academy at kwilliams@ormistonventureacademy.co.uk.

All volunteers receive training and are required to undertake a CRB check.



What's going on at Venture Academy...

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High Points at the Academy

There have been many high points at the Academy already this year.

Seeing the faces of our students as they entered the new build, watching our first professional production of We Will Rock You with our local community and seeing students and staff teach side by side during Venture Guild Time to name a few. Most recently, Venture graduate Jessica-Jane Applegate won Young Sports Personality of the Year, and picked up yet another world record!

We were recently visited by Brandon Lewis, our local MP, who said of the visit, 'It's great to have such a successful school [in Gorleston], one that has become the first Norfolk school to gain Outstanding in the new and tougher schools inspection regime'. We look forward to welcoming he, and others, to our grand opening event in March.

As you know, we are all incredibly proud of our Outstanding grade. From the bottom 10% of schools in the country, to the top 11% most improved is no easy task in three years. Nevertheless, we know that we can always improve. With Cliff Park High School and Herman Primary joining the Ormiston family, we now have eight Ormiston Academies in Norfolk and Suffolk. The opportunities to work together to benefit our students are endless, and we look forward to seizing those opportunities as often as possible. In the meantime, we will continue to focus on the achievement and enjoyment of all Venture students, and as always, we thank you for your support!

Executive Principal
McCartney



What a fantastic start to 2013/14 at Ormiston Venture Academy.

With the opening of our amazing building, celebrating another year of fantastic results and welcoming our students back to a new year there is a lot to be excited about.

After an outstanding journey over the past 3 years, this year we are focused on going "Beyond Outstanding". Our vision is to continue our journey and ensure that every child and member of the community benefit from an academy that is "World Class".

This year is about taking the best we have achieved and making it better. This year is about giving students the opportunity to lead in all areas of their academy. This year is about creating opportunities for you to benefit from the facilities at Venture.

This year is about involving our community in taking the academy forward. This year is about not just making improvements but leaping forward, embracing 21st century learning and ensuring Venture remains on the cutting edge of education.

Principal
Gilbert-Barnham



Ormiston Venture Academy has taken the bold step of bringing 21st Century learning directly to the pockets of our students.



Venture students not only arrived back from the summer holidays to be greeted by an amazing new building, but each of them received their own Android tablet. The Venture 1:1 Devices are designed to make learning much more accessible and to ensure lessons are truly world class.

What has been the motivation behind the decision to use technology at Venture in such a way? For sometime now, we have recognised that the internet is being used more and more as the repository for all human knowledge. Everything that we have achieved as a species, from scientific discoveries and exploration of the stars to almost all types of music and art, is available to access online. To us it makes sense that all this information should be at the fingertips of all our students during lessons.

As more and more employers are wanting employees to have even greater research, analytical and independent problem solving skills, Venture academy is surely giving students the chance to gain a massive head start. By asking students to take more ownership of their learning through the use of online and digital resources, these skills are being firmly embedded.

Teachers have built up an array of digital assets that allow them to engage all of the students in a lesson. One example of this is the use of the 1:1 Devices to replace the use of 'hands up' in the classroom.

It's not just access to all human knowledge that the 1:1 Devices offer. The Android app store has hundreds of thousands of apps that can be downloaded to the devices making them extremely flexible. Students can download tools for learning such as scientific calculators, dictionaries and apps to improve exam performances.

The 1:1 Devices are firmly embedded in our lessons and the software that we use to support them. Students now have even better access to the Venture ePortal, their timetable, attendance stats and email. With the built in calendar and email apps there really is no excuse not to get that extended learning to teachers on time!



Attainment Success

We are incredibly proud to share the news that Ormiston Venture Academy continues to make significant improvement in the attainment for all students.

2013 results illustrate that our students' attainment is above the National Average for the vast majority of qualifications; this continued improvement is testament that Venture has embedded a culture of success and aspiration in all that we do.

Building on the trend of recent years, Venture students continue to achieve outstanding results in 2013:

	2013
% 5 A* - C	96
% 5 A* - G	96
% 1 A* - G	99
% 3 A*-A	28

Our results in English, Maths and Science show that students are not only attaining above National Averages but also making outstanding progress at Venture:

	2013
English % A* - C	75
English % 3 levels of progress	81
Mathematics % A* - C	62
Maths % 3 levels of progress	73
Science % A* - C (Double Award)	89

Individual achievements of particular note include Kaileb Bryant, Kendra Caine, Orestsa Muckute, Jade Munro, Sachu Saji, Jacob Talkowski and Ethan Webster for achieving 10 or more GCSEs at A*/A grades.

Also, we couldn't possibly go to print without mentioning the staggering achievement of Kurt Burgess - 17 GCSEs at grade C and above - well done!

Warmest congratulations to the class of 2013 on the achievement of their fantastic results. We look forward to ensuring every child graduating from the Academy continues to aspire for outstanding achievement in all areas.

Venture into Oxbridge

Callum Cooke of the Venture Class of 2010 has become the first Venture student to study at Oxford University.

Callum received the Greshams Sixth Form Scholarship of 2010 and after two years at the Independent School in Holt achieved 4As - A* at A level. Callum's staggering achievements have been rightly recognised and he is now reading Fine Art at Oxford University.

We are all very proud of Callum and look forward to hearing more great things from our Venture Alumni as they venture into the world of higher education, employment and training. Callum is proof that Venture students can and do Achieve, Aspire, Create and Innovate

Are you a former Venture student? Do you know of more amazing things that former Venture students have achieved? If so, please get in touch with the academy so we can share more inspirational stories with students, staff and families.



Venture

Rocks



Ormiston Venture Academy put on their first ever musical on 23rd & 24th October. 'We Will Rock You' is a comical musical set in the future based on the music of Queen.

The show was directed and choreographed by performing arts teacher Sarah Simm, 'I am incredibly proud of our students, they put on an outstanding show and received a well deserved standing ovation. They even got the audience on their feet to sing-along!'



"A huge well done to all of the cast and crew involved with a special congratulations to the principles, Danton Bentley, Star Kent, Fletcher Thomson, Blaiz Pillay, Lucy-Rose Barr, Bryn Thomas and Libby Winstone.

Thank you to musical director Claire Ditcham, stage manager Eloise Cornwell and to ETS and Scenic for providing the lighting, sound and set."
Sarah Simm - teacher of performing arts.

Venture into a World Class Building

On September 9th the wait was finally over and Venture welcomed students into its stunning £8.9 million new Academy building.



The much anticipated building work was finally over and thanks to the hard work of contractors and staff alike, all deadlines were met and Venture students, staff and the community finally have the building they deserved and a building to be proud of. All the hard work was worth it to hear students gasps of delight as they entered their new academy.

The light airy spaces are equipped with the latest interactive projectors, speedy wi-fi enabling all 1:1s to function at the same time and funky new furniture.

More unusual features include a double classroom, which can be used in a variety of ways, a floor to ceiling glassed Senior Studies area equipped with bright furniture and computers, a purpose built "diary room" for students to share their thoughts on a range of topics. A new lecture theatre fit for the finest university, named the McCartney Theatre in recognition of the inspirational work of our now Executive Principal Nicole McCartney

The lecture theatre provides a valuable resource to the staff and students at the academy enabling larger training and teaching sessions to take place. This facility was recently used for the launch of Venture's teaching school application which was attended by a number local headteachers and governors.

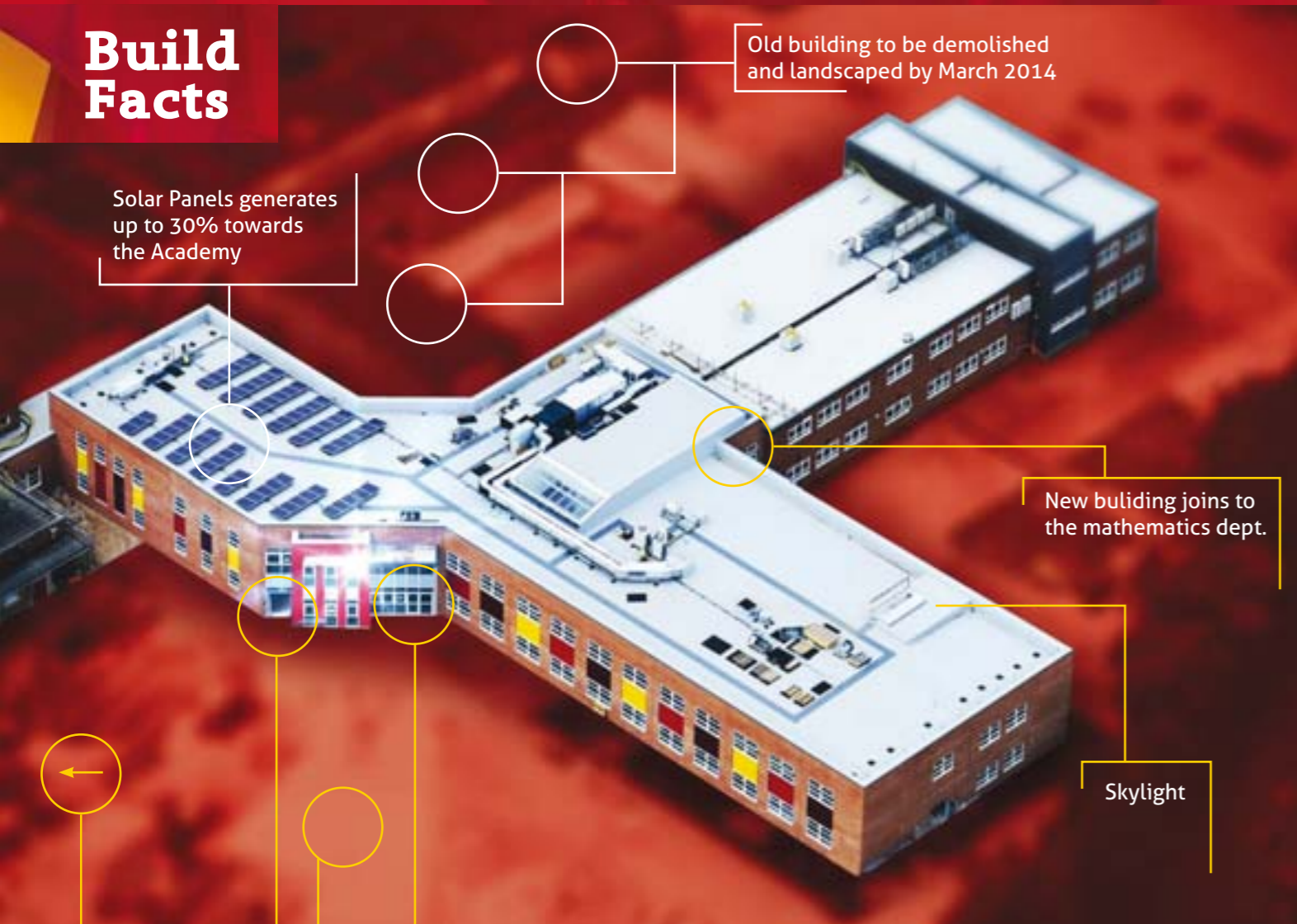
We are also keen for this resource to be used by local businesses and the community. If you have an event that would benefit from this space please email sthomson@ormistonventureacademy for details of favourable rates and availability.



The smooth transition into the new building would not have been possible without the relentless determination, and focus of Venture's Finance Director, Sam Thomson and her site team including Mark Woolner and Leigh Drury amongst others.

These unassuming staff members worked sometimes through the night to ensure that students would return to a building worthy of them. I am sure that you will join with us in saying a massive "thank you" to them all.

Build Facts



Student entrance

Main entrance

10 Trees planted from the main road to the main reception

Academy refectory, Kitchen, Venture Fitness Suite, Car Park and Playing fields

The staff and students of the Academy were excited to return in September into the amazing new building constructed by Balfour Beatty over the last year.

The facilities are amazing and include a lecture theatre, raising achievement area specifically for our senior year and outstanding creative arts and design and technology teaching spaces.

The students love their new environment which truly reflects the improvement in their achievement over the three years since the school became an Academy.

We look forward to the completion of the external areas to the rear of the building and the opening event on the 20th March 2014.

The Academy is our new hub of education where we... 'Aspire to all we can achieve with others around us and Create something new on our Venture into Success.'

To find out more as we Venture into the coming months and years follow us @ormistonventure.



Learning & Teaching @ Venture



Another "Outstanding" start to the year for learning and teaching at Ormiston Venture Academy! Again, staff have worked relentlessly to provide a first class education for our students.

The Ofsted report in summer term recognised the incredible work our staff do on a daily basis and gave the Academy an Outstanding for Teaching. This made Venture the first secondary school or academy in Norfolk to receive the judgement using the new Ofsted criteria.

As an Academy we are focusing on the revised Venture 4: fun, variety and flair, personalisation, creative dialogue and the learning of reading, writing, communication and maths.

Whole staff INSET continues to develop these key priorities and as always we continue to share the outstanding practice across the academy.

Since the start of the school year staff have focused on embedding the new 1:1 devices into lessons to make technology a seamless component of learning. Staff have fully embraced the new devices and classrooms across the Academy are buzzing with the innovative approaches to learning being used to engage our learners.

Our Super Learning Day, which is a termly feature of the Academy calendar to help students develop independent learning skills and allow time for more in-depth study, took place on October 8th. Year 7 participated in a joint project with science and English; year 8 focused on maths; years 9 and 10 worked in options; and year 11 worked in maths, English or digital media.

'They [students] display positive attitudes, behave responsibly and are eager to learn.' Ofsted

October 9th saw the academy celebrating national No Pens Day with staff and students using innovative ways to learn including through 1:1 devices, speaking and listening activities and role play.



To keep up to date with developments in learning and teaching at Venture follow us on twitter @venture_lt



Union of Venture Students

Welcome to the first Venture Voice article from the newly formed Union of Venture Students.

Our aim is to take Learning Power and Student Voice in the academy to the next level. We have set up and are now launching our own University style Union to give students more of a say in what goes on in their academy, and we are now getting ready to launch some exciting new ideas.

Our new senior year prefects have been selected, and recently went on a team building residential to Overstrand Hall where we took part in lots of good confidence boosting activities such as Leap of Faith and Abseiling but also lots of team work activities like a blindfolded assault course, problem solving and mini Olympics. It was really great to get to know each other better and decide as a group on how to make Prefects have more impact in the academy.



The Union Executive board are currently contacting local businesses with the aim of seeking partners in offering discount in local shops, restaurants and leisure businesses for members of the Union of Venture Students, just like you would receive as a member of a Union at University, and once the whole academy has voted on our new logo we can get people their membership cards which will be a really exciting part of what we plan to do this year.

In the coming weeks our Guilds and Societies officers, Aaron Olley and Paris Jex, will be launching the idea of Guild Time with our students. Guild Time will take place on a Wednesday p5 for 7 weeks each term. It will be a chance for all students to go and learn something different, something they are interested in. In this first run there will be a long list of options for students to pick from, a huge range of courses

from Football Refereeing and Genealogy to Duke of Edinburgh Awards and Computing have been supplied by staff. In the future we hope students will suggest ideas for things they would love to learn that we have missed, and we welcome ideas from the community as there must be many people in our community with a different skill set that may be of interest and benefit to our students through a 7 week Guild. This is all about promoting passion, the love of learning and discovering new ideas and skills and we are really excited about its launch.

In our next article we will update on how Guild Time is going and also talk about our next launch – Union Societies.





The Hub Challenge

On 28th August all new Year 7 students were invited to take part in The Hub Challenge.

This provided an opportunity for new students to get to know each other, make new friends and develop confidence about starting at the academy. Students were placed in teams with others that they did not know, and together they had to compete to complete series of challenges to help them develop confidence, problem solving skills, teamwork and leadership skills.

Challenges including completing massive puzzles, finding ways to lift and move challenging items and ways to help your team get to a location when blind folded. Students and staff had a lot of fun and the company leading the event commented on how fantastic the students were.



Spellathon

Ormiston Venture Academy hosted the very first inter school Spellathon at the end of the summer term and is proud to say our closer neighbour, Herman Primary School and their senior team, left the event triumphant.

The event took place over 4 hours and involved students from five local primary schools competing in group heats which eventually lead up to a grand finale. The year groups ranged from reception to year 6 and each stage of the event was organised and led by KS3 Ormiston Venture Academy students.

We very much look forward to working with our local primary schools again this year to continue the success of the Spellathon.



MP Venture Visit

Brandon Lewis Member of Parliament for Great Yarmouth, visited the successful Ormiston Venture Academy, which has seen an enormous transformation in the last 3 years.

"It's great to have such a successful school, one that has become the first Norfolk school to gain "outstanding" standard in the new, tougher schools inspection regime."

Nicole McCartney, the Executive Principal and Simon Gilbert-Barnham, the Principal showed Brandon around the new buildings and gave him an update on future plans.

Diary Dates

December

Tuesday 3rd - Wednesday 4th Venture students appear at the Great Yarmouth Carol Service held at the Hippodrome from 7pm
Friday 20th December 2013 - Break for Christmas Holidays

January

Tuesday 7th January 2014 - Return to Academy
Thursday 16th January 2014 - Graduation Ceremony Class of 2012/2013
Thursday 30th January 2014 - Year 9, 10 & 11 Parents Evening

February

Friday 14th February 2014 - Break for Half term
Monday 24th February 2014 - Return to the Academy

New Venture Prospectus out now

The new Venture prospectus is available online now please visit our website to view the new edition.



Open Doors

On October 3rd Venture opened its doors to prospective parents and welcomed a record number to its Open Evening. In excess of 250 students and their families attended, far exceeding the number of places Venture has available.

Student guides using tour flags created by Graphics students at the academy led families around the new building, receiving numerous accolades for their helpfulness.

Venture's first class facilities and cutting edge technology were showcased when an overwhelming demand for the Principal's Address meant that it had to be beamed live into the McCartney Theatre to ensure no one missed out.

Prospective students were able to decorate cakes, make rulers, try new sports and both witness and take part in an array of dazzling science experiments. Others took part in Photography workshops, Maths games and writing workshops.

Students also completed a treasure hunt gaining stamps to exchange for a funky Venture pencil case and were able to exchange a voucher for popcorn made by our entrepreneurial Business students.

The work of Venture's committed staff and students ensured that many did not want to leave, with the evening over running by up to an hour in some faculties. It was wonderful to see so many of the community enjoying what Venture has to offer future students and how it can make such a difference to the lives of young people.



Careers Fair News

Thursday 10th October saw around 35 businesses and education providers visit Ormiston Venture Academy for an annual Careers Fair which was open to all students and the local community.

It gave around 180 attendees the chance to find out information about the best way to further their education when they leave the academy, in particular how to gain access to their intended career. Parents commented on how impressed they were with the wide range of exhibitors present at the event, which proved both popular and successful.

Plans are already afoot as to how it can be further improved and expanded next year, and the Academy would like to thank all of those who attended to provide information and advice to the students and members of our local community.



Companies and Education providers who attended the Ormiston Venture Academy Careers Fair.

- | | |
|--|--|
| Access to Music Ltd | Montessori |
| British Army | NEXUS Engineering Training Centre |
| City College Norwich | Norfolk County Council Apprenticeship Team |
| CTS Ltd | Employment & Skills Team |
| EAGIT Ltd | Norwich University College of the Arts |
| East Norfolk Sixth Form College | Open Academy Sixth Form |
| Easton & Otley College | Ormiston |
| Enterprise GY | Police |
| University of East Anglia | Poultec Training Ltd |
| Great Yarmouth College Prince's Trust | Royal Air Force |
| Great Yarmouth College | Sainsbury's Supermarket Ltd |
| Great Yarmouth College Hair and Beauty | Simmons Edeco |
| James Paget University Hospital | The Matthew Project |
| JTL | The Suffolk Brokerage |
| KLM UK Engineering Limited | YMCA Training |
| Lowestoft College | Youth Personal Adviser |
| Lowestoft Sixth Form College | |

Yr 7 fitness fun



The fitness suite has seen a new intake of year 7's in particular making the most use of it over the last month.

The Year 9 boys Football Team have also got off to a great start to the season thrashing Acle 6-0.

Key players such as Daniel Pinheiro, Daniel Blake and Mark Harte put in fantastic performances to secure an easy victory.

Also special mention to Lewis Cotton who has been playing up a year, he has shown great maturity and quality on the ball and has been an integral member of the year 9 squad.

Striker Henry Watt and right winger Trae Duffus have been linking up well to produce some really outstanding performances one in particular against Lynn Grove when the Venture team had only 10 players. The whole team worked really hard for each other and demonstrated fantastic Venture spirit, only losing 2 goals to 1, with Daniel Blake hitting the post denying the team a well-deserved draw.

Well done lads, keep it up the results will come!!

Yr 9

CHEERING



The cheerleading squad has also been practicing hard for their next big performance.



U13

Girls Football Team Off to a Flying Start!

At the first FA tournament at Lynn Grove High school the girls won points in every match.



Outstanding performances from Megan Thrower, Zoe Waite and Amara Pearce helped Venture clinch a 2-2 draw against Cliff Park. This match included a stunning goal from team captain, Lauren Williams.

Venture dominated a match against Great Yarmouth High winning 5-0 and similarly beat Lynn Grove 2-0. The girls are really looking forward to the next tournament and hope to dominate again. Well done to all the squad.

Sports News

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Yr 7

The new year 7 team won their opening 2 fixtures. They won 3-1 against Acle and also were victorious against Yarmouth (4-2).

The team are playing 9-a-side for the first time at school level with Cameron Collings and Franklyn Pitts really impressing.



The year 9 boys began the season brightly and had success in their first game beating Acle 5-0.

Daniel Blake and Daniel Pinheiro running the game magnificently from midfield.

Yr 9

Yr 10



The year 10 boys' team continued to perform exceptionally well after their strong finish to last season.

Wins against Acle (3-2), Great Yarmouth (3-2) and Old Buckenham in the National Cup (6-5 aet) saw the team move into the next round of the cup and to the top of the league.

Sam Waite has scored a hatful of goals again, although the performances of Derry Rose as captain and centre back have been the real shining light of the matches.