

Venture VOICE

Ormiston
Venture academy



Edition 15: Summer 2015

ORMISTON venture academy



Greshams Awards

Greshams awards scholarship to Ormiston scholar

Marathon Joy

Mrs Smith Inspiring 26 miles, 375 yards

VGT Showcase

We host our very own talent show



Students' Election



Let us Ignite your Teaching Future

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.



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What's going on at Venture Academy...

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Nicole McCartney - Executive Principal



Simon Gilbert-Barnham - Principal

WELCOME BACK...

I get asked a lot about what makes Ormiston Venture Academy so special and the answer is simple... The students and the staff!

Both make Venture an exceptional place to learn and to work. This is highlighted when I think about the work our Student Union has undertaken which is regularly showcased in this magazine. What is perhaps less publicised is just how much of this work is leading the way in the development of Student Voice across the country. Our students have presented at national events and actually we have a list of visitors desperate to come and work with them!

Jessica Jane Applegate, Alumni from class of 2012 has just been accepted again on to Team GB paralympic swimmer. We know she can bring home the gold again as she did in 2012 and wish her good luck from all at Ormiston Venture Academy. I am, as always immensely proud of all our students' achievements and am sure you are as well!

I was privileged to attend the SSAT Awards Evening with our Chair of Governors Lesley King to receive a reward on behalf of the Academy.

This award celebrated our outstanding rate of student progress which is in the top 10% of schools nationally for the last three years.

This is particularly pleasing as it recognises progress across eight subjects, reinforcing the high standards achieved across all areas of Venture.



I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate staff and students for their incredible commitment, dedication and passion which are recognised in this award.

SCHOOL REPORT DAY



BBC School Report Day took place nationally on Thursday 19th March. As we do every year Venture took part in submitting stories about the Academy, our local community and wider news that interested us.

A team of 30 year 7, 8 and 9 students worked tirelessly from 8:25am – 3:00pm to get their stories researched, interviews conducted, write ups finished and editing done all on tight deadlines just as a real journalist would have to. The students managed a very respectable 27 stories on the day, covering a wide range of subjects from Venture's Got Talent and Venture's SSAT award for outstanding outcomes, to Miss Smith's Marathon attempt and Miss Haddleton's Red Brick award. Everything on the day was ran and directed by students and they were superb in creating stories which were important to them.

They even had time at the end of the day to say how they would like to improve next year by prepping stories in advance, doing some TV and radio reporting in addition to print journalism and by purchasing more equipment to help them become better journalists.

They also seem to have been inspired to keep writing beyond the BBC report day with more and more stories appearing on the E-Magazine.

To see the stories from the BBC school report day go to: www.makewav.es/venturestudentmagazine/c/bbcschoolreport2015



Diary Dates

July 2015

- 7th July - Fashion Show 5pm - 7pm
- 14th July - Fashion Show 5pm - 7pm
- 16th July - Awards Evening 6pm - 8pm
- 20th July - Sports Day
- 21st July - Last day of term 12.15pm the academy closes for summer

August 2015

- 20th August - Results Day 9.30am - 11.00am

September 2015

- 3rd September - Academy open for all students 8.25am
- 24th September - Open Evening for new year 7 intake 2016/17 5pm - 7pm

What's coming up at Venture Academy

Venture Easter Disco

Each term those students with good attendance (over 95%) and fantastic behaviour are invited to our end of term disco. The disco, hosted by a professional DJ with the latest equipment and age-appropriate music, has proved to be an amazing success.



In addition to dancing and party games, students also enjoy a free hot and cold buffet as an extra reward. Prizes are also awarded to the best dancer and games winners!

2015 has been an important year in politics and Venture students didn't want to be left out.

In addition to having a student vote in our Head Boy and Girl elections for the first time, we also decided to run a full mock General Election on May 7th.

In the run-up to the event there were several weeks of period 5 PL sessions on the right to vote, the key issues, who the candidates were, how the political system works and the importance of democracy. We also had college collectives on the topic so that students could understand what they were voting for and why.

So after all of the run-up it was great to see conversations happening in lessons and at break time about politics and who students felt

would win and why. One of the sessions looked at what students would do if they were Prime Minister and questions they would like to ask the candidates, both of which provided some very mature responses.

See some of the best of the 'If I were Prime Minister' responses below although there were many more and some completely opposing views:

If I Were Prime Minister

- Shops can't throw food away but have to donate to food banks
- Lower the age to vote to 16
- Increase number of parks and community centres
- Ensure the NHS is funded fully and more research funding for major illnesses and diseases
- Do more to help war heroes
- Make the wait for housing in refuge centres shorter
- More options for student loans to study abroad
- Stop all animal testing and cruelty
- Spend money on space exploration and surveying different planets
- Switch the pay of footballers and doctors
- Decrease the UK Debt
- Increase Foreign Aid
- Create gender neutral bathroom
- Reintroduce free and subsidised swimming
- Reverse terminal exam rule to spread exams out over longer period of time
- Lower the cost of rent for houses

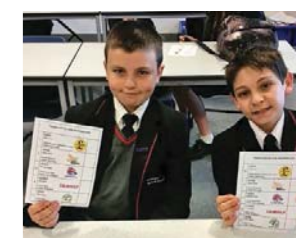


Then on May 7th the students went to the polls and made their informed decisions.

We had a turnout of 82% putting shame on the rest of the country in their efforts. In the two weeks since the election we have had the opportunity to analyse our results in comparison to the local and national picture, looked at whether the electoral system we have is fair and how a majority government is likely to function in the next five years.

We will continue to look at the political system and after the success of the mock election probably look to do similar over any referendum that may come in the next few years so that we can continue to help encourage young people to vote and to improve the political literacy of our students.

The Union of Venture Students who organised the election would also like to congratulate Brandon Lewis MP on his re-election.



General Election



Union of Venture Students



se SIMMONS EDECO Apprenticeship

We are pleased and proud to announce that this year's successful Simmons Edeco apprenticeship winner is Scott Moore. All three candidates conducted themselves admirably throughout the whole process, but the managers at Simmons Edeco felt Scott had that edge in order to gain the role.

The candidates had to write a letter of application, conduct a presentation at the Simmons Edeco site to the managers, and then answer questions in a formal interview. Scott now begins his apprenticeship which includes 3 days at College on a Mechanical Engineering course whilst working 2 days a week at

the Simmons Edeco site. He will also be paid for his efforts!! Scott follows in the footsteps of last year's apprentice Brodie Brown in gaining employment with Simmons Edeco. The annual apprenticeship opportunity is exclusively open to year 11 students from Ormiston Venture Academy only, and plans are in place to find next year's successful candidate already.

Scott said he was 'shocked and excited' at being successful and wanted to thank the staff at the academy who had helped him with his interview preparation. Scott is a regular attendee in the Raising Achievement area after the academy day and we are sure he will be a fantastic ambassador for the academy as he starts the next phase of his life. We wish him all the best in the future and will follow his progress with enthusiasm.



Catering at NCFC

On Wednesday 11th March a small group of the GCSE Catering class travelled over to Colney in Norwich to the training ground of Norwich City Football Club.

They met the head chef of the first team and toured the extensive, impressive site. The group got to see firsthand the menus, kitchens and cafeteria used by the first team players, as well as their training facilities. The players were training at the time, and Russell Martin, the captain, kindly took a few moments away to meet and speak with the group.

The students commented on how similar the menu's were to the ones on offer in the academy. A big focus on the players' diets is on recovery after

games and hard training sessions with extra protein and carbohydrates added to repair muscles and replenish depleted energy levels. The students found this incredibly interesting and will certainly help them with their menu designs in the future.

Ms Read, manager of the kitchens here at the academy accompanied the group, so no doubt we will soon be seeing "As eaten by Norwich City Football Club players" on boards in our own cafe in the very near future.

This is just another opportunity of how the relationship between the academy and the football club is flourishing, offering previously unobtainable experiences for our students in many different areas of the curriculum and life. A big thank you from the group goes to Miss Getvoldsen for organising the trip and Mr Chilvers for driving the group.

Stay in Touch

Calling All Alumni

Venture is a community that extends beyond the walls of the Academy and who is currently in it and whilst we know we can find inspiration in so many people in society, we want the most inspirational stories for our students to come from those who have been at Venture.

With this in mind we have set up an Alumni Group online where former students can sign up and receive updates from the Academy.

The hope is this will work in three ways, one is to have former students act as inspiration for current students, whether this is by becoming an Alumni of the Month, getting involved in mentoring or in Academy events around careers.

Another is to simply inform our former students of what we are now doing and include them in events we might run like shows, fetes and fundraising.



Finally it is to be able to continue to provide support for members of our Venture family even after they have left, whether this is through maintaining contact or by posting out information on jobs available in the academy we want to still be there to support and help our alumni wherever possible. There is no commitment made by signing up,

it just allows communication between the Academy and former students to happen with ease and hopefully benefit both our alumni and our current students.

If you are alumni of Venture please do go to <http://groupspaces.com/venturealumni> and sign up.

We look forward to seeing lots of our past students on the site very soon.



From left to right:
Ben Fogel, Elizabeth Haddleton
and Tim Campbell

A staff member at Ormiston Venture Academy has been presented with an award at the first Ormiston Academies Trust Awards.

[OAT]
Ormiston Academies Trust

AWARDS EVENING

Elizabeth Haddleton, who supports the academy's students to access university received the Route to Red Brick award at the first ceremony held by academy sponsor Ormiston Academies Trust (OAT). The award was one of nine which highlighted the achievements of students and staff in the OAT network.

The academy's nomination said: "Liz has always had the vision of raising students to higher aspirations. She has committed herself both in the classroom and the work she has done with Greshams School to ensure this becomes a reality. Her work has not only enabled students access to higher education studying medicine in South Africa, reading fine art at Oxford and other universities but also inspired a wider range of students through the ongoing partnership work she has established. This has given the opportunity for a number of our students, many of whom would never have these opportunities, to experience life at Greshams and beyond.

"It is these opportunities and the pathways she has given to so many students that we are so proud of. Retiring at the end of this academic year after a career dedicated to improving the life chances of young people in the Gorleston area we can think of no better way to recognise her exceptional achievements in this category."

Elizabeth's achievements were honoured at a special awards ceremony at the Grand Connaught Rooms in London, where she was presented with a plaque and certificate by Tim Campbell, OBE, entrepreneur and first winner of The Apprentice, and Ben Fogel author, presenter and adventurer. Attendees included politicians, top businesses and representatives from the education world, including UCAS and the universities of Oxford and Cambridge.

OAT is a non-profit academy sponsor with a vision for all young people to have the highest academic, social and practical skills to allow them to lead a fulfilling life. The OAT network now supports over 25,000 students throughout England in 30 academies.

The Trust's first awards ceremony was also a fundraising event for its Access Champion, Simon Pedley, whose role is to support the network's students to gain access to Russell Group universities. This role is believed to be the first of its kind across a group of state schools.

"It's not really about me its about our wonderful students and I was honoured to receive it on behalf of all those students who have gone out in the world and succeeded at whatever they have chosen to do"

Professor Toby Salt, Chief Executive of Ormiston Academies Trust said:

"As a network, we are determined to make the biggest difference to our students, and this event gave us the chance to celebrate just some of the exceptional staff and students we have in our academies."

"We are indebted to the work that academy staff members like Elizabeth do to support our students to succeed. We need to celebrate this and we need to nurture it, to ensure that our students all have the same opportunities as everyone else."

From left to right:
Callum Cooke, Mid-Student
Name and Brittany Purl

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venture academy

GRESHAMS' Update

Greshams Awards scholarship to Ormiston scholar

A pupil from Ormiston Venture Academy has been awarded a full scholarship to study A Levels at Gresham's School in Holt, where she hopes to fulfil her dream of becoming a Forensic Psychologist. Brittany Purl, a fifteen year old from Belton near Gorleston will join the Sixth Form at Gresham's in September 2015. When asked what she was looking forward to about joining the School she said, "Getting the opportunity to study and mix with pupils from different backgrounds."

Douglas Robb, Headmaster at Gresham's said, "Gresham's is delighted to have identified our sixth Ormiston scholar to study here. Brittany Purl will join our Sixth Form and we are looking forward to helping her pursue her ambitions whilst at the same time developing her wide range of extra-curricular interests.

Simon Gilbert-Barnham, Principal at Ormiston Venture Academy said, "The scholarship process has highlighted the remarkable skills, strengths and qualities our students have in abundance.

We are extremely proud of all the candidates and particularly for Brittany. This unique opportunity through our partnership is a life changing opportunity, as proven by previous scholars, and I am certain that Brittany has a bright future ahead. Our partnership with Gresham's stretches far beyond this scholarship and it is fantastic to see another successful outcome for the children."

Gresham's has previously awarded five scholarships to students at Ormiston Venture Academy who have gone on to study for a range of exciting careers.

Callum Cooke, went to the University of Oxford to study Fine Art, Luba Ndini is studying Medicine at the University of Cape Town in South Africa, Ashley Scarlett hopes to study Chemistry with a year in industry at Queen's University Belfast and current Upper Sixth scholar, Jade Munro, has five university offers to study Pharmacology.

Greshams 2015 Scholar report

The Gresham's Scholar for 2015 - 2017 was announced in April, and Brittany Purl was the successful candidate.

The Final 3; Brittany, Mackenzie Lodge and Callum Webster, were told by Mr. Douglas Robb, the Gresham's



Headmaster with Ms. Nicole McCartney, Executive Principal and Mr. Gilbert-Barnham, Principal that this year it had been particularly difficult to decide between the 3;

They all interviewed exceptionally well and there was very little to choose between them on the English and Maths tests. It was close! Brittany will now have a lot of paperwork to complete, in a transition stage between being Ormiston Venture and Gresham's.

Jade Munro (the outgoing Scholar) is delighted that she is to be succeeded by another girl and will be spending time with Brittany, after her exams are completed, passing on hints and tips. She has already appointed a 'minder' to make sure that Brittany settles into Oakley Boarding House quickly in September. We wish all of the Scholarship candidates well, with hopes that all of them achieve their aspirations and dreams.

Fundraising for Comic Relief

This year for Comic Relief the Union of Venture Students decided to combine their fundraising efforts with School in a Bag. School in a Bag is a simple solution created to help poor, orphan, vulnerable and disaster affected children throughout the world. You can purchase a red School Bag for £15.

Each School Bag is filled with stationery equipment and resources that will enable a child to write, draw, colour, calculate, express themselves and above all learn. The Union really like this but also really liked the idea that each bag has a unique code tagged to it so you can track where it goes and look for it in any photos that may come back from work done by the organisation.



Since becoming aware of the School in a Bag organisation through PiXL, the students have really wanted to run a "wear something red day" to fundraise and whilst this was also the main suggestion for fundraising for Comic Relief, having a single day made sense. The Union led assemblies on the importance of the work of Red Nose Day and explained the School in a Bag scheme in the run up to 13th March. They set each PL group a target of raising £30, this would be enough to split the funding equally between Comic Relief and School in a Bag and allow each group to track their own bag. The Performing Arts students also made videos to promote the fundraising efforts.

In addition to the "wear something red" event on Friday 13th March, 120 red noses sold out in just over an hour and the annual academy talent show Venture's Got Talent put all of its profits from ticket sales and refreshments into the fundraising pot as well. Once all of the events had been completed the academy was able to send off £573 to Comic Relief

and School in a Bag



(which would then be doubled by the government) and with the addition of some students and staff wanting to purchase a bag for themselves have been able to order 45 School in a Bag rucksacks. We are now just awaiting delivery of our rucksacks and the guidelines on how they may be customised with additional items and notes/letters so that PL groups can add a personal touch to what they send.

The Union of Venture Students are very proud that they have been able to meet their target of at least one bag for every PL group and still send off a great amount for Comic Relief. They have had an incredible year in terms of increasing the impact of charity and fundraising events raising in excess of £6000 so far this year, donating a huge amount of food to local foodbanks at Christmas and now are in the process of setting up their own soup kitchen in association with a local community group. The student body has really taken ownership of their philanthropic efforts and moved it to the next level.



National Literacy Trust Pilot

The National Literacy Trust is a national charity dedicated to raising the literacy levels in the UK.

They aim to improve the reading, writing, speaking and listening skills in communities across the UK. Research and analysis completed by the National Literacy Trust make them the leading authority on literacy.

At Ormiston Venture Academy we have been lucky enough to be invited to be involved in a pilot for the National Literacy Trust over the next three years. Within Venture, the pilot will be led by the newly appointed Leader of Excellence in Literacy, Bethany Wilkinson. The pilot will involve a range of different elements including whole staff training, targeted faculty training, strategies to develop intervention outside the classroom and encourage more students to foster a love of reading.

Work is already underway with an initial review taking place to identify strengths and areas to build upon over the course of the pilot. During the review The National Literacy Trust were impressed by our students and the work already in place across the academy to develop the literacy skills of our students.

They were particularly impressed with the work of the Success Centre noting that this "intervention strategy is impressive".

National Literacy Trust

Pizza with the Principal

We know that Venture students are amazing every day and so spend a great deal of time finding ways to celebrate this. One Venture tradition is termly Pizza with the Principal.

This lunch time "invitation only" event takes place in the VIP section of the Venture Café and recognises all students who have demonstrated their commitment to learning by attending the Academy every day for the whole term and for only having positive behaviour events logged. This termly event stretches out over an entire week as it has so many qualifying students.

Our lucky Principal gets to eat pizza for five days which is nearly as good as getting to enjoy quality time with our students!

We are hoping for lots of sun this summer term so we can end on a high with "sundaes in the sun" to celebrate commitment to learning across the summer term.



The academy is pleased to announce that we have retained our Healthy Schools Status.

A rigorous application and renewal form had to be completed demonstrating our commitment to all aspects of health in the academy.

Physical, emotional and social well-being all play an important role in helping the academy towards its aims of developing all aspects of the young people we work with day in, day out.

The award promotes the link between good health, behaviour and achievement through four key areas: healthy eating; physical activity; personal, social and health education (PSHE); and emotional health and well-being.

With all of the negativity surrounding the health of our nation's youth at the moment, it is nice that the academy is being recognised for the outstanding work in this area that is happening.



Healthy Schools Award



Whilst the Academy was gearing itself towards a Mock Election to decide how we think the country should be run, we also had the important job of selecting the new Union of Venture Students Executive board.

The 2014-15 board have done an incredible job. They have presented at two huge conferences, have began collaborating with other schools and academies, and have smashed all previous fundraising efforts by raising well over £6000 for various charities this year, not to mention the attitude all students have shown towards events like the food bank drive at Christmas.

So they are and will be a very tough act to follow, but 22 students have the task of taking what they have done, building upon it and moving the Union of Venture Students forward to ensure that they represent the views of students in the academy more than ever and that they use these views to make a difference to the everyday experience of students.

For the Union election, students went through a process made up of several parts. First of all students had to apply for the position of Head Boy or Girl or any other position they might like within the board. Next came the student and staff vote.

Each candidate created a manifesto slide that outlined what they would do if they got the job and why they thought they were suitable. These were anonymised for students so that votes came in for the strength of the ideas.

The staff also voted on these slides for who they felt made the best case for the job. Next up came interviews. A tough panel consisting of Mr Gilbert-Barnham, Mrs Williams, Mr Richards and current head boy and girl Mackenzie Lodge and Emily George grilled the candidates in scenes that could rival The Apprentice semi-final (it was actually much more well-mannered than this).



Union of Venture Students Students Election



From left to right: Daniel Pinheiro, Chantel Kirton, Darrien Gauseb, Paris Carroll.

At the end of all of these components it was still such a hard task deciding who should take on which roles within the Union but after around about 48 hours of contemplation and debate, the Academy is really pleased to announce that the students listed below were successful in gaining roles and will be driving the following areas of the Academy forward whilst in their Senior Year.

We are very proud of how well they all did in the process and the quality of the ideas and leadership skills on show. 2014-15 will be hard to beat but if anyone can, it will be these guys:

Head Boy.....	Darian Gauseb	Media.....	Ellie McKay, Lewis Walker, Maddison Peach, Izaak Holland
Head Girl.....	Chantelle Kirton	Student Support.....	Kaitlyn Hudson, William Bowles, Ellie Wilkinson
Deputy Head Boy.....	Daniel Pinheiro	Community and Culture.....	Susan Hart, Destinie Lambert, Shaaumiga Sivasathiyaselan
Deputy Head Girl.....	Paris Carroll	Guilds and Societies.....	Bradley Chilvers, Chloe Applegate, Cassandra Scott
Head Prefects.....	Imogen Martin and Gabby Crick		
Learning and Engagement.....	Jessica Carlyon, Abby Plummer, Chloe Hodgkinson		



Senior Year Residential

Over half of Venture's Senior Year demonstrated their commitment to learning when they took part in a residential over the May Day bank holiday weekend as part of the final preparation for their English and Mathematics examinations.

Of course it was not all work and in between highly productive revision sessions students had the opportunity to take part in a range of activities

including zorbing, football, tug of war and sumo wrestling. In addition to this students took part in team events involving challenges such as "dress your teacher", sock golf and "stepping stones". It was a fantastic weekend enjoyed by staff and students alike, with staff commending students on their excellent attitudes towards learning.

Thank you to all staff who participated in the weekend including teaching staff, Raising Achievement mentors, site and kitchen staff. It was a truly memorable weekend.



Sutton Scholars

Back in February some very gifted Venture students won places on the prestigious University of Cambridge Sutton Scholars Programme.

This is a new project being piloted and funded by the University of Cambridge, The Sutton Trust and The Wolfson Foundation.



Sutton Scholars is a two year programme beginning mid-way through year 9 and finishing during year 11. Based around coastal and rural communities in East Anglia, it's designed for academically able students. The aim is to develop participants' academic interests, stretching them

beyond their studies in school, and to provide them with information and insights into applying to and studying at top universities.

All participating students visited Cambridge University in April to take part in skills workshops and academic taster sessions, met current undergraduate students and spent time exploring the grounds and history of Peterhouse College.

Students had nothing but praise for the visit, commenting in particular on how the visit has made them feel more confident about attending university now they know more about university life in general.

The next visit to Cambridge University takes place at the end of June, during which students will be introduced to the research skills required to tackle the demands of University education, as well as other activities that will develop their academic interests and skills.

During Year 10, the students will be able to explore their own interests by undertaking an academic project which they will finish during a three day residential event at the University.



Union of
Venture Students

Published in Redesigning Schools by SSAT

The Union of Venture Students is a relatively new form of student voice that has been running in the academy for around 18 months.

It was formed with the intention of building on existing successful student council systems and increasing both the opportunities for students to take on roles of leadership and responsibility but also for all students to have their voices heard within the academy. A new structure was set up to ensure that each area of the academy was impacted upon and allowed student participation to increase.

Students had used Harts Ladder of Participation as a source of reference and inspiration and wanted to move to a point where their contribution was decreasingly tokenistic and moving more towards a position where they were co-constructors and decision makers within the academy.

The model has been hugely successful and most importantly student driven. 39% of the current student body are in a role of responsibility within the academy, fundraising efforts have smashed those of previous years, students are driving forward new ideas for roles such as eco team members and transition buddies and are even in the process of forming their own soup kitchen for the community.

They are involved in curriculum design and are about to lead their own CPD sessions on curriculum hacking in the second half of the summer term and they have just finished their first year of having a £4000 budget to spend on academy improvement which has included funding an E-magazine,

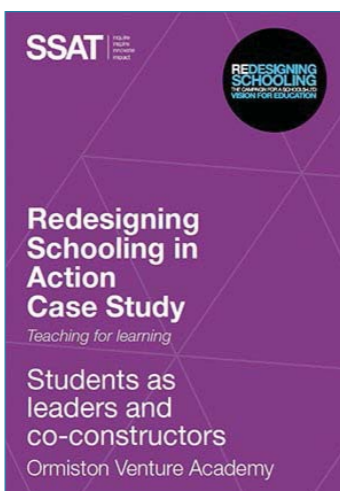
new water fountains, lockers in the PE area and more. The success of the model has led to it being shared on a number of levels. The students themselves have now presented at two conferences, the SSAT Conference in Manchester in December and the Norfolk Secondary Heads Conference in March.

For both of these they skyped in, presented and took questions on the model they have been so instrumental in developing. They have received offers from a number of schools, academies and independent schools both locally and nationally to develop links, as one of their next targets is to try and increase collaboration on issues that impact on their education and lives with a wider network of schools.

Their work has also been used as a case study in the SSAT Redesigning Schools series where the aim is to provide a vehicle to widely share and celebrate the innovative work in schools. Redesigning Schooling in Action case studies focus on five core areas: teaching for learning, principled curriculum design, principled assessment design, courageous leadership for professional accountability, the new professionalism.

The Union's work is one of three initial studies in the teaching for learning section and is now available to download for SSAT members at: www.ssatuk.co.uk/the-exchange/library/rs-in-action/

It is great that the students hard work in making this model so successful has been picked up on by SSAT and by others and hopefully this wider recognition of the work will help to drive it forward further and to develop links with others that will assist with this.



Liz's Legacy

The academy would like to extend its gratitude to our very own Liz Haddleton for all of her hard work, leadership and vision at Venture.



Liz is retiring and taking a well deserved break from the academy – although not for long! Liz negotiated the Greshams' scholarship – now in its sixth year and will retain the reins to this, developing and extending the different programmes in the near future.

Liz will be sorely missed in the Create faculty especially and leaves a great many inspired students to continue their studies in photography which she also instigated at Venture.

Miss Haddleton has had many guises over her career, including Head of PE, Staff Development Officer and Head of Creative Arts, and has been a strong advocate of the academy and its aims.

Liz was recently rewarded at the first OAT awards ceremony in the Grand Connaught Rooms in London. She received the Route to Red Brick award and was presented with a plaque and certificate by Tim Campbell, OBE, entrepreneur and first winner of The Apprentice, and Ben Fogle author, presenter and adventurer. Attendees included politicians, top businesses and representatives from the education world, including UCAS and the universities of Oxford and Cambridge.

Liz has always had the vision of raising students to higher aspirations. She has committed herself both in the classroom and the work she has done with Greshams School to ensure this becomes a reality.

Her work has not only enabled students access to higher education studying medicine in South Africa, reading fine art at Oxford and other universities but also inspired a wider range of students through the ongoing partnership work she has established.

This has given the opportunity for a number of our students, many of whom would never have these opportunities, to experience life at Greshams and beyond.

We wish Liz the best of luck in her future and will welcome her back into the academy at any time.



Friday 8th May saw the launch of the much anticipated Venture Youth Club.

Many Year 7 and 8 students joined dedicated staff in the Venture Café to take part in a range of activities, including table tennis, table football, board games and playing Fifa 15 on the Playstation 3.

Staff and students commented that they couldn't wait to return next week! In addition, over the next few weeks boys from the Norwich City Futsal programme will be attending to coach anyone wishing to improve their game.

Meet our Governors...



Until I was 17 I wanted to be a musician. I played saxophone (and flute, but I never tell anyone that) and was ready to take up the offer of a place at Trinity College of Music.

Then I decided I wasn't good enough and, looking through a book of careers at school, decided to become an accountant – because the potential salary was huge. After completing a degree at Durham University, I spent a short while as an audit accountant with Deloitte in London, deciding fairly quickly that money was boring and that I wanted to be an academic. I started a PhD at Newcastle University, essentially doing research on Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes stories, which remains one of my real passions. It was while teaching first year undergraduates there that I found my love of teaching and left Newcastle (my home town and my beloved football club) to begin teaching English at Gresham's School in Holt, North Norfolk, in 2002. I live there still, with my wife Virginia, who is from Spain, and my sons Harry, 7, and Oliver, who is 4 months old.

I have been very proud to be part of the partnership between Venture and Gresham's for the last 5 years. With Miss Haddleston, I have run a project that sees groups of Gresham's students learn about the incredible

support network that exists at Venture to encourage pupils to aspire and achieve. They go on to work with Venture pupils as classroom assistants and mentors, culminating this year in two incredible super-learning days last term, which had a group of Gresham's Sixth Formers teach the whole of Year 7 in a programme designed to improve critical thinking skills.

As an English teacher, and now as Director of Studies, I continue to be driven by the feelings I had when I was attempting to nurture the undergraduates at one of the UK's top universities, who were totally unprepared for the daunting new stage of their lives that they had entered. Young people need the confidence to follow their dreams, not being allowed to feel that they are not good enough for any challenge. They need advice to ensure that informed choices are made – and not for the wrong reasons. And they need people around them who will encourage them to work hard at being the best they can be. That still motivates me.

Being a Governor at Venture, which has a strong tradition of achieving these aims, as I have seen first-hand, I hope to use this ethos to make positive contributions to the lives of more young people.

Mark Seldon, Greshams Governor

From Page 20:

On March 25th 2015 the students again excelled themselves in support. The whole academy ran 1 mile in the aid of Guide Dogs along with 15 students from our feeder school, Peterhouse Academy. The children from Peterhouse from year 2 to year 6 were accompanied by Peterhouse staff. The fifteen children gained sponsors from friends and family members and between them raised a huge £122.00. They were accompanied whilst at Venture by our incredible sports leaders and the youngsters enjoyed themselves immensely running with big brothers/sisters/ cousins from Venture. Our Venture students raised just under £200 by donating into collection buckets throughout the day. The weather was kind like our students and their families for allowing the students to donate to the charity and my fund.

The amount of support from the staff, students and families of Venture has been incredible and on the 26th April at 10.00am I hope I gave others the confidence and belief that anything is possible if you believe in yourself. I hope some of our wonderful students can see that determination and grit is what you need to achieve your goals,

and that when you meet one it is time to set another, just as I am now. I completed the marathon in 4 hours 42 minutes with my guides and I have raised to this point over £5000. This has been from the generosity of students and the community and friends and I am so proud to be able to give something back to a charity and organisation who have given me so much.

But as I mentioned about meeting one goal and setting another, it isn't just the pride that the Marathon has given me. I have found something that I love and I will continue to run. In the last year I have run 4 half marathons and other events and looking forward for 2015 I have entered other European races including Amsterdam and in 2016 I am running the Paris Marathon. I hope to be fortunate to run London 2016 too which will be classed as an ultra-challenge.

In the past months I have ran over 1400 miles and have exhausted 2 pairs of running shoes. I would like to say a huge thanks again for the pleasure and pride our students give me every day and the encouragement and enjoyment for me to complete my role at the academy and support them in their teenage years.

I hope that they feel they can achieve their dreams/goals and excel in life in whatever they do. If I can encourage this, it is more pleasing that a finisher's medal.

*On behalf of the Union of Venture Students we would just like to add that we think Miss Smith is amazing and is truly inspirational. So many of us were glued to the TV on Marathon Day hoping to catch a glimpse and whilst another inspirational woman in Paula Radcliffe was running her final competitive marathon, a true hero much closer to our hearts was running her first and we couldn't be more in awe of you.

You are a great example of how to overcome adversity and inspire all of us to work hard to want to achieve our goals.*



My Netball Experience

As part of Venture's school netball team I have participated in many different tournaments and matches against other schools.

I have been in the netball team since I was in year 8, and I have gradually progressed in my performance and skills throughout, however this would not have been achievable without the help of Miss Ermini (Jo). Every Wednesday after school (whether there was a netball game that week or not) training would take place in the sports hall for all years. At training there would be different techniques and drills to enhance the performance in our matches; one week training could be based on stamina and fitness and then the other it could be skill based workouts. By attending the training it prepared the team for the upcoming game(s) and to understand where improvements were needed, whether that be individual misunderstandings or as a whole team. After the specified drills had been performed a practice game at the end took place every time amongst the teams, this was to realise if we had fixed the mistakes that were made. More often than not we had.

The competitive tournaments themselves took place at the different participating high schools each week. They were Flegg, Lynn Grove, Caister, Venture, Cliff Park and Acle. However not all the schools were able to attend each week so the amount of games would vary. Each game lasted for no more than 10 minutes, 5 minutes for each half. There would be several of these tournaments in one season and at the end the overall winners would be announced and rewarded with their school's name and year engraved on the East Norfolk School Sports Partnership trophy for their year.



Recently the year 11 netball team was selected to play in the Nation Schools Sports Partnership tournament in Norwich as we finished 3rd in the schools' league. This was on Saturday 25th April 2015. I arrived at Venture at 8am in my P.E kit ready to start the day along with the year 9 team as they had also been selected as they finished 1st. Both teams were then transported to Norwich in the school's minibus. When we arrived the year 9's had their matches in the morning so the rest of the year 11's waited in the mini bus as it was extremely cold. Once the year 9's had finished it was then our turn; despite the cold we played all of our 9 games, one after the other, each game being 12 minutes (6 minute halves). When all the teams had played their games we all gathered round and the overall scores were read out. We finished last but it was still a very enjoyable but tiring day!

However now that I am in my final year of high school and the last netball tournament for the year 11's has been played; I found myself unable to play in any netball tournaments or games. However, Miss Ermini who plays herself in an adult's netball league in Lowestoft came up with the idea in entering a team of venture students and teachers into that league. So I decided to join, and it had to be one of the best decisions I've made.

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Successful First Season for Futsal Scholars

City's teams finish top of the pile in the FL Trust Futsal League.

Scholars on Norwich City's CSF Futsal Scholarship Programme will get the opportunity to win silverware, after three of the four Norwich City squads qualified for the Football League Trust National Finals.

Stand-out individual performances over the season include Damon Cooper and Gerson Soares, who was selected in the league's 'Team of the Year', while a staggering forty-four goal haul for Norwich City 'C's Modestas Kivyta, former Ormiston Venture Academy student, saw him finish as the top overall goal scorer. CSF Futsal coach Marc Campbell is delighted with the effort of his players across the season:

"The lads have worked really hard in their training sessions this year and it's paid off with some superb results. "It's been a long but hugely enjoyable season and it's great to be able to take three sides to the National Finals.

Hopefully we can bring back some more silverware to Norwich!"

The finals will be played on the 10th, 17th and 18th of June. A trip to Barcelona is the reward for the eventual winners.

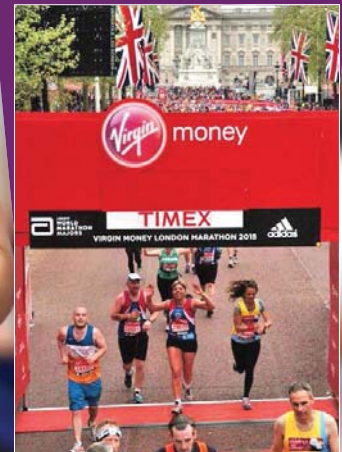
The CSF Futsal Scholarship Programme is an exciting opportunity for young people between the ages of 16-18 to continue their academic, footballing and career development through Norwich City Football Club. This Year's cohort is being hosted at Ormiston Venture Academy, using their outstanding facilities as part of the Community Hub Partnership.

As well as representing the club in fixtures, the scholars study for a Level 3 BTEC Extended Diploma in Sport over a two-year period as well as relevant coaching badges.





Crossing The Finish Line!



True Inspiration:

Miss Smith Completes London Marathon

In early 2014 I took my first steps. Not like a toddler but almost. I ran for the first time guided by a sighted person on the roads around Gorleston.

It felt amazing and I quickly realised that not only was the feeling of being free and my fitness improving, but that my self-confidence and esteem were improving more. One day in a moment of (at the time) complete madness I applied to Guide Dogs UK to see if I could earn a place in the 2015 Virgin London Marathon to run on their behalf.

I was already in debt to the charity for giving my mobility and life back when they provided me with my first dog Vanity. I am now on my 2nd chapter of my life with my next dog and companion Unity. I wanted to help others gain the same freedom and mobility I did from being given a guide dog, especially children who the charity also provides dogs for.

To my surprise and shock I gained a place and was entered in to the London Marathon. I promised that I would raise a minimum of £2500.00 to support the charity, which although would help it, is only just the start of what the charity needs when you consider it costs over £48,000 to train and support a guide dog in their role from which I have benefited twice.

Now I had the place, the hard work, self-belief and regimented training would begin. Before February 2014 I had never ran in my life before and now I was going to run 26 Miles (the equivalent of running from Gorleston to the centre of Norwich) in the world's most famous marathon.

I joined a local running club, Great Yarmouth Road Runners and met and trained with a collection of people who I class as my running family along with my running guides Carl Jessop and Dave Silk. My other family, the students and staff at Ormiston Venture joined me on my journey giving me immense encouragement and support both emotionally and physically.

In September 2014, 8 Venture students joined me at the local Morrison's Supermarket in Gorleston, where we bag packed community shoppers' grocery's raising a massive £922.30 towards the target I had promised to raise. The students represented the academy in a way that we can all be proud of with staff and shoppers praising them on their maturity, politeness and general social skills. I know that this is the case with all of our students but the 8 students who helped me so much were:

Jasmine Smith, Tia Dalruple, Mary Hewett, Bethany Hawkinis, Charlie Topliss, Matthew Whitehead, Corey Thompson and Louis Gowing.

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