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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

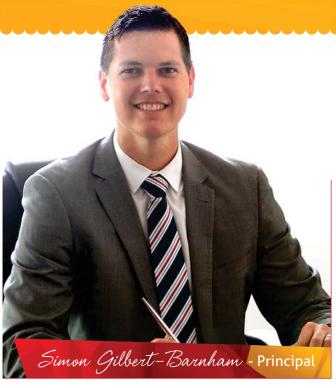


What's going on at Venture Academy...

Welcome back from Executive Principal McCartne	ey
and Principal Gilbert – Barnham	P
GYSMA Festival of Carols	P
A Not So Merry Christmas	P
Year 11's 2014 Graduation	P6 –
This was a Venture Christmas	P
Venture Community Hub Launches P10	0 – 1
Children's Takeover Day 2014 P12	2 – 1
The state of the s	

Learning Community	P14
Greshams' Update	P15
Literature Quiz	P16
Joe's our Community Governor	P17
Humanities Guild	P17
Titan at Eaton Vale Activity	P18
Golden Mile Middle School Cross Country	P19
Ormiston Tri - Cup Results	P20





WELCOME BACK...

Recent performance tables highlighted the fantastic achievements of staff and students at Venture in 2014.

Ormiston Venture Academy had the third highest Value Added figure in Norfolk and was in the top 7% nationally. This shows that together our students and staff are achieving at an exceptionally high level and is something to celebrate!

Every year we celebrate these achievements both on Results Day in August and then more formally through our Graduation Ceremony for students.

It has become something of a Venture tradition and I look forward to celebrating with you and your child when the time comes for them to journey into the next stage of their lives.

Reading through the range of articles in this edition of Venture Voice, I was struck by how strong the Venture community spirit is.

Deeds speak louder than words and it is truly inspiring to see our students raise money and contribute things that make a difference to those around them, be it beautiful carols, unusual shows, fund raising or donating items to local food banks.

All of these things demonstrate that Venture students are not only well rounded citizens who will go on to play a positive role in the local community and beyond, but young people we should all be proud of.

I am certain you will join me in congratulating them on another fantastic term.

GYSMA Festival of Carols

On 2nd and 3rd of December, the annual GYSMA Festival of Carols was held at the Hippodrome Circus.

This was the 64th Festival, which for many residents of the area marks the start of Christmas. Planning for the festival had started back in July with rehearsals taking place during the autumn term. Venture students performed in front of two capacity audiences.

Students from 18 local schools joined together to sing Christmas carols and songs. The Great Yarmouth Brass Band played along with the GYSMA orchestra. Repertoire included The Holly and the Ivy, Do they know it's Christmas (Band Aid) and Believe from 'The Polar Express'. Daniella Stevens (Year 9) was chosen to perform a solo in Believe.

The GYSMA is a local charity, which offers students the opportunity to perform in ensembles and choirs. They hold many concerts throughout the year. It is run by staff and volunteers from local schools including Venture Academy. The music department at Venture is happy to be part of this fantastic event which gives our students performance opportunities.



My Emotions

My emotions are like the earth they have been with me since birth

My anger is like the bubbling volcano; spews out love whenever annoyed

My sadness is like the drizzling rain and pours heavy whenever depressed

My happiness is like a rainbow shines the brightest in sky brighter than the sun

I hope my emotions will stay till the very day; the sun expands and melts the earth away

Archie - Year 8

Archie was studying poetry with 8YEn2. The class had been looking at the devices used by poets and had looked at poems which employed some of them.

The students were tasked, as homework, to find a poem that used some devices including similes - Archie constructed his own. This was particularly pleasing as it is one thing to read poetry but quite another to write it. Given the (apparently) personal content, Archie has done extremely well to share it with us.

Mr D. Hawkins - English Department

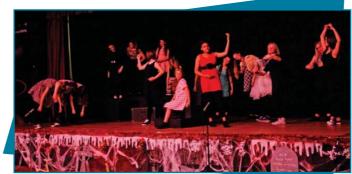




A Christmas chill descended upon Ormiston Venture Academy on the 11th of December in the annual Christmas production, 'A not so Merry Christmas'.

The Christmas show this year was not your usual Christmas tale. It had a dark side that was complimented by abstract ideas and performances. The story followed a young girl's growing hatred of Christmas due to her constant disappointment in her parent's efforts to present her with the perfect gift. A visit to the Underworld leaves her with the power to turn Christmas into whatever she desires, which has some gruesome results. Not to fear though - as in all good Christmas tales - all's well that ends well.

The story's interaction with possessed dollies, lost souls, little demons, and some very unhappy elves created an intriguing and engaging performance that will not be forgotten.



The students worked very hard to put this all together showing focus, commitment and effort throughout. It was a joy to see KS3 and KS4 students working together to combine their ideas and efforts to make such an original Christmas tale.









Year 11's 2014 Graduation

On Thursday 15th January, Ormiston Venture Academy hosted its annual graduation ceremony for the previous years' cohort of year 11's.

Students dressed in formal robes and a cap to receive their diplomas from the Principal Simon Gilbert-Barnham. A number of students were also rewarded as being the highest achievers in their year group, with a commemorative sash.

Executive Principal, Ms Nicole McCartney and the Chair of the governing board Mrs Lesley King, joined Principal Simon Gilbert-Barnham in addressing the students and audience, praising their work ethic and continued support.

VIP's from Hydramec and Norwich City Football Club attended and commented with huge admiration on the conduct, maturity and success of the students. "You are aspring towards your dreams through Greshams, Apprenticeships, NCFC, Sixth Form, College and employment.

You created amazing pieces of work that demonstrate your talent and that are still showcased throughout the Academy today.

You have led on innovation through the Union of Venture Students... a lasting legacy that all students now benefit from and is celebrated nationally as a world class student leadership system."

Principal Simon Gilbert-Barnham



Venture students braved the elements to sing carols to the residents of the Lydia Eva care home on 18th December.

The event was organised by MESH and students carried handmade lanterns during the parade from Magdalen Way Methodist Church to the home and on the return to St Mary Magdalene Church.

Many local residents also joined the parade and carol singing. A truly festive event.





This year's Greshams' scholar concluded proceedings with a rousing speech encouraging his peers to achieve their goals in life and not to fear making mistakes – as long as they are learnt from! Daniel Symonds





Wednesday 17th December not only saw students do a great thing for the local community by donating food to the local food banks but also saw lots of other great activities taking place to celebrate the Venture Xmas Day.

The main event was the Christmas Fayre which opened to the public between 11 and 12 and then to students during P5. Students and members of the local community had the opportunity to take part in festive games, purchase cards, lolly trees, food and gifts.

You could even have your face painted and photo taken with friends in a winter wonderland. It was also the last chance to purchase raffle tickets for the Christmas Raffle. The top prize, the Norwich City Box for 10 was won by Bradley Chilvers in year 10 and we will list the other winners shortly. The raffle and the fayre combined raised a fantastic £1500 for the Union of Venture Students to put back into the Guilds and to help fund some new student initiatives.

In addition to the fayre and raffle, lunch time saw Christmas Dinner served in the Venture Cafe and students took part in a Christmas Quiz during PL and the day was capped off with a #FootballRemembers Christmas Truce match between senior year boys and the staff. There were lots of big claims being made before the game but the staff emerged victorious with a 2-1 win and hold the bragging rights for now.







Not everyone chose to wear a jumper but that didn't stop them from donating to what everyone agreed was an important cause. As you can see from the pictures and photos a massive amount of tins and package food was gathered on the stage in the hall to be sorted and delivered to two local foodbanks.

On Friday 19th December during period one the Union Executive Board sorted the donated food into two even piles, boxed it up, jumped in the academy mini bus and delivered to the foodbanks. First of

all they went to The Bridge at St Mary Magdalen Church which is a part of the Great Yarmouth Foodbank and aims in particular to support families in need on the Magdalen Estate. Once the several crates of supplies were unpacked the Union's next stop was All Saints Church in Belton which runs a foodbank out of Moorlands Primary to help those in need of a food package in the Belton area. Both churches were very grateful for the donations and wanted to pass their thanks to all staff and students at Ormiston Venture Academy for their generosity.

Everyone involved felt that this was a different and really worthwhile fundraising effort that we will repeat again next year, and hopefully inspire some of our students and families into contributing to our local foodbanks throughout the year and also help raise the awareness of people to the services that the foodbank can offer.

To find out more about the Great Yarmouth Foodbank, how you can donate or request support have a look at their website: www.greatyarmouthfoodbank.co.uk

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

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Venture Community

Hub Launches

On Friday the 6th February Ormiston **Venture Academy hosted the official** launch of the partnership which has been created with Norwich City **Football Club's Community Sports** Foundation.

The academy is proud to announce this link and become the 8th official hub site across Norfolk. The CSF are the charitable side of the football club and focus on helping people achieve their goals using innovative projects and services based around football and sport.



Over 50 Venture Sports Leaders, captains and award winning students joined representatives from the OAT, NCFC and Hydramec (who have offered our students apprenticeships in their work force), to celebrate the occasion.

Gavin Coe the Operations Development Manager at the CSF and Simon Gilbert-Barnham, Principal of the academy spoke of the fantastic opportunities and mutual benefits this partnership brings, and how the community aspects link directly to the core values of the Ormiston Academy Trust.





The projects already in place include the Kicks program, the Enterprise projects, Premier League for Sport sessions, the National Citizenship Service program and mini projects in Graphics and Catering amongst numerous Gifted and Talented, and inclusion projects in PE. The academy also hosts the pilot of the BTEC Level 3 in Sport course facilitated by the CSF. This includes



a Futsal element which takes the group around the country competing against other Premier league and Football League clubs in purpose built arenas.

David McNally the Chief **Executive Officer of Norwich** City Football Club and a trustee of the Community Sports Foundation took time out of his busy schedule to attend the event and say a few inspirational words to the

Get in!



The launch celebrated the amazing work which has developed since 2010 and sets out plans to extend this further for future generations.



He also toured the academy to see the KS5 Futsal and BTEC Sport students in action, some year 8 students participating in Futsal in the Sports Hall, and a year 7 group preparing for their Enterprise fayre.

> The media team from the CSF stayed for the entire day working with some GCSE **Graphics students in the** afternoon and attending the year 7's enterprise fayre in the hall at lunchtime.







Children's Takeover Day 2014

My Wymondham Police Headquarters Experience, Beth Morris Year 11 student

As part of the '11 Million Take over Day' I was invited to the Wymondham Police Headquarters to have an insight in the police force and all the different specialist roles that are available.



To start with on the 21st November 2014 I made the 45 minute journey from school to Wymondham with PC Claire Palmer, our in school safer schools officer. Another fellow student in year 10 from our school accompanied us on the journey, as well as two other students from different schools.

When we arrived we were issued with security passes, this was so they can monitor who enters and leaves the building. Next up was a welcoming chat from Natalie Lake telling us what the day was going to consist of, she was very nice and welcoming.

Next thing it's all systems go; me and three other students were taken to get changed into our gym clothes that we bought with us, and were given a training session similar to what actual police officers have to do. Firstly we had a basic fitness test, (bleep test) which I have done many a time in school. To even be in with a chance of getting into the force you have to reach at least level 4.5. After this we learnt some basic self-defence, which included how to approach members of the public and law offenders; using what we had

and enjoyable place to be.

Bethany Morris

took part in Children's Commissioner's Tokeover Downer children's Commissioner's Tokeover Downer children's Commissioner's Tokeover Downer children's Commissioner's Tokeover Downer Children's Commissioner's Control Con

learnt we put it into a little game of tag, which was a really good task as it made me understand the real life scenarios where you made have to use this. Next we learnt how to strike an offender using our hands and feet without seriously injuring myself and them, to do this there was a human dummy which we were able to practice on. Furthermore we then were shown how to use the batons that police carry with them, we were

taught how to use them safely and the situations that we should and shouldn't use it. For this task we also practiced on a different human dummy. However we were not allowed to use the real thing, we used fake ones which were made of foam. Although we were shown the real things and it was surprisingly heavy!

In addition we then went on to use the spray, we were showed how to hold it and what the safe distance was to fire it. This was also used on a human dummy. Finally at the end having learnt all of this we were put through an agility course and had to use all of these things; first we had to run in and out of cones, next we had to

run across a foam mat which would symbolise running across fields and mud, then we had to crawl under "fence" which was made from foam building blocks, next run around more cones again which replicated trees, then we had to stop at each individual human dummy and produce what we had learnt previously on each separate one. Whilst this was happening there was all different sounds which were played from a CD and flashing blue lights, which was trying to re-enact what this would be like in real life. We had to repeat this final process three times! It was so much fun yet so tiring!

After saying thank you to the instructors we all met up again and went for a tour around Wymondham Police Headquarters. Firstly was the dog unit, which excited me the most out of this whole experience, the trainers demonstrated what the dogs are capable of, there are many different types of jobs that police use dogs for, such as drugs, this was shown when some drugs were hidden around a secure area, the dog was let loose and found it within a couple of minutes!

Next the handlers brought out a German Shepherd,

this was to show us the true strength and obedience of these dogs, the two handlers re-enacted a scenario of a police officer and an offender arguing. The dog was let loose, the offender wasn't able to shake the dog off. The dog only let go when his owner told him to do so. Absolutely amazing!

Moving on from this we visited the fire arms section of the police, this was where were shown all the specialist equipment that they have, for example guns, big heavy shields, armoured car the list was endless! This was a very interesting part of the day because it was so different to the other sections of the police force.

For the final bit out our tour we visited the control room, we were able to see where the 999 calls were answered, although this part of the tour wasn't very hands on for us students, the sheer amount of concentration on the officers faces was just incredible. By seeing this it made me understand what an important role that play in the police force as without them it would not be as successful as it is now.

Next up was lunch, we were offered a huge selection of food and drinks! We all sat down as discussed the best parts of the day so far, mine was obviously the dog unit!

I then went to get changed back into my uniform ready for the last little bit of the tour, we were then taken to see the forensic science aspect to the police force, we were show the many different fingers prints

that we call can have. All of us then had our own finger print taken and we were able to compare this to the types of prints that you can get. We were able to take our own fingerprint home with us in a key ring. I found this section very fascinating ad I asked lots of questions.

Finally ending the day was a photo with the Chief Constable, and we were rewarded our certificates along with a little pack which included: a pen, a reflector, a police key ring, a sticker, a mini leaflet and finally a bookmark.

Overall I found this experience amazing and it has made me even more determined to reach my goal of being a police officer. I would highly recommend this experience to anyone that gets the chance to do so as it gives you a real insight what it being a police officer means and requires



Battlefields Trip

We, in the Humanities Faculty, are taking part in a really exciting trip to the Battlefields in Belgium this March, as part of the Centenary commemorations for World War One.

This will build on some of the work that the pupils have been doing as part of their Humanities lessons and Personalised Learning sessions this year. The staff and students taking part will have a chance to go with others from schools across the Ormiston Trust and will develop valuable links between members of these schools.

The two lucky students who were selected to take part are Alexandria Bell and Joshua McBride, both in year 8. They will be accompanied by Miss Wilkinson, teacher of Humanities and will go on a 4 day long trip to a number of important World War One sites and museums including the Passchendaele Museum and the Lijssenthoek Cemetery.

In order to go on this trip pupils were asked to create something which would show their enthusiasm and explain why they wanted to be given this unique opportunity. Many pupils entered the competition with some fantastic entries which it was hard to choose between!

Alex completed a lot of research into her family history and discovered a relative who died in battle. Her work was beautifully presented into a display of copies of original documents which highlighted her ancestor's role in the war.

For Alex her reasons for going were deeply personal and will be the first opportunity any family member has had to go to the Battlefields. Joshua created a series of empathetic letters from the point of view of a soldier fighting in the war, using his knowledge of the conditions in the trenches.

It was clear a lot of time had gone into both pieces and had conveyed well their passion and interest in World War One.









LearningCommunity





On Friday 9th December 48 year 7 students visited the Norfolk Lounge and the press media suite in Norwich City Football Club's stadium at Carrow Road. This was part of the business and enterprise project the group are following in conjunction with the Community Sports Foundation of NCFC.

Students joined with others from 5 different schools and academies from around the County and undertook 4 different workshops focused on enterprise. Workshops revolved around advertising, finance, structure and psychology to help the students plan their own project to raise money for the Sporting Light Appeal.

The event ended with a question and answer session with David McNally, the Chief Executive of NCFC and a trustee of the Community Sports Foundation. As expected a few questions focused around the appointment of the new manager which he had overseen earlier that day!!

Venture students excelled during the event winning many accolades, a few small prizes and match day tickets too. We hope this experience inspires the students to conduct an outstanding enterprise project in the future.

Thank you to Mr Remedio for organizing the trip, Mr Ives, Mr McInally and Miss Chubbock for assisting during the day.

Well Done Team

Greshams' 'Exchange'

In November a group of 5 Yr10 students, selected through a series of interviews, visited Greshams' School, to experience a very different type of educational system. Greshams' is an Independent boarding school, in North Norfolk and is also Venture's Educational partner school.

The students travelled on a Sunday evening, accompanied by Ms. Blower, as a familiar face to turn to, should it be necessary, during the week that they stayed. They soon settled into their Boarding Houses, William and Darien in Farfield and the girls; Anna, Melissa and Kaitlyn in Britten. These were their homes for the duration of the stay.

All students were assigned Greshams' pupils as 'buddies' and they followed the timetable of the buddy. The day began with breakfast and 'Chapel' (Assembly) before lessons, broken up by break, lunch and tea. The days began at 8am and finished at 8pm, when Prep (homework) finished. There was plenty of time to relax during this time, and take in the grounds and buildings.

All our students settled quickly and integrated into their new environment, enjoying various 'extras' that were on offer at Greshams': shooting, watching rehearsals and concerts in the Theatre and having private lessons on the Steinway pianos that they have on-site.

All students, on their return, agreed that it was a valuable insight into Independent schooling, were pleasantly surprised that they were on a level, as far as knowledge and understanding was concerned, and were looking forward to applying for the Scholarship in Yr11.



GRESHAMS' Update

Greshams' Scholarship

Every year, for the past 5 years, Greshams' School have sponsored one of our Yr11 students through the 2 years of their VII Form. This year's process began in September with a Presentation, by a team from Greshams', after which any Yr11, from Venture, was able to apply for the Scholarship.

This year there was an initial list of 17 students who have now been interviewed down to the Final 9 candidates.

Before Christmas those students, who had not been part of the Exchange in 2013, spent a day at Greshams', to make sure that the atmosphere and surroundings were to their liking.

All were blown away by the size and the facilities at the school, even though they have fewer students than we do at Venture and all wanted to continue through the process, the next phase being a Project, to be completed over the Christmas holidays. These are now in and will be read, thoroughly, by Ms. McCartney, Mr. Gilbert-Barnham & Miss Haddleton before the final Venture interviews – the ones that will reduce the number to 4. These will then go on to be interviewed at Greshams', on March 10th.

The students who were successful in reaching the Final 9 were:

Thomas Harris, Athena Mills, Shannon Cattee, Callum Webster, Mackenzie Lodge, Ebony Gilham, Yasmin Goktas, Star Kent and Brittany Purl.

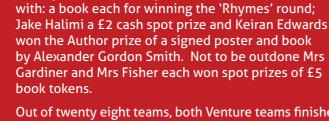
Well done all of you.

Literature Quiz

In November 2014 two teams from the Academy took part in the Norfolk heat of the Kids Lit Quiz held at City Academy, Norwich.

Our teams included Year 8 students Cerin Benny, Yashna Bully, Jessica Burman, Jessica Smith (Team A), Archimedes Gilham, Chloe Thompson and Year 7 students Jake Halimi and Kieran Edwards (Team B). Heather Parramint Year 9, former Lit Quiz competitor and team mentor also attended.

All were competing for a place in the national final and then, if successful for a place in the World final held in Connecticut.



Out of twenty eight teams, both Venture teams finished in a respectable mid table position. The standard was excellent and the winning team from Litcham High School went on to win the UK National Final!

Throughout the evening our Team B were presented

If you are interested in taking part in the competition and you are a Year 7 student please see Mrs Fisher in the LRC. www.kidslitauiz.com







For a bit of RAK Week/Valentines/New Half term fun we made this video of various staff and students lip syncing to John Legend's song All of Me as voted for by staff and students from a choice of songs. This has been shown in college collectives this week to welcome students back to the academy and has gone down well with many students asking for the link to the video. Enjoy!! - www.makeway.es/story/822167/title/allofmeventuresingalong



Venture Students



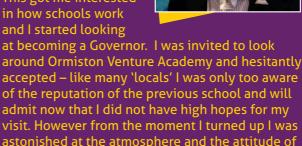
Joe's our Community Governor

Hi, I'm Joe and I'm a Community
Governor at Ormiston Venture
Academy. I live in Bradwell with
my wife, Emma, and two children
(Maddison, 7 and Alex, 1) and
work for BT as an International
Compliance Manager. I was born in
Great Yarmouth and went to Great
Yarmouth High School and East
Norfolk Sixth Form before studying
at Manchester

University.

Like a lot of people, after starting work,

after starting work,
I didn't really have
much to do with
schools until my
daughter's first days
at Primary School.
This got me interested
in how schools work



I recently spent some time looking at how the new Computer Science curriculum is taught at Venture. As part of my job I help to recruit graduates and apprentices into BT so I'm particularly pleased to see that students from Venture are being taught the skills and knowledge that I look for when offering people jobs.

everyone I met (both staff and students).

Perhaps more exciting is that (as usual at Venture) the staff don't want to stop there and have plans to offer even more above and beyond what's expected!

I'm very proud to be a (small) part of what everyone has achieved at Venture and look forward to seeing what we can achieve in the future.

Humanities

Last term, students in years 10 and 11 got the opportunity to take part in the "Social sciences and Humanities guild".

Each week during guild time, Miss Nicholls took the group to East Norfolk Sixth Form College where students participated in different A Level taster sessions. These included psychology, law, government and politics, criminology and economics. The aim of the guild was to enable students to trial subjects that they don't experience at GCSE so they could make informed decisions about their future subject choices and possible career paths.



During the law taster session, students were able to take part in a mock courtroom battle. Students were given the roles of solicitors and clients and hosted mock interviews to gather information about the alleged offence.

The students were then divided into prosecution and defence before donning gowns and wigs to make their case to the jury –Miss Nicholls, Mrs Hodds and a member of East Norfolk staff. The prosecution won and the defendant was found guilty of murder.

All students really enjoyed the whole range of taster sessions they experienced as part of the guild. East Norfolk staff commented on how mature and sensible Venture students were and on their enthusiasm and confidence during the sessions.

We look forward to going back next year!



The Golden Mile Middle School **Cross Country** event hosted at Venture

99 Year 3 to year 6 primary school students from the local area joined together on Wednesday 14th January at Venture to compete in a cross country event.



This time round congratulations go to Blundeston Primary who came out victorious when all results were calculated. A massive thank you to all the students below who were outstanding role models and ambassadors for Venture.

Miss Hollis - Head of PE



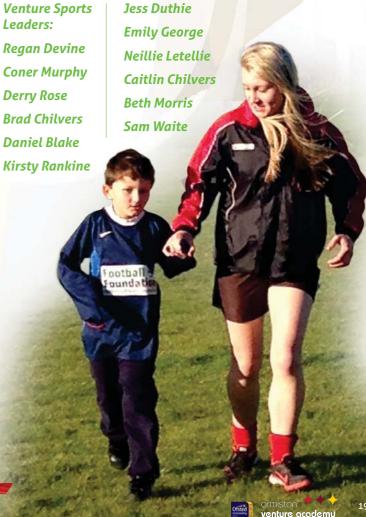


Ormiston Herman Primary Academy, South Town Primary, Blundeston Primary and Edward Worlledge Primary came to Venture to compete in this exciting new initiative. The primary school students were led by Venture Sports Leaders, who were in charge of warming the students up, showing them their particular running course and making sure they had an amazing

The event was organised by Premier Sport and all of the 99 students involved had a fantastic afternoon of sport, fun and fitness!

The Venture Sports Leaders from Venture were a credit to themselves and the Academy and were commented upon by Premier Sport as "outstanding individuals who would be welcome to an apprenticeship in the company if they wanted to when they left school".

Venture Sports Leaders: **Regan Devine Coner Murphy Derry Rose Brad Chilvers** Daniel Blake **Kirsty Rankine**



Sports News



Edition 14: Winter 2015

RESULTS



The Ormiston Cup is a tri tournament started this year between Ormiston Cliff Park, Ormiston Denes and **Ormiston Venture Academy.**

So far we have had two sporting competitions, year seven and eight rugby 7s, and a trampolining routine competition for all year groups.

The Ormiston Cup also includes team tea's whereby at the end of the competition all the students sit down together and have some food. This gives students the opportunity to mix with students from different schools and areas and discuss the match.



So far Ormiston Venture Academy are the reigning champions and holders of the cup smashing the other Academies in rugby and trampolining. The next Ormiston Cup events are girls and boys football for all year groups hosted by Ormiston Denes. Let's hope we can retain the cup!!





Diary Dates

March 2015

26th March - Academic Review Day 27th March - Last day of term

April 2015

13th April - Return to the Academy

May 2015

1st May - Senior Year Residential Weekend

4th May - Bank Holiday

What's coming up at Venture Academy

7th May - HPV Injections

for Year 8 Students

22nd May - Last day of Half Term

June 2015

1st June - Return to the Academy

