

Venture VOICE

Edition 31: Winter 2021

Stay Safe

Ormiston Venture Academy

[OAT]
AN OAT ACADEMY



Reading at Venture

Recognising the impact of reading

Venture Vitals

For our hard working students

Stunning Festive Foodbank

Christmas Fayre and Food Bank re-cap

Question of the Week

Students answer questions on today's issues



and so much more!

'to seek out new horizons,
to face new challenges and
to break new ground'

Venture into Success

*Our students are passionate, engaged,
happy and successful children.*

Ormiston Venture Academy brings state of the art facilities,
a dedicated team of staff and exciting learning opportunities together to provide
an OUTSTANDING education for all.

Find out more at www.ormistonventureacademy.co.uk

What's going on at Venture Academy for 2021

Welcome from Principal Gilbert – Barnham	P3	Success Centre & Academic Tutoring	P17
Revision Superstar Status	P4 - P5	Rewards	P18 - P19
#LRC	P6 - P7	National Student Voice/Shoebbox Appeal	P20 - P21
Careers Beacon East	P8	Question of the Week 2020-21 & CiN	P22 - P23
Macmillan Cancer Support Cake Sale	P9	The OAKS Norfolk - Teaching school launch	P24 - P25
Inspirational Norfolk Principal Award	P10 - P11	Venture Vitals & Total Recall Week	P26 - P27
Reading @Venture	P12 - P13	College Clash - Mario Kart Tournament and an Online Collective Introduction	P28
Christmas Fayre	P14 - P15		
Union of Venture Students	P16		

Keep up-to-date and follow us @OrmistonVenture from [twitter.com](https://twitter.com/OrmistonVenture)

2021... a year of hope and exciting things to come.

This isn't really the start that we pictured or wanted but it is the start we have. The idea of not having our wonderful community coming together each day is a hard one... so why are we so excited about the year ahead?

It's simple... we are a strong community.

A community that cares for one another, looks after one another and most importantly believes in one another.

I was so proud of the way our students returned for the start of September. They came back with a determination and resilience that was impressive. A focus on wanting to make up for lost time, to eradicate any gaps in their learning and to ensure they made the most of their education.

And they did. By christmas we saw astonishing progress in our students academic achievement and in the way they had a hunger for knowledge.

A real drive to make up for what they had missed. Not only that but that community feeling returned as if we had never left... a belief that when working together anything is possible.

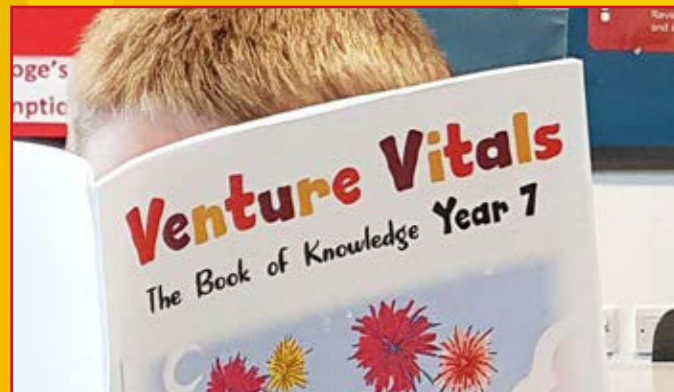
Our community as always deserves the very best and I know that working together nothing can stand in the way of that.

We have done it before and I have no doubt that together we will do it again.

Regards

Simon Gilbert-Barnham
- Principal





Venture Vitals

Hopefully the one you are most familiar with for all students in years 7-10.

Each term students receive a paper copy of their Venture Vitals (also available electronically on the website), which sets out all of the core knowledge for their subjects in that term. If students know all of this they are in a really strong position to excel.

Extended learning set on go4schools will often prompt students to a certain part of one of the knowledge organisers in their Venture Vital to help them remember and recall the key information that will make them go further in lessons.

Students should be using these regularly with the memory and retention techniques that are featured in the front part of the booklet (flash cards, mind dumps etc) to self quiz and revise this material. Students in year 11 have something slightly different. vPlease see page 26 for more information.

Senior Year Book of Knowledge

The Senior Year Book of Knowledge is a one stop shop for all of the knowledge organisers/pages from the Venture Vitals that students could need to prepare for their exams.

They were given personalised versions of these in September and give the students every checklist and list of knowledge they could need to know to be in a really strong position going into exams.

Using these to self quiz, make flash cards and other techniques they have been taught in their time at Venture will give them a really solid basis for their exams. If you ever hear 'I don't know what to revise' then getting the Book of Knowledge out would be a great first step.

Revision Superstar Status

– all the tools you need

Tassomai

Tassomai is a smart revision app that is available to all of year 10 and 11 for Science, English Literature and Maths.

If you were to purchase this as a parent it would cost £45 a month just for science and a further £30 a month for Maths, but every year 10 and 11 student has access for free. The reason Tassomai price this so highly is they believe their algorithm based revision app/site is so good, they put a money back guarantee on success if students complete the whole course in Science.

The app is supposed to be used daily, or at least 5 days a week. It asks multiple choice questions, and the more you answer the more it gets to know what you know and what you don't know. It then works out which content you need to be tested on more and in a really clever way pulls these questions through more often.

The aim is to hit 40 correct answers a day in a subject which could be done in as little as 15 minutes. The more you use it, the better it gets at helping you cover what you need to.

GCSE Pod

GCSE pod is a revision podcasting site that combines audio with visual presentations on nearly all subjects that we study at Venture.

Students can make playlists of the topics they most need to revise and listen to/watch them on their phones or computers.

Their pods are 3-5 min bursts of GCSE learning, rigorously quality assured by professionals at GCSE Pod and many of them link into quizzes or other revision material.

If something keeps coming up as a challenging topic, GCSE Pod might be a great place to keep watching an explanation of it.

Learning Menus

New to Venture this year and available for students to find on the Venture e-portal are Learning Menus.

These are short lists of the key topics that students cover in a unit of work, with links to videos explaining the topic/content, example exam questions or assessments and other useful revision materials.

If a student hasn't done so well on an end of unit assessment, has missed lessons in any given subject or just wants to shore up their knowledge, the Learning Menus allow students to do this independently in a really effective way.

If you haven't seen them yet, they are worth getting your child to show you so you can point them towards them again in the future.

As you can see from the revision suggestions, there are loads of tools to help our students become masters of revision and independent study.

Sometimes they just need that push from someone at home who also knows about them to get them started, have a look at these with your child, see which ones they like and find useful and support them in using them.

You may also come across others such as Doodle in Science, Quizziz in computer science, quizlet and Seneca, all of which are similar to GCSE Pod and Tassomai in providing online revision/quizzing opportunities.

#iwill

Music Gurus go 'virtual'

Due to the current circumstances and not being able to cross bubbles, the music gurus (working as part of the #iwill initiative) have begun leading students in musical tuition virtually.

They have planned, designed and set up their own pre-recorded tutorials teaching other students how to hold and play an instrument during registration times. The project has begun with the gurus (a group of talented year 10 musicians) teaching a class of year 7 students for a 4 week block once a week in the mornings.

The aim is to provide this extra tuition to every member of the year 7 community by the end of the academic year. The year 7 students will learn about, and be able to practise 3 instruments during these sessions under the expert tuition of the music gurus.

Mrs Leggett who leads the #iwill project at Venture commented:

"The music guru students have fully committed to a 'new' way of delivering their sessions. Their confidence improved so much teaching younger students in small groups last year; coming back this term and having to learn new skills like recording blogs and clips of them teaching has added another string to their bow! I'm very proud of them all."



#LRC

*“The more that you read,
the more things you will know.
The more that you learn,
the more places you’ll go”*

Located at the heart of the academy, the Learning Resource Centre has a powerful vision – to inspire and motivate every student to read for purpose and pleasure.

We know that reading is an integral part of students’ development; to become a confident reader is to become an effective independent learner and the LR intends to unlock this chance for all students within the academy.

There are many ways in which the LRC builds confident and effective readers not least through our incredibly successful Accelerated Reader programme; a programme which offers students personalised reading goals and builds skills in literacy and comprehension.

Our KS3 students are motivated in their weekly sessions with the LRC Manager to delve further into the depth of the English curriculum; where they experience hinterland knowledge directly connected to their studies to offer additional opportunities for breadth of understanding.

Underpinning the educational purpose to the LRC is of course a hive of fun and engaging opportunities for our students throughout the year; our calendar of events is promoted widely to students with highlights such as World Book Day, our participation with the Carnegie Awards, Community Reading and much more.

The LRC welcomes students through its door even after lessons have finished for the day offering tailored sessions for students to practise further study through the use of our catalogue of fiction and non-fiction.

Dedicated revision software accessed through our LRC computer suite and our on-hand LRC Manager for personalised one-to-one advice and support.

Students spend up to fifteen minutes reading each morning for three days a week and across two years.

With regular lessons in our Learning Resource Centre, students have access to all of these genres and many more to foster excitement around reading.

During KS3, students are enrolled in an Accelerated Reader programme, which spills into their English lessons where they spend the first ten minutes reading the books that they have chosen.

It is through positive and personalised encouragement that we intend to inspire our young readers to explore the world of literature.





Careers and Futures conversations with a virtual twist

Glynis Sinclair from Beacon East has been continuing to offer invaluable advice regarding careers, pathways and next steps to students at Venture Academy this term with huge success.

Year 9 students are booked in to see Glynis as a crucial part of their careers education programme at the academy, for an interview to discuss their plans for post-16 and their future lives.

This year sharing screens virtually and keeping an electronic version of an action plan has been new to all.

So far students have discussed routes into becoming a surgeon, a lawyer, an electrician and a special effects coordinator amongst many others.

Mrs Sinclair provides the impartial advice the academy needs to prove it offers, to satisfy the Gatsby benchmarks as it works towards a Careers Mark.

We are very grateful to work with Beacon East who have been an avid supporter of the Academy for some years now, and have even sponsored a Venture Stars award in the past too.



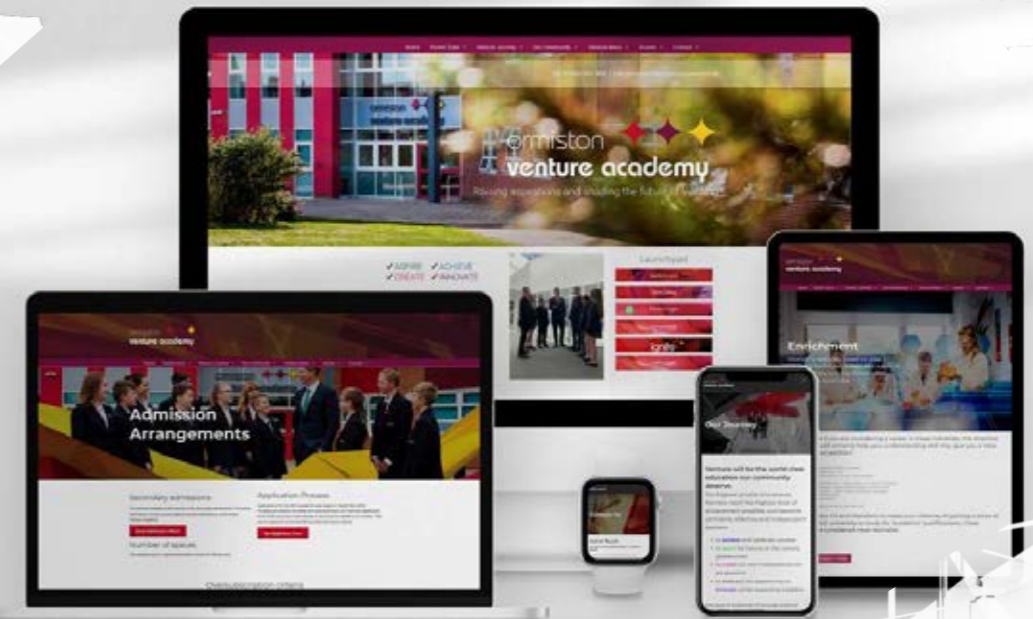
Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance is key for students aspiring to attain the biggest and best jobs worldwide. Knowing that Venture Alumni are working in the medical profession in South Africa as a doctor, travelling the world in as an officer in the Navy, studying for a Phd in Sheffield and having fine art work commissioned after attending Oxford university makes the staff and community proud.



Miss Roper who coordinates the careers programme at Venture commented:

"Throughout the pandemic, the students' awareness of the fantastic work our front line, key workers do has inspired me. Their own ambitions and thoughts for the future haven't wavered and I look forward to sharing their successes with them."

Keep up to date from the Academy website



www.ormistonventureacademy.co.uk

On Friday 25th September the Ormiston Venture Academy community came together buying and selling and eating cakes, in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support.

Hundreds of cakes were ordered by students in their Personalised Learning groups which were delivered by Union of Venture Students on Friday morning. Vinny the academy mascot also got involved delivering cakes to excited youngsters and raising awareness of the Macmillan Cancer support charity.

The staff were included as well and were able to purchase 'virtual raffle tickets' in order to win a huge chocolate cake. Mrs Mallory won the cake (which she shared with her amazing year 11 Art class I might add) by having one of her tickets drawn from a 'virtual hat'!

The academy would like to thank everyone for their generous donations, and willingness to participate especially in these strange and tough times.

Assistant Principal Mr McNally commented that

"It was fantastic to see the Union of Venture Students (and Vinny of course) come together to delight the students with cupcakes and muffins in the morning. Raising awareness of the Macmillan Cancer Support charity and fundraising for worthy causes such as this are high priorities for the Academy and our community."

**WE ARE
MACMILLAN.
CANCER SUPPORT**



**'Argghh'
cake**



www.ormistonventureacademy.co.uk
@OrmistonVenture

www.ormistonventureacademy.co.uk
@OrmistonVenture



Inspirational Norfolk Principal honoured in UK celebration of teaching

Selected from thousands of nominations, Simon Gilbert-Barnham, Principal at Ormiston Venture Academy, has won a prestigious Silver Pearson's Teaching Award.

The award recognises him as an inspirational teacher, one who has shown outstanding commitment to changing the lives of the children he works with.

Mr Gilbert-Barnham is one of just 76 Silver Award winners this year and is amongst just four winners in the Headteacher of the Year in a Secondary School category. Since becoming Principal of Ormiston Venture Academy in 2013, Mr Gilbert-Barnham has played a major part in transforming the school, to the point where the now 'Outstanding' academy has been oversubscribed for the past four years.

Through focusing on high-quality teaching and making sure every aspect of school life is given the attention and support it needs, he ensures the academy is the best it can be for students, staff, and the wider community.

Ormiston Venture Academy Principal Wins Silver Award in The Award for Headteacher of the Year in a Secondary School

He has created an environment where students take an active role in the development of the academy, with the Union of Venture Students being given its own budget to improve the learning experience for students.

From peer tutoring programmes to community outreach work, students become leaders in their own right. By empowering his students, Mr Gilbert-Barnham equips them with the confidence they need to pursue their dreams.

Driven by a desire to ensure social justice for his students, Mr Gilbert-Barnham works tirelessly in the community to build a school that levels the playing field for many, where achievement is high, pastoral care is exemplary and a love of lifelong learning is fostered.

His success is shared by the strong team he has assembled around him, as well as by the parents and students both past and present who have helped to make Ormiston Venture Academy what it is today.

The event will be a great opportunity to celebrate the exceptional school staff who have worked wonders during an incredibly challenging time for educators across the country.

Mr Gilbert-Barnham, Silver Award Winner and Principal of Ormiston Venture Academy said:

"I am exceptionally proud to receive this award which is recognition of the commitment that our entire community has to ensuring an education that is not only caring and exciting but is of the highest quality. I am honoured to walk into Ormiston Venture Academy each and every day and work together with students, staff, governors and parents who share the belief that every child deserves a world class education. It is impossible not to enjoy every moment."

Nick Hudson, Chief Executive Officer at Ormiston Academies Trust said:

"We are extremely pleased that the outstanding work Mr Gilbert-Barnham has done at Ormiston Venture Academy is being recognised. Despite all of the amazing progress the school has made, he is constantly striving to continue to improve it, and above all he really listens and responds to the needs of both students and staff. Mr Gilbert-Barnham serves as a real inspiration and expert to academies across the Trust, and we feel privileged to work with him."

Michael Morpurgo, celebrated author and former Children's Laureate, and President of the Teaching Awards Trust, said:

"Over the past year, we have, all of us, come to appreciate and respect the value of teachers. They have so often been taken for granted. Not any more. Parents know now what it takes to teach, and teach well, and how much commitment, dedication and enthusiasm and knowledge and understanding, yes – and patience."

"Children know it too, if they didn't before. So many missed their teachers as well as their friends. We all honour them today. Let's now praise them, wish them well and above all, thank them."



Rod Bristow, President of Pearson UK, said:

"Congratulations to all of our Silver Award winners for their commitment, dedication and passion for their work. Despite the incredible challenges they have faced over the past few months, school staff have risen to the occasion time and again."

"It is so important to recognise and celebrate teachers, teaching assistants and lecturers for the impact they have on our young people every year, and that is why Pearson is delighted to support these Awards."

Education Secretary Gavin Williamson said:

"My warmest congratulations go to all this year's silver award winners. They should be proud to receive this recognition of their commitment to the profession, and the outstanding education and guidance they provide for their students."

"Teachers and school staff up and down the country consistently go above and beyond for their students, and this is especially true over the past few months. It is down to their hard work that schools have been able to open their gates to all pupils again for the start of the new term, and I cannot say thank you enough for everything they have done."

'That's the thing about books.

They let you travel without moving your feet.' – Jhumpa Lahiri

At Ormiston Venture Academy, we recognise the impact that reading can have upon a student's education and aim to cultivate an environment where reading for pleasure is a fundamental part of every single student's academic journey.

Reading not only directly impacts academic attainment, it also expands vocabulary, creates a widened understanding of the world we live in, increases understanding of human behaviour and establishes well-rounded, empathetic individuals.

We believe that it is our collective challenge to open our children's eyes to the magic and power of words and the opportunities that this can bring for them in their futures.

This year, our students have embarked upon an adventure into literature in our Personalised Learning: Read Aloud Programme.

With carefully selected texts, students are immersed in a widely cultural experience, whether that is through Orwell revealing his dystopian world of 'Nineteen Eighty Four' or Harper Lee allowing young minds an insight into the rights and wrongs of a past world in 'To Kill a Mockingbird'.

Students spend up to fifteen minutes reading each morning for three days a week and across two years, will read and discuss the following titles:

- **Lord of the Flies** – William Golding
- **Nineteen Eighty-four** – George Orwell
- **Northern Lights** – Phillip Pullman
- **In The Sea There Are Crocodiles** – Fabio Geda
- **The Hobbit** – J.R.R. Tolkien
- **The Outsiders** – S.E. Hinton
- **To Kill a Mockingbird** – Harper Lee
- **Life of Pi** – Yann Martel
- **When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit** – Judith Kerr
- **Fahrenheit 451** – Ray Bradbury
- **928 Miles from Home** – Kim Slater

During the Autumn Term, PLs have been reading William Goldings Lord of the Flies, a novel that may appear to be simply a story about boys trying to live on a deserted island, but reading between the lines will allow students to acknowledge the subtle hints that make this story truly outstanding.

When asked about their current novel, one Year 7 student said:

"I really like Lord of the Flies because of the adventurous storyline and the different personalities of each character – they certainly have to learn lots of new life skills!"

Furthermore, a Year 10 student commented on the process of reading in the mornings and found that

"Reading each morning gets me ready for the day of learning ahead. It is a calming start to the day that helps me clear my mind before first lesson begins."

As for our staff, Colette Smith (Teacher of Performing Arts) has thoroughly enjoyed reading each morning with her PL.

As the first group to officially complete the book, she stated that "the students are really excited to find out what we will be reading next – they can't wait to discover their next book!"

We look forward to discovering what other literary adventures our students have in store for them.

Reading @Venture



Dancers prepare for the Christmas Fayre

Year 9 dancers are rehearsing their numbers to provide some light entertainment for the students at the Ormiston Venture Academy Christmas Fayre this year.

Miss Smith has been training the girls ready for their big performance in front of socially distanced year group bubbles, as they attend the fayre.

The Christmas themed head bands have been a huge hit and added to the motivation behind the dance this year!

Miss Smith who choreographed the dance commented:

"The girls have worked so hard practising the piece in their own time, I can't wait to see them in full flow during the Christmas fayre – the headbands have really encouraged them to give it their all, they are so excited!"



Christmas Fayre



To finish what can only be described as a bizarre year for schools, the Union of Venture Students (UVS) at Ormiston Venture Academy brightened up proceedings as they donned elf, reindeer and even a Santa costume in aid of the annual Ormiston Venture Academy Christmas Fayre.

Students had been busy selling raffle tickets with top prizes including a Nintendo Switch (kindly donated by CEX – Complete Entertainment Exchange) and a fantastic food hamper donated by Morrisons. They decorated stalls, made festive treats and prepped hot chocolates ready for the rest of the Academy and the community.



#XmasIsOn!

The sweet treats, mock tails and Christmas themed games went down a storm as (socially distanced) students bopped along to their Christmas favourites belted out by the student led radio station – Venture Vibe. Vinny unsurprisingly, was the most popular person for festive photographs once again!

Some members of the Music Gurus group performed astounding live tracks and Miss Smith's year 9 dancers amazed the audiences with their Christmas themed performances.

The fayre was jointly organized by the UVS with some help from the Parents and Friends Association (a special mention of thanks extends to Mrs Green and Mrs Bennington for their support) and the fabulous Mrs Ford in reprographics, whose vision and creativity really helped to give it a festive feel.



To really embrace this time of year, students were encouraged to wear their Christmas themed tops for a small donation of tinned and packaged foods, which are to be delivered to a local food bank – just another example of the students at Venture supporting those less fortunate than themselves.

Assistant Principal Mr McNally commented that:

"The fayre represents an opportunity to celebrate the festive time of year and close 2020! The students were really looking forward to this, and to see so many get involved with their Christmas jumpers and the donations for the food bank fills us with hope for 2021."



Festive 'Argghh'!



Union of Venture Students



27 budding leaders have received new roles for the new Union of Venture Students 2021.

This process was comprised of an anonymous student vote with all applicants stating why they wanted to become head boy or head girl and what their legacy would be.

After two intense rounds of interviews, all of the candidates gave a fantastic account of themselves, it was a very tough decision for Mr Waters, Assistant Principal, Mr Gilbert-Barnham, Principal and Mrs King Chair of Governors.

After much deliberation and a very difficult decision Ventures new Head Boy and Girl will be:

Head Boy: Alex Doggett | **Head Girl:** Mollie Speed

Deputy Head Boy: Jack Carr,
Deputy Head Girl: Nicole Brown

Environmental Lead: Elijah Palmer
Well-Being Lead: Melissa Lino

Aspire Spotlight student Lillie Copping. Lillie and her family heard of a needy family during lockdown.

They wanted to do something to make a positive difference in the community, so decided to assemble and deliver care packages for the family.

They made one for each of the children, including warm winter coats, food, chocolates, toiletries and onesies.

#theventureway

Senior Prefect team: Jeffrey Abraham, Cody Lawes, Madeline Marten and Sarah Watson. All of the students will make a fantastic team with next year stacking up to be the biggest and best UVS year yet. Mr Waters said,

"I truly believe that this will be the relaunch of the UVS after a difficult year. The candidates have all shown an amazing drive and determination to represent the voice of all students at the academy."

To celebrate the handing over from old to new UVS the year 11's will be going out in style organizing and running the Christmas fayre on the 18th December 2020.



in the
Lillie
SPOTLIGHT

Well done Lillie for being a kind, caring and thoughtful member of our Venture community.

Here in the Success Centre we are committed to helping small groups build their confidence in learning.

We have a fantastic literacy programme called Lexia Power Up, that focuses on grammar, comprehension and word study, designed to enhance English language and drive the academic success of secondary age students, which supports students in their GCSEs.

On average 10 months of progress was made in the autumn term in students reading and spelling ages, a fantastic achievement, equipping students with crucial skills to achieve well in school and in their wider lives.

The Success Centre works with small groups of students with a supportive and purposeful atmosphere, we have laughs and plenty of fun, the perfect combination for children to feel at ease and be themselves.

We share short stories, giving children the opportunity to read aloud if they wish too while others listen carefully; we debate topics related to real life situations; we also work through strategies to remember spelling rules, followed by a weekly spelling test with a chance to win rewards such as visa points. Students are entered into a termly raffle for a chance to win bigger prizes such as selection boxes at Christmas and Easter eggs at Easter.

The National Literacy Trust were particularly impressed with the work of the success centre, noting 'the intervention strategy is impressive'. Equally 'impressive' are the wonderful, appreciative young people we get to work with every day.

Academic Tutoring

Hundreds of young people at Venture have been attending after school tutoring sessions at Venture in order to further their knowledge in a range of subjects.

At this especially challenging time (given their gap in education), pupils have been making the fantastically positive choice to attend sessions after school to help eliminate gaps in their core knowledge. In these "bubbled" sessions, pupils work on a specific skill they need some extra help with while being able to exchange their Visa Points for sweet treats from the Venture Snack Shack.

After a Maths session Kailin, a Year 8 pupil, said
"I think Academic Tutoring is really helpful. Because you are in a small group you can get a lot of help on a skill you struggle with".

The Raise Rooms are a space where pupils can go after school for an hour to complete extended learning, catch up with coursework or simply focus on skills they are interested in.

There is a separate room for each year to enable "bubbles" to be maintained.

Pupils have the freedom to attend the Raise Rooms on any night that works for them and we tend to see pupils get into a routine of attending the same night each week. Most pupils who attend say that they like to complete their extended learning at school so they have their evenings free to relax and spend time with their family.

Given that Extended Learning is all set on Go4Schools, pupils simply log into the computers in the Raise Room and can work through their work for the week. During these sessions the Snack Shack comes round and pupils can exchange Visa Points for sweet treats.

In January we launched a competition linked to the Venture Vitals – a knowledge organiser containing core content for each subject, as well as techniques to effectively engage in learning.



Success Centre

We host Fantastic Friday each week and this term student have been able to cash in various amounts (10 – 50) of their visa points for:

- Pencil cases
- Fruit for Vegetarian day
- Curry flavoured crisps for world curry week
- Halloween and Guy fawkes goodie bags
- Bike lights for Road Safety week

- Christmas – Advent calendars, Christmas raffle tickets and selection box and candy cane for a friend

January

- Relaxing bubble bath was on the 8th January for Bubble Bath Day – 20 points
- Popcorn for Veganuary - 20 points
- Fortune cookies for Chinese New Year – 10 points
- Croissants on 30th January for Croissant day

Students can access our amazing Games Room

Room – Due to current restriction at present the games room is open at lunchtimes on Monday to Year 7, Wednesday to Year 8 and Friday to Year 9 students.

You can access this reward which can be given a pass card by a teacher in class for just following the Venture way or you can cash 40 visa points for a pass for you and a friend.

Venture Vaults – again you can ace this by receiving a pass card from a teacher or cashing in 20 visa. These can redeemed at student reception, break or lunchtime where luck may get sweets, chocolates or the £5 gift voucher... Oooo

Pizza with the Principal or Sundae in the sun

– This is a reward given out at the end of each term and to be invited you must have 100% Attendance and 100% the venture way. Students are invited to have pizza at lunchtime with the Principal, just to say thank you for being awesome. In the summer term, we offer Sundaes in the Sun, perfect to enjoy on a hot summers day!

Snack Shack – if you stay at 2.35pm for academic tutoring or a period 6 session, you can cash your point for snacks; members of our Union of Venture Students come round the classes and deliver snacks.

In December we hold a Winter wonderland

– You can get your tickets by 95% attendance and 100% The Venture way, Disco dancing, games and food for the lucky students, unfortunately due to current circumstance we haven't been able to host it this year, but all ready to get the hips moving and feet tapping for next year.

Celebration assemblies – take place at the end of each term; staff nominate students for achievement, effort in their subject areas. Student are presented with a certificate and then one lucky student from each college will be awarded the Principal's Award along with a £10 voucher. Also is the college assemblies where we host an attendance lottery, all students with 100% are then put in to a lottery and we randomly pick 2 names for first and second place to win an Amazon voucher.

Finally, the Student with the most Visas for the term across the whole academy receives a £10 voucher and wins £300 to spend in a department at the academy, in the past a student has chosen purchase a new football kit for the Venture football team. There are so many departments to choose from with so many wonderful ideas.



Praise, Praise is the Venture Culture in the academy, there are so many rewards that students can access with their visa point, attendance and generally following the Venture Way!!

National Student Voice

Over the last few months, the National Student Voice has been celebrating the launch of their #iwill project, "Peaceful Minds" website. The team of nine students from across the four regions have been working together since June 2019, to give all OAT students a voice and to dedicate themselves to social action.

As a team, they wanted to address issues of eradicating stigma, raising awareness of mental health issues and promoting better wellbeing. They decided a webpage was the best way to promote this across the whole Trust and set to work. They researched current and ongoing issues that young people face today.

They contacted external parties and charities to build relationships and have their support with their project.

They even produced their blogs to encourage people to read and discuss their research and with the hope of making a positive impact they did this while working virtually, even before it was made norm by the pandemic!

They are pretty amazing!

Yesterday marked the last day to enter into their Blog Competition... where OAT students would become a guest blogger on their webpage and be awarded Amazon vouchers.

The winner is...

Louis Borrett

from Ormiston
Venture Academy
"Mental Wellbeing
in a Pandemic"



Louis talked about everyday actions and aids that could potentially encourage better wellbeing for ourselves and others – something that we believe is vitally important in the current climate. Louis's blog will go live on the National Student Voice website this week, with the winning vouchers being posted out today. Head over to their webpage for a read over their insightful and inspiring blogs!

Written by
students for
students!

Following the launch of this year's Shoebox Appeal via our Virtual Collectives in October, PL Groups across the academy had been busily packing items ready to provide some Christmas cheer for less fortunate young people in Eastern Europe & Africa in time for the November deadline.

With a second national lockdown put in place and with shoebox collection points forced to close, an extended deadline was set for 7th December.

The Samaritans 'Operation Christmas Child' is where shoe boxes full of gifts are created and then delivered to countries with children living in poverty as a Christmas present.

These will often be the only gifts they will receive. A shoebox gift provides a connection between different cultures, backgrounds and nationalities. It bridges the gap between someone who has something to give, and someone who can't wait to receive it.

Students at Venture were told that over one million shoeboxes were sent out from the UK and Ireland again last year, with 5,000 UK volunteers helping to prepare the shoeboxes for delivery in fourteen different countries in 2020.

With 2020 being such a difficult year for everyone, the Samaritans 'Operation Christmas Child' Appeal is perhaps even more important than ever, with even more young people across the world struggling to provide basic necessities, let alone gifts at Christmas time.

43 shoeboxes have been completed by students, teachers, administration staff and parents and will be delivered to the local drop off point in Norwich. Students were delighted to be involved in something so interesting that will bring so much joy to so many young people in parts of the world they may never visit.

Mr Doggett, who launched the appeal again this year said,

"Tutors showed a video about the shoebox appeal and it clearly hit home. It makes students realise that life in Great Britain is perhaps far less difficult than it is in other parts of the world, even in 2020. Despite a tough year for our own communities here on the East Coast, we managed to pull together to better last year's total number of boxes, providing even more young people who our students will never even meet, something to smile about on Christmas Day 2020".



During the National lockdown throughout the summer term, students were set work online for every subject, including what we refer to as CASH lessons; these being 'Community, Aspiration, Spirituality and Health' lessons.

Question of the Week 2020-21

During this period, students were expected to vote on a particular issue and it was a popular lesson that always garnered an excellent response.

So at the beginning of the new academy year in September, to complement our scheduled CASH lessons, promote the British Value of democracy and to create the opportunity of further great discussion, we decided to continue with a weekly question. We call this, 'Question of the Week' and the question is linked to national

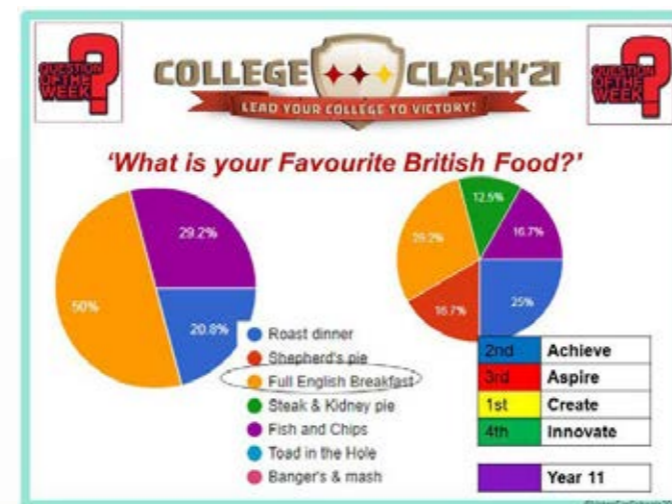
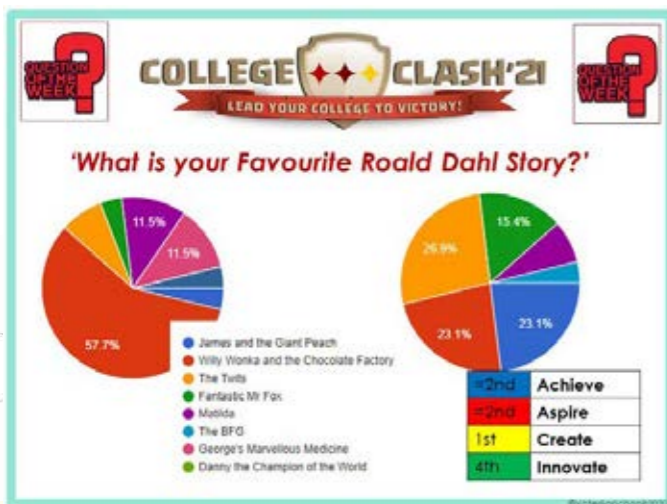
events, topics that appear in the news and suggestions from our very own UVS. Some are simple yes/no answers, while others provide a list of options for students to select from and vote on.

All votes are then cast via an online form through PL Tutors and students are told the overall vote the following Monday in the new virtual assembly. The weekly results are also posted on Twitter via our UVS, so everyone can see them.

Mr Doggett, who established Question of the Week said,

"I love Question of the Week. It gives students the opportunity to vote on something every single week and creates independent thinking and interesting discussion. It is terrific walking into a Tutor Group who are debating the weekly issue and always

fascinating when the results actually come through once the whole academy has participated. It also provides our students with the invaluable message that their ideas, thoughts and ultimately their vote counts."



Bright yellow clothing adorned the corridors at Ormiston Venture Academy on Friday 13th November in support of the BBC's Children in Need appeal.

The students attended the school day looking amazing dressed in yellow, sporting children in need Pudsey ears, socks, jumpers, t-shirts and onesies.

Students made a contribution to the charity to show their support. College clash points were received for the students who embraced the cause and were dressed to impress.

They were invited to donate towards the charity which supports over 2,400 projects helping children facing a range of disadvantages, such as poverty, abuse or physical disability.

A pie the teacher 'popularity' contest drew hundreds of students to virtually watch the eventual 'winner/loser' Mr Scotney get pied at the beginning of the day on the playground.

Former Head Boy Alex Riches took delight in his responsibility for giving the 'prize!' Students Elijah Palmer, Tobie-Regan Walden and Madelaine Marten drew a huge Pudsey poster which students were able to collaborate on colouring in during lunch times to raise awareness of the charity.

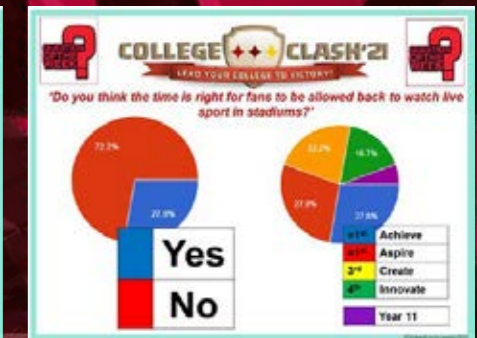
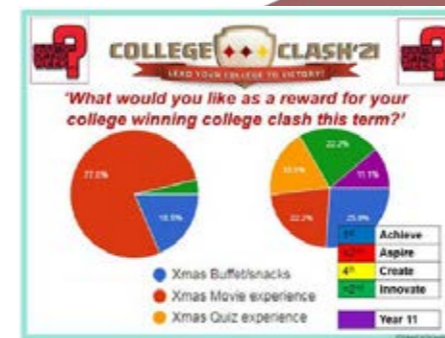


2020 CIN



Mr Waters who leads the Union of Venture students commented:

"It was a great effort by all staff and students in these difficult times. The students and staff really took to the yellow theme as there were so many Pudsey outfits and ears on show during the day. Raising money for such a worthy cause is a key priority for the Union of Venture Students and something we are incredibly proud of."



Question	Yes	No
Do you think cinemas will disappear in your lifetime?	26%	74%
Should there be a 10pm curfew to stop the spread of Coronavirus?	87%	13%
Would you ride to school in a robot driven car?	33%	67%
Is it important to always try and fit in at school?	3%	70%
Is now the right time to return to stadiums to watch live sport?	28%	72%

Question	Answer chosen from selection of options
What is your favourite Roald Dahl story? (For Roald Dahl Birthday)	1st: Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory 2nd: Matilda
What is your favourite British food? (From a list in an article published in 'The Independent' newspaper for 'British Food Fortnight')	1st: Full English Breakfast 2nd: Fish 'n' Chips
What quality makes a good Head Boy/Girl?	1st: Inspirational 2nd: Passionate

The OAKS Norfolk

🐦 @OAKSNorfolkHub

New Teacher Training Opportunities Across Norfolk Launches in the Great Yarmouth Area.

Ormiston Venture Academy, in partnership with seven Secondary schools across Norfolk and Suffolk have teamed up with The OAKS Partnership to launch a new teacher training programme

The OAKS Norfolk School Centred Initial Teacher Training (SCITT) programme aims to ensure schools across East Anglia are able to recruit excellent staff.

The programme offers an Ofsted rated 'Outstanding' training year for those looking to enter the teaching profession. The highly personalised and supportive programme emphasises the importance of trainee teachers' ability to promote outstanding progress of the pupils they teach.

The new programme builds on similar successful partnerships between The OAKS and Ormiston Academies Trust, which has five additional hubs set up in different parts of the country, serving over 40 schools.

All trainee teachers follow a programme to gain Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) and to be accredited with an academic PGCE award. Trainee teachers will be placed in two secondary schools throughout the academic year, teaching classes across KS3 and KS4, with a variety of enrichment experiences provided, including KS5, primary, special schools and alternative provision.

Trainees will also have a residential (or out of school activity*) and visits to other professional agencies in order to build up their professional CV. Training focuses on the secondary phase. Subjects include Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, English, Geography, History, Mathematics, Modern Foreign Languages and Physics.

The OAKS also offer the Assessment Only Route into teaching, which is a 12-week accreditation for QTS. More information is available on request.

The new programme builds on similar successful partnerships between The OAKS and Ormiston Academies Trust

Applications for those interested in training during the 2021/2022 academic year are already open.

Those who have questions, or would like further information, should contact oaksnorfolk@ormistonventureacademy.co.uk

Tuesday Humby, National Director of Teaching and Training for Ormiston Academies Trust (OAT), said:

"We are delighted to be bringing The OAKS Outstanding teacher training programme to the east of England, to give our new teachers the very best start to the profession. What works so well about this programme is the true collaboration and delivery from partnership schools, it's set up by teachers, for teachers."

David Da Silva, Deputy Director of The OAKS, said:

"We are very excited to be beginning The OAKS programme with Ignite and our partnership schools in Norfolk. Our programme really focuses on the individual, making sure they're empowered and supported throughout the whole programme."



Jodie Gilbert-Barnham, Dean of Programmes, Ignite TSA & Ormiston Venture Academy, said:

"We are thrilled to be working with The OAKS to make this programme a reality. Norfolk is a fantastic area to become a teacher, and I would encourage anyone who has ever thought about transitioning into the profession to contact us."

Helen Morrey, a Newly Qualified Teacher (NQT) who trained through The OAKS and OAT, said:

"My training with The OAKS was fantastic. I loved the academic side and pedagogy theory as part of the course. The support from The OAKS staff was also brilliant and made all the better by the fact that many tutors still actively teach, so their experience is current. I made some great friends and still draw on support from the cohort now."

* The OAKS residential may not be possible if restrictions on travel and personal space are in place (e.g. COVID-19).

Venture Vitals



At Venture, we strive to ensure your child experiences a world-class education every time they step into the Academy.

Yet learning should not be associated with a single place but a whole community that embodies a positive learning environment. A place where your child has an opportunity to feel comfortable, academically challenged and continue becoming an effective independent learner.

A huge asset we give to our pupils to help them in their own study is 'Venture Vitals' the book of knowledge. This book contains all the core knowledge expertly chosen by our dedicated staff and issued every half term for free. Venture Vitals not only has carefully chunked information in the form of knowledge organisers (KOs) but proven strategies to engage your child with their learning.

The strategies are simple, quick to implement and are widely used in lessons at Venture which enables students' familiarity and proficiency in utilising them.

There are even personalised videos that explain how to use the strategy which can be accessed via the VEP or using a 'device' to scan the QR code on the Venture Vitals themselves.

Every student receives a paper copy of Venture Vitals that we suggest stays at home, this will aid them with extended learning set by their teachers and to provide for support for independent home learning.

If a paper copy is misplaced students can collect a new copy from the academy or download a digital version.

Total Recall Week

Ormiston Venture Academy recognises that our students are extremely knowledgeable and try their utmost to become effective independent learners. That's why we created 'Total Recall Week'.

Total Recall Week (TRW) is a celebration of our students' ability to retain core knowledge and an opportunity to show off Ventures' remarkable retrieval practises. This term the celebration will work similarly to the last Total Recall week.

Originally TRW started as a week of activities 3 times a year but due to its impact and success amongst students, it has seen its residency double this year. Every half term the students are given time during PL and normal lessons at Venture to hone in on strategies from their Venture Vitals and have opportunities to find out 'How students learn'.

So far 2 terms in, students have had conversations and explanations of the 'Forgetting Curve' and Atkinson & Shiffrin's 'Memory Model'. The 'Forgetting Curve' showed the optimal time scale to recall core knowledge and the 'Memory Model' demonstrated why we forget information and how to limit its impact.

We aim to educate pupils on the benefits of learning not only through school but in future life. It's not only helping Venture Students understand the importance of regular recall but making the process more engaging with different ideas to make recall fun.

This year we linked TRW themes to Venture Vital strategies and subject lessons. Our first TRW of the year challenged our brilliant English Team to discuss GCSE plays such as 'Hamlet' or 'Rome & Juliet' for a minute without stopping, hesitation or 'umming'. Our students were able to see their hilarious efforts (via youtube) and attempt it themselves in lessons throughout the week in a variety of different subjects.

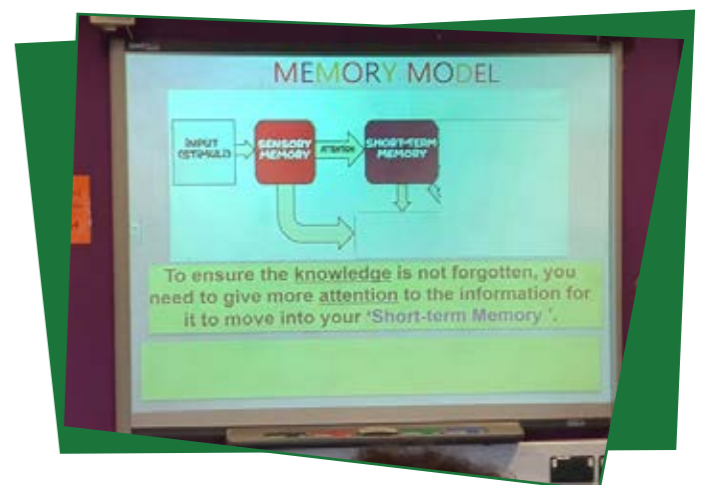


Our most recent TRW theme was 'Flashcards' and 'Maths', our resident numerical expert Mr Clark used this term Venture Vitals to demonstrate how to make the perfect Flash card in a quick informative video. Every TRW aims to offer opportunities for progression and engagement with knowledge.

Every PL still has the added challenge of competing for 'College Clash points' (our interschool college competition).

There have been some very competitive quizzes based on 'Lord of the Flies' (the classic novel that every PL is reading together) and 'CASH' lessons (Themes include 'Justice', 'Identity' etc).

TRW is embedded in 'The Venture Way' and of course our dedicated staff flood our students with extra praise and Venture Visas' to reward our spectacular students, it is what they deserve.



Sports News Round Up



Edition 31: Winter 2021

For the main college clash event Autumn term one we held a...

This was hugely popular with over a third of the year 7 year group in attendance.

Each student had a turn to represent their college to battle it out against their rival colleges. Innovate had a clean sweep across all year groups, however Achieve was very close in second place.



Innovate
Achieve
Aspire
Create

All the students had a great time. A year 8 student said...

"This is my favourite activity I've done this year at Venture"

Check out the VEP for upcoming college clash events.

College Clash

The New Union of Venture Students introduced themselves to the Venture student population via an online collective, to test and challenge the students to remember who they were and to have some fun, each member of the UVS posed with a household item.

The students then saw the pictures at high speed and had to try and remember as much detail as possible before answering some memory recall questions about the UVS.

The Union of Venture students have continued to raise spirits of the students via home college clash challenges. So far these have been as follows, create a poster on Chinese New Year, we also have a Pizza decorating competition as well as design your own valentine's day card.

We have had lots of great pictures and videos sent in from staff and students which shows how everyone is still enjoying being part of the Venture family even if it is from further away than what we would like.

The College Clash tables are being updated every week, with Create college zooming into an early lead. The winning college will get an awesome reward chosen by the UVS co-operative in consultation with the students.

