

Venture VOICE

Edition 33: Winter 2022

Stay Safe

Ormiston Venture Academy

[OAT]
AN OAT ACADEMY

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Aspire
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Innovate
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BEACH

Christmas Fayre

Ventures Elves spreading the fun

Question of the Week

The Venture Q&A relaunches

Venture Rewards

A photographic celebration

Sports Tournaments

Years 8 to 11 all in action

and so much more!

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'Scare us if you dare' LRC Competition

In the Learning Resources Centre, we love any opportunity to support or celebrate a special occasion.

'Scare us if you dare' was a writing competition that Venture's student librarians' created for all students to get involved with.

Students had to create a short story with a twist, leave our librarians wanting more, and all applicants certainly done that! Our student librarians gathered and took the difficult decision into choosing only one winner.

Alfie, Innovate 9A was this year's 'Spookcademy' winner with 'My Childhood Whispers'. Winning a £20 National Book Token and being celebrated in our Venture Voice!

On behalf of myself, and the Venture student librarians, we would like to thank everyone for participating.

We look forward to students being a part of many more competitions in the future.



My Childhood Whispers

This is a story that I do not tell often. I promise, sincerely, that this has scarred me for the rest of my life and although I have looked into psychological explanations for what I heard and natural explanations for what I saw and occurred. It still to this day remains a locked away mystery.

When I was a child, I was truly terrified of the dark. I swore to my mother that I heard voices. They were evil, and they were not familiar and so rightly they scared me. It was not uncommon in the middle of the night for me to wake up and hear "whispers" as I would call them when asking my mum. She figured they were just "little bumps in the night" and typical kids nightmare material, but I tried to explain to her that it was more than that, much more. They sounded different from one another the way people's voices do. On some nights I would get so scared from these "whispers" that I would sleep in my mum's bed with her. It was a lucky escape that the bathroom was directly outside of her bedroom door.

I should add at this point that when walking out into the hall to go to the bathroom, you were forced to look directly down the staircase that would lead you into the living room on the ground floor

(as my mum's bedroom was on the first floor). On one such night, around Halloween time, I awoke and felt the need to rush to the toilet. I quickly walked out from my bedroom door and distinctly heard the phrase "Look!" and to my astonishment, a red light, almost like a spotlight, was cast upon the wall at the very bottom of the stairs. The light had no other source, it was by itself, and I myself was transfixed by it.

I DID NOT know what this light was, so I started to pick up my pace after the second step as it began to creep off the wall and fade into the darkness in the living room.

That's when I heard him. A very strong, masculine voice. Different from the first. Not at all like my father's. It said, "Stop! Right now. Get back up the stairs." In a grainy possessed, demon like voice. I listened, and jerked around, and what happened next I am not sure I would believe if someone had told me this same story. After reaching the top of the stairs, I heard a very loud CRASH that sent me running back to my mother's bed where I jumped straight under the covers and stayed there the whole night, terrified.

When we awoke the next morning, the decoration lights (little Halloween pumpkin lights that glowed red) my mother had put on the railing down the stairs were pulled straight down to the bottom of the railings, some lay broken from what seemed like a forceful tear, laying in a single pile.

And the settee flipped onto its side standing straight up barely scraping the ceiling of the living room. My mother could not explain it!

My father was worried that we had been victims of a break in. My sister was pouring her eyes out. There was nothing missing, nobody had broken in, there didn't seem to be any reason why this had happened. And then I saw it, and I kept quiet about it because I was so afraid to the extent that I couldn't even force words out of my mouth and also that the thing which was in the living room that night would come back for me.

There, on the edge of the stained coffee table which had been facing up, were three indentations where the finish on the wood had been worn, almost as if in a forceful grip. Something down there had GRABBED IT AND THREW IT DOWN! That was what the big bang was.

I was mortified. After that night I never heard a single voice again even though I lived there till I was 17. I do not like to imagine what was waiting downstairs for me that night, if it was anything at all, but I can tell you that the reality was that something had physically acted upon those things in the house near the bottom of the stairwell that night.

After this, I had never heard another whisper again. Which is tragic, because in some ways I would have liked to thank the man that had stopped me from going down those stairs that one terrifying night. Remember now this happened when I was 7. I'm now 21 years old, and because of this occurrence I am still tremblingly afraid of the dark. ESPECIALLY shadowy stairwells. And I'm going back to visit my parents next month and I'm worried. Worried about, is this thing going to come back for me?

And most despicably what is it capable of?

What's going on at Venture Academy for 2022

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Keep up-to-date and follow us @OrmistonVenture from twitter.com

As we begin... ...our journey into 2022 it is impossible not to look back on last year and be proud of our community.

The resilience, determination and compassion our young people have shown throughout the past year has been nothing short of exceptional. The barriers we have faced throughout the year have been many and we find ourselves continuing to face further challenges as a community.

Despite this there has been a resilience from our students to not only overcome these at every step but to do it with a positivity and smile.

This has been remarkable to see and demonstrates the strength of character they all have.

Alongside this resilience there has been strong determination to continue to achieve their very best. They have worked hard to ensure that throughout any disruption or adversity they continue to shine.

The quality of work, the engagement in lessons and the sheer determination to do their best is such an impressive thing to witness each and every day.

All this is possible due to an ethos of togetherness.

A compassion running through the academy that understands, believes and supports each other. One that makes the culture full of support and unlocks potential.

Regards

Simon Gilbert-Barnham
- Principal



CHRISTMAS Fayre

What a way to conclude a fantastic week celebrating the festive period .

To really embrace this time of year, on Thursday, students were invited 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 is a fantastic climax to the UVS’s time leading student voice in the Academy. They love getting dressed up as elves and reindeers, and to give them credit, have been brilliant during another turbulent year.”



The Union of Venture Students (UVS) at Ormiston Venture Academy decorated the sports hall turning it into their very own grotto complete with disco lights, Christmas trees and of course Alex as Santa!

They donned elf, reindeer and Christmas themed costumes in aid of the annual Ormiston Venture Academy Christmas Fayre. Students had been busy selling raffle tickets with top prizes including a PlayStation 5 (kindly donated by CEX – Complete Entertainment Exchange) and a fantastic food hamper donated by Morrisons. They designed stalls, made festive treats and prepped hot chocolates ready for the rest of the Academy to enjoy.

The sweet treats, mock tails and Christmas themed games went down a storm as (socially distanced) students bopped along to their Christmas favorites belted out by the student led band. 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 10 dancers amazed the audiences with their Christmas themed performances.



The students at Venture are aware December is not only a time for Christmas but it is also a time when we need to look out for the most vulnerable members of our community.

This is why every December Venture holds a Christmas jumper day, where students are asked to donate an item of food to the local food bank, rather than pay the usual £1 fee that is distributed to charity.

Hundreds of items were donated again, showing the generosity of Venture students and their families.

Reverend Matthew Price from the St. Mary Magdalen church received the donations for the local food bank on the final day of term. Reverend Matthew said,

“The food bank has been seeing increasing demand in recent months, so we are so grateful to Venture.”

Mr Doggett, who is Director of Learning Cultures commented,

“Christmas is a wonderful time of year, but we are all aware that people are struggling and food banks are seeing more and more demand; especially during the pandemic. Our students have once again responded so positively to the annual appeal and we are pleased we can make a difference to the local community, in which Venture and the St Mary Magdalen church are the very hub of.”



Careers Afternoon

Ormiston Venture Academy in Gorleston dedicated a whole afternoon (and evening) to careers-based education on Thursday 21st October in order for students to consider their futures in more depth.

Mr McNally – Assistant Principal and careers lead, organised a strategic approach to careers education across the whole academy for the afternoon, where all students in years 7-10 took part in a range of activities focused on their pathways and futures.

Students discovered new and varied jobs, learnt about Further Education, apprenticeships, and Higher Education pathways. Students in years 7 & 8 learnt about career pathways from Mr Gilbert-Barnham (and his journey from Mullumbimby – the biggest small town in Australia, to Gorleston!), salaries of careers and character profiling which can lead to suggested careers.

Students in years 9 & 10 had the opportunity to write application letters for jobs and practice interview skills in their sessions as well. Students saw work experience clips from Stacey Dooley's nine to five series and from the Welsh comedian Rhod Gilbert on Youtube.

Students and their parents / carers had the opportunity to meet with their child's Personalised Learning tutor later in the evening as part of their Academic Review Day process - where their career choices could be explored further on an individual basis.

Students and parents were also able to research options by wondering through the Careers Fair in the corridors and the Learning Resource Centre at the Academy during the evening. Exhibitors from local Further Education and Higher Education providers were present alongside local employers and apprenticeship teams.

Assistant Principal Mr McNally commented that:

"The fair represented an opportunity to hear from expert professionals and discuss career pathways in real detail after initially identifying educational choices, pathways and potential careers earlier in the day. Events such as these demonstrate the impartiality of our careers programme, and links directly to the Gatsby Benchmarks – I would like to thank all the exhibitors who gave up their time to be part of this crucial event for our students."



Yr.9 Woman in Black road-trip

33 Year 9 Performing Arts students ventured into London and dared to face Susan Hill's acclaimed ghost story 'The Woman In Black.'

Stephen Mallatratt's stage adaptation is celebrating three decades in the West End. Through the intense atmosphere, illusion and controlled horror the students were able to witness the fantastic world of theatre production that they have been learning about realised on stage.

We came, we saw and we screamed!

Colette Smith, Teacher of Performing Arts commented "The trip was an amazing success and it was wonderful to have the opportunity to run a trip again after the last one for Performing Arts being February 2020. The students were amazed by the atmosphere in London, especially with the Christmas decorations around Covent Garden.

It is truly heart-warming to be able to take the students outside of their hometowns in Norfolk and experience the nation's capital as well as the home of theatre in England!"

Alanna in Year 9

"The London trip was an excellent experience. The atmosphere in the theatre and London was amazing. I really enjoyed this trip because it gave me a chance to see a different type of performance that was not musical theatre or dance based, as this is usually what I look for in a show. As a Performing Arts student it supported me in my understanding of how to apply drama skills in performance tasks. Overall, I loved this trip and would definitely go again!"



After a successful litter pick at the beach in previous years, the current Union of Venture Students and the ECO Team decided to continue their quest to clean up the community by completing another beach clean at Gorleston beach.

Over 30 students trawled the beach picking up multiple pieces of litter. On a lovely sunny day, the students played litter Bingo with a prize for the team that picked up the most litter. This definitely got the competitive juices flowing.

As the students were completing the clean a member of the public came to speak to us to see if he could join up to a larger movement in the local community. So by the students' kindness and actions it inspired others to do the same. A huge thank you goes to Great Yarmouth Green New Deal that helped and supported with this.

Venture and the Green New Deal have started a very successful partnership which hopefully will continue to flourish as time goes on.

Mr Waters (Assistant Principal) commented "The students are so passionate about their community it was incredible to see them getting so excited about helping the local community and the pride that they took in completing the job."

Maggie Brown – Great Yarmouth Green New Deal said "The students that helped are a huge credit to all staff and students at Ormiston Venture Academy. It was amazing to see how they inspired the local community to get involved and help."

Alex – Head Boy Ormiston Venture Academy "It was really enjoyable to take part in the beach clean and I think it's good for the community to have the pleasure of having a beach they can take pride in."

End of Term Celebration 2021

After a two-year absence due to Covid Restrictions, we were finally able to bring back our LIVE celebration collectives for end of the term.

At the end of every term, staff across the academy nominate a small number of students for effort and achievement in every subject.

Mr Doggett, Director of Learning Cultures commented, "Celebration Collectives at the end of term are something that we have greatly missed. We value the effort and contribution our students make every single day and recognise this in a variety of ways. We send postcards home, make weekly phone calls and of course hand out Visa points, but the end of term

Students are also celebrated for their level in reading, their attendance and number of Visa reward points they have received.

The most special award is announced last, with 4 winners carefully selected by their Assistant Principal and College Leader based on their academic success, effort across the academy and their contribution to the community beyond academy life.

The four students who received this honour on this occasion were;

- Megan
- Archie
- Edward
- Anna

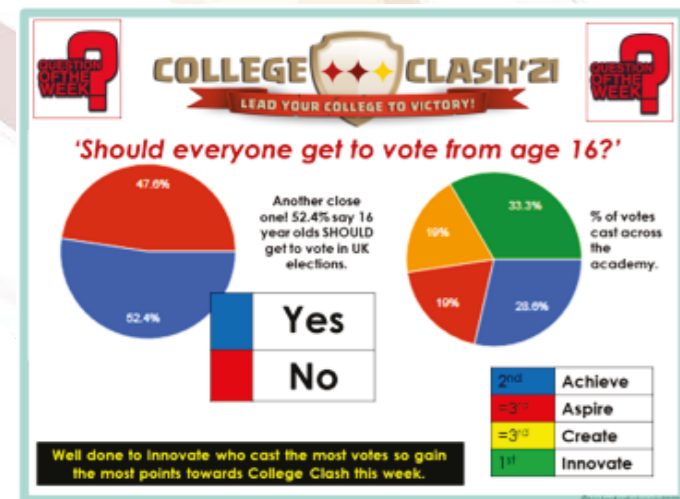


celebration collectives are where it all comes together for everyone to see that success and celebrate as a college. Virtual celebration collectives from a computer screen just haven't been the same and it was so good to see everyone together being able to applaud so many others for their hard work. What a wonderful way to finish the term before the Christmas holiday."

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 for the Academy.

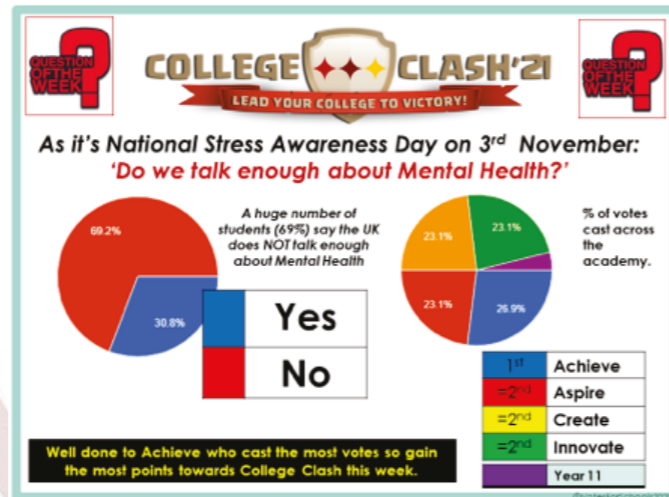
We call this, 'Question of the Week' and the question is linked to national events, topics that appear in the news and suggestions from our very own UVS.

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.



Question	Yes	No
Should everyone vote from age 16?	52%	48%
Should 'taking the knee' be supported by ALL sportspeople around the globe this year?'	69%	31%
Will Artificial Intelligence Improve Our Lives?	43%	57%
Does the UK do enough for charity?	52%	48%
Is November too early to put up Xmas lights?	32%	68%

Question of the WEEK



Mr Doggett, who established Question of the Week said, "Question of the Week gives students the opportunity to vote on a topic every single week and creates independent thinking and interesting discussion. It is great to see PL Groups debating the weekly issue and it's 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."

Some of the questions and results are listed below. Look out for them in the Spring Term as the Question of the Week continues.



Macey achieved a magnificent 6 gold medals (and one silver) during her gymnastics competition recently!

Macey attends the Split Leaps gymnastics club, and although she has only been there for 6 months, she cleared up winning the overall gold medal too! She performed on the bars, the beam, the floor, the track and the vault in her club competition excelling in all disciplines.

Macey joined the club in July, although did do some gymnastics beforehand starting at the age of 9. Her tumbling background and the skills she has developed through dance (which she started aged 3) have definitely helped her with the artistic aspects of gymnastics.

She was inspired by the Tokyo Olympics and plans to continue training and competing in 2022.

All the best of luck Macey, we are all very proud of you in Create.

George in year 8 decided to embark on a massive feat to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support.

He swam a mammoth 7 miles over the course of a week in the phoenix pool in Gorleston. Each mile was 64 lengths of the pool.

George swims for the Great Yarmouth swimming club and completed his achievement using a combination of front crawl and breaststroke techniques.

He felt compelled to do something for cancer research due to losing a family member to cancer not so long ago, and this motivated him to carry on swimming when times were tough. He didn't want others to go through what his family had to! He raised over £1,000 for the charity and was properly 'chuffed' with himself, although admittedly he did need a huge nap at the end of the week!

Congratulations, well done George, we are all so proud of you.

It just goes to show what an individual can achieve when they set their mind to something.



2022 Diary Dates

What's coming up at Venture Academy...

February 2022

Thursday 3rd February - Year 10 Parents Evening 3pm - 7pm
Tuesday 8th to Thursday 10th February - Beauty and the Beast Show - 6pm
Thursday 24th February - Year 8 Parents Evening - 3pm - 8pm

March 2022

Thursday 10th March - Year 9 Parents Evening - 3pm- 8pm
Thursday 31st March - Students break for Easter Half Term - 2.35pm

April 2022

Friday 1st April - Staff Training day
Friday 1st April - Monday 18th April - Easter Break
Tuesday 19th April - Students return to the academy at 8.25am

May 2022

Monday 2nd May - Bank Holiday

Keep up-to-date and follow us @OrmistonVenture at twitter.com

CREATE SPOTLIGHT



The Union of Venture Students have conducted another hugely successful charity bake sale.

The bake sale was organised by the academy's Union of Venture Students (UVS) in aid of the Macmillan Cancer Support charity.

On the day, students and staff brought in a large selection of cakes that they had baked at home. Then at break time, the students set up a stall to sell their cakes for 50p each, with the chocolate brownies proving to be a clear favourite.

Impressively, all the cakes and baked goods sold out during the break, which meant all the students had a chance to eat their sweet treats and listen to some upbeat music that the UVS had organised.

After a quick re-stock, the UVS reconvened their bake sale after school, as the Academy opened its doors to community members who came in to share a coffee and a cake with students and each other.

Following a day of hard work and determination, the UVS raised a fantastic £210 to be sent off to the charity. Everyone across the academy had a great time at the bake sale, and the students were very proud to have raised the money for such a worthy cause.

Ian McNally, Assistant Principal at Ormiston Venture Academy said: "The UVS students really wanted to show their support and knew a bake sale would go down a treat. It was lovely to see them interact with the younger students and the community members who managed to come in and share a drink and a natter with us at the end of the school day".

Shoebox Appeal 2021

Students at Ormiston Venture Academy, have been supporting young people in Eastern Europe and Africa through their annual shoebox appeal.

Following the launch of this year's shoebox appeal, students across the academy have been busily packing items ready to provide some Christmas cheer for those less fortunate. The Samaritans 'Operation Christmas Child' is where shoeboxes full of gifts are created and then delivered to children who need them most, as Christmas presents.

A shoebox gift provides a connection between different cultures, backgrounds and nationalities. It bridges the gap between those who have something to give and those 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 again in 2021.

With 2020 being such a difficult year for everyone, the Samaritans 'Operation Christmas Child' Appeal was 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.

Students, teachers, administration staff and parents packed an impressive 43 shoeboxes that were then delivered to the local drop off point in Norwich. The whole Ormiston Venture community was 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.

With the shoeboxes from last year arriving in Romania for Christmas, everyone at the academy is excited to see which country they will be helping in 2021.

Spencer 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 after the pandemic. Despite another tough year for our own communities here on the East Coast, we have managed to pull together and hope 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 2021"



Year 8 and 9 students at Ormiston Venture Academy, have received vital first aid training.

The students took part in the training sessions that were run by Nigel Wildman from the British Red Cross, over a two week period. The intensive training covered the core aspects of first aid, including helping the students to identify which personal qualities they have that are great for helping others in an emergency.

The training included various vital practical sessions, including one on how to deliver CPR and using an Automated External Defibrillator (AED). All of the students were incredibly well engaged and loved being able to be hands on, doing CPR on Resusci-Anne's and getting to use practice AED's. This gave the students not only the skills but the confidence to use these techniques in a real-world situation.

Following on from the training, the academy plans to offer all their Venture Ambassadors the opportunity to train as First Aid Champions. The training is a certificated online course set up by the British Red Cross that will build on the basic skills the students have already



been given and will further develop their abilities and confidence in first aid.

Providing the students with this vital opportunity has been a fantastic way to support not just those at Venture Academy but will also help to keep the wider community safe. Overall, the training was a great success and has ensured that students are now prepared in the case of an emergency.

Year 9 student Jessica said: "It was amazing to find out how to save a life and really good training."

Year 9 student Kayleigh said: "It is good to know what to do if you find yourself in that situation, with your parents or other family members in particular."

Owen Cooper, Head of Student Support at Ormiston Venture Academy, said:

"This training was a fantastic opportunity for our students to learn the basics in first aid. It is so important that everyone has basic first aid training to allow them to have the skills and the confidence to deal with situations in a calm and responsible way. Hopefully, the students will never have to use these skills but if they do, then they will have the key knowledge to be able to save a life."

Community Donation

Bill and Sue Richmond, from the local community donate their Resusci Annie

Here is their story:
Heart Start and Basic Life Support/CPR

During the late 1980's in Malvern, Worcestershire where Sue and Bill lived and worked, a Doctor M Colquhoun was investigating how members of the public could be trained in Basic Life Support in an emergency.

In 1994 Dr Colquhoun, Bill and Sue along with some ambulance personnel launched Heart Start Malvern to train local groups and organisations in the skills of CPR. With time the British Heart Foundation took this under their wing and groups were formed over the UK to expand this training to anyone who needed it.

In 2000 Bill and Sue had retired and moved to Belton and after a short while started another local training group Heart Start Belton. This coincidentally was the 500th group formed in the UK.



After several years the basic life support techniques changed and updated and we stopped our local training as it was now being handed to St John, The Red Cross and Ambulance organisations.

Bill said

"It is so pleasing to see how Ormiston Venture Academy are now continuing the training to their students, a skill that will be with them for the rest of their lives."

It's all about the REWARDS...

Venture celebrates students successes in many ways and here are some of the ones from last term.

To celebrate the last of the summer Funtastic Friday Students could use 10 visas to get an ice cream. Just what you need on a hot day.

Jaime won the first chocolate bar of the year from the Venture vaults. Students can cash in 20 visa points to have a go on the vault. If they are really lucky they could win one of our £5 Amazon vouchers too.

Friday Postcards, each week staff will choose a student and send a postcard home to say how awesome they have been and they also earn 5 visas too. So watch out for the postman.

Lucky Dip cards are handed out by teachers for following the Venture Way. Eloise won a £5 gift card on the Lucky Dip cards at Summer School.

To celebrate National Teaching Assistant day on the 16th of September students could use 10 visa points to send a Teaching Assistant a Thank you card.

World Heart Day on the 29th September was celebrated through Funtastic Friday with jelly sweet hearts!

To celebrate International Animal Rights Day on the 12th October Funtastic Friday had yummy Chocolate Animal Biscuits!

To celebrate Halloween in the half term break Funtastic Friday on 22nd.

October students could grab themselves a Halloween Goodie Bags for 30 Visa points.

Pleasurewood Hills kindly donated some park entrance tickets which we popped in the Venture Vault, students could to win 2 tickets to the park by cashing in 20 visa point. What a wonderful day out they could win.

This year we hosted "A Merry Little Christmas Party" for students at the academy with 95% attendance and always conducting themselves in the Venture Way with Bingo, charades, party food and hot chocolate.



Vault Winner

Pleasurewood Hills Ticket

Vault Winner

World Heart Day

Thank you for spending your Venture Visa
Curry Flavoured Crisps
08th October
National Curry Week

Leavers Celebration



It has been a challenging 18 months that have seen two year groups leave us in less than ideal circumstances.

We as an academy couldn't be prouder of how the class of 2020 and the class of 2021 handled the challenges that the pandemic put in their way. Throughout they have shown such great resilience and positivity to ensure that they still made the most of the opportunities they had.

In March 2020 we stood in front of the senior year with no idea what was about to unfold in the coming months. We were shocked when the first set of exams were cancelled and were absolutely gutted that the usual leaver celebrations that we hold as an academy couldn't take place for them. We promised them that we would celebrate when the time was right.

I don't think we ever imagined that we would still be uncertain of how and when we would be able to fulfil that promise a year later, and that the uncertainty would be impacting on the leavers celebration of a second year group. We thought we had a window in July 2021 with the removal of restrictions to host an event.

We decided that after such a difficult period for so many financially, and to ensure as many people who would want to attend as possible could, that we would change our normal leaver celebration and host a 'Grill & Thrill' event for both the class of 2020 and 2021 that would be completely free and open to all.



It would include a bbq, dj, bumper cars and fair ground games and would be outside to allow us to have more chance of holding it. Unfortunately a delay to the roadmap out of restrictions meant we had to postpone the event once more, although this time not for long, and rather than the event taking place in July we finally held it in early September before students went back to college.

Those who came had a great time enjoying the Zaks Diner burgers and hot dogs, ice creams and competing on the dodgems, although not many outdid the science department who were crowned unofficial dodgem champions. It was lovely to see so many students from both years come back to celebrate with each other and the staff, and whilst maybe not in the format we thought we would when the promises were made in 2020, we were glad that we could hold onto the promise to celebrate with them.

For the class of 2020 it was amazing to hear all their success stories and what they were now doing both in and out of education, and we look forward to hearing similar from the class of 2021 over the coming year as we wish them all the best as they transition to college.



Women of the future conference

On Thursday 25th November a group of ambitious year 10 females attended a STEM based conference for women at the John Innes centre. STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) and related careers have traditionally been dominated by males, so for these students to see and hear from successful females in the industry was really inspirational.

Ormiston Venture Academy students took to the stage to assist with an experiment and became mini volcanologists! Whilst also learning about famous women in STEM across the ages, students saw firsthand, live demonstrations of splitting light rays, the movement of air, making music with waves and twisted bands assisting in engineering projects.

PhD students and the head of research from the University of Nottingham lead key note speeches to the delegates illustrating their life stories, career pathways and achievements in STEM. Students were able to speak with current university students regarding their courses and career ambitions in small groups.

Assistant Principal Mr McNally commented that: "It was such an insightful event that really opened the students' eyes to STEM based pathways post Venture. Although it also demonstrated to the girls that they can achieve the highest of accolades in any industry they choose to go into with the right drive".



BUS OF THE FUTURE

School children entered a 'design a bus of the future' competition.

The winner got their design displayed on one of first great yarmouth's buses. An innovative challenge was put out by Great Yarmouth Lions Club and First Eastern Counties to local School children in Great Yarmouth to design a 'bus of the future'.

Over 300 entries were received from children in age groups 5 to 11 and 12 to 16 across Great Yarmouth. The competition inspired lots of creativity, imagination, talent, weird and wacky ideas that were depicted in their pictures.

It is inspiring to see how children's vision portrays what a bus will look like in 50 years' time, will it be weird and wacky then, probably not!

Two winners were successful in being selected from the 300 entries, a student from Ormiston Herman Academy and Ashnetha from Ormiston Venture Academy, both based in Gorleston. Each of the winners have had their winning poster design put on the back of a bus and were presented with a £50 voucher and a gift.

Russ Smith, Ops Manager at First Great Yarmouth said: "We have been working with the Lions now for several years and its always great to be part of their community projects. Judging the competition was really hard as the entries were of such a high standard and very colourful, I would like to thank all the entrants to the competition for their contributions".

Sonya Smith – Youth Officer of Great Yarmouth Lions Club said:

"This was just an idea I had while we were all in lockdown and it's great to see the posters being displayed on the buses. Each time I see the bus go past I will be checking if it's got a poster on the back".





ECO Team & Great Yarmouth Green New Deal

After a successful litter pick at the beach in Autumn term 1 the Union of Venture Students and the ECO Team decided to continue their quest to neutralise Venture's carbon footprint by planting 78 trees at the front of the academy.

From the UVS actions they have already offsetted over 50% of the academy's printing output with plans for more trees to be planted in the future.

It was a very cold and wet day but this didn't deter the students from getting their spades out, digging holes, carefully planting the trees and hedgerows, and gently covering them with a protective case to stop wildlife and weather from affecting the success of the project.

A huge thank you goes to Great Yarmouth Green New Deal that helped and supported with this project sourcing the trees from the National Woodland Trust. Venture and the Green New Deal have started a very successful partnership which hopefully will continue to flourish as time goes on.

These events are a joint effort in partnership with completing the ECO Schools award. At Venture we have obtained the Bronze and Silver ECO Schools Award by completing litter picks, tree planting, creating a nature garden and making the school more ECO friendly in regards to the amount of recycling bins we have at the academy.



We were due to complete our Green Flag Award however due to COVID 19 this has been delayed but still something the Union of Venture Students are passionate about completing.

Mr Waters (Assistant Principal) commented

"The students are so passionate about their community and environment it was great to see them actively taking a role to affect positive change for the community and Venture Students."

Maggie Brown – Great Yarmouth Green New Deal said:

"It was so lovely to see the passion that the students showed in regards to such an important issue. The students have left a legacy for the rest of the community to admire."

Mollie – Head Girl commented

"My friends and I had such a great time planting all the trees. I know becoming more environmentally friendly is a priority for all students so being able to take the lead on this was a real privilege and really good fun."



Year 9 Computer Science Students Visit Bletchley Park Museum

The Computer Science Department at Ormiston Venture Academy took 85 year 9 students to Bletchley Park.

We split into 3 groups to do a carousel of activities around the park. These consisted of a guided tour of some of the key exhibits around the 20 acre site. A workshop on codebreaking, using techniques they used during the war, and free time to visit the many exhibitions around the site.

We saw how Bletchley Park, a country estate, was secretly chosen to be a wartime base and how GC&CS began urgently preparing to increase its peacetime workforce of around 150 in order to cope with the huge codebreaking task that was coming to over 6000.

Some of the groups watched an incredible and moving cinematic experience exploring Bletchley Park's secret D-Day role. On 6 June 1944, the largest amphibious landing in history was launched by the Allies. D-Day, codenamed Operation Overlord, saw tens of thousands of Allied troops land along the heavily fortified Normandy coastline.

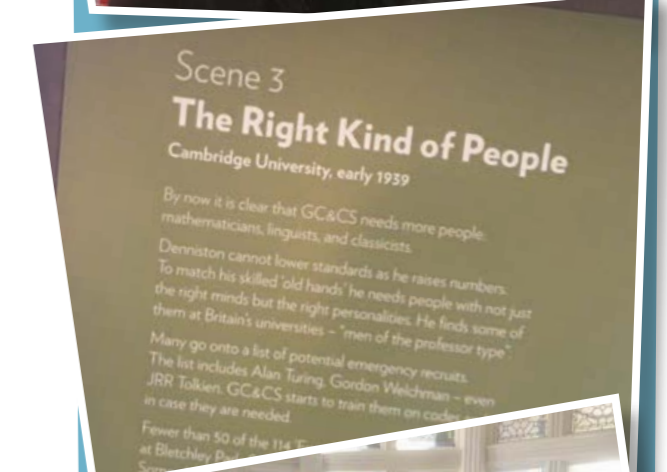
Students observed the exhibit of Alan Turing, one of the most well-known Codebreakers to have worked at Bletchley Park. For the early part of the war, he was Head of Hut 8, working on decrypting German Naval Enigma messages. In this display, we discovered more about his genius at Bletchley Park, his later work on computing and his ongoing legacy today.

We saw the largest and most comprehensive display of Enigma machines in the world, we saw different models and learnt how this fiendish cipher machine worked. Enigma machines were used to encode messages before and during World War Two.

Owen Cooper, Computer Science Teacher and Trip Organiser said of the trip

"It was an incredible and moving trip, as a Computer Science Department we were obviously mainly interested in the Enigma Machine and how the development of this helped shape computing in the modern world. However, the cross curriculum aspect that linked with History was amazing."

Both the students and the staff that went learnt so much, and also found out some amazing "Secrets" about Bletchley park that not many people will be aware of. This is a trip that we would love to repeat yearly and would like to take the opportunity to thank Bletchley Park for being so accommodating and also supporting the trip with a bursary."



Maidee & Lola ASPIRE SPOTLIGHT

Recently both Maidee and Lola have performed in 'Alice in Wonderland' at the Stage Door Youth Theatre in Gorleston.

They have performed in 3 shows recently over the course of 1 weekend, where they danced, acted and sang as the Mad Hatter (Maidee) and Tweedle Dumb (Lola).

The girls said, *"It was so much fun for us, especially with weird dances. We would definitely recommend it to others who are thinking of performing."*



Yr10 Photography Trip

On Thursday 16th September, nineteen Year 10 Photography students & three members of staff (Mr Clarke, Miss Cornwell & Mrs Latchford) went on an amazing day trip to Holkham and Sheringham to take natural landscape photographs as part of their GCSE Photography Landscape unit.

We all boarded the coach at 8:30am from Venture on a gloriously sunny day and headed straight to North Norfolk. Many of the students had never been to either Holkham or Sheringham before so this was a great opportunity for them to explore and experience other areas of our beautiful county.



We arrived at our first destination a little after 10:15am and headed down to the woodland, salt marshes & beaches of Holkham Nature Reserve. Students were given a brief to take photographs of the different types of natural landscape photography (representational, impressionistic & abstract) using the formal elements & composition rules of photography they have learned about so far in Years 7, 8 & 9.

Once briefed students went off, explored, and wasted no time getting in among the trees, marshland & sand dunes. The children seemed to enjoy the vastness of the beach and the big beautiful skies in Holkham as this translated into some beautifully taken photographs by the students. After 2 hours of frolicking in nature and happy snapping, we headed back to the coach and off we went to our next destination, Sheringham.

Things got interesting on the way to Sheringham. Our coach came head to head with another on one of the back roads in Stiffkey and with other cars following close behind; we ended up at a standstill with neither coach being able to pass.

After 10 minutes of no movement, Mr Clarke took it upon himself to get out of our coach and encouraged cars to reverse back so our coach could pass and we could continue on our merry way. Apart from one or two disgruntled drivers having to execute some "precision" driving, it all went rather smoothly and we were back on track in no time.

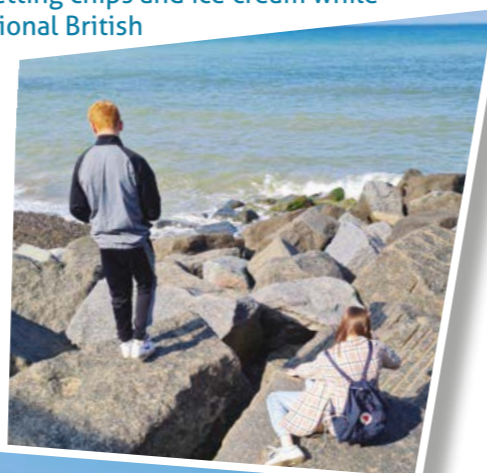
We arrived in a busy, bustling Sheringham & walked down to the seafront, past the quaint independent



shops and attractions to get photographs in stark contrast to Holkham. A much stonier beach & high tides made for some interesting shots from the students. An hour was ample enough time for students to get the

photographs they needed so with the remaining time we had before the coach was due to pick us up we all enjoyed an hour getting chips and ice cream while taking in the traditional British seaside scenery.

All the students were amazing throughout the entire day and were a credit to themselves and the Academy.



ACHIEVE SPOTLIGHT

Ryan always gives 100% effort at Venture. He is making great progress in his Year 9 studies and is currently enjoying his greatest successes in History and Geography.

Outside of the classroom, Ryan has discovered an amazing talent for something very special indeed; dog agility training. Following in the footsteps of Mum Nicki, Ryan began training with dog Mitsi around three years ago, at age ten and has been training with the seven year old Jack Russell every week ever since. Ryan has competed in competitions in Lowestoft, Great Yarmouth, Snetterton and Ipswich.

But it was at the Suffolk Show ground where he won his first title. This was back in August 2021 and titled "Agility dog of the year". Ryan went on to win this junior event, giving himself and Mitsi the prestigious award of 'Agility dog of the year' which automatically qualifies him to attend an event held at the world's largest dog show "CRUFTS" in March 2022, to be held at the N.E.C indoor arena in Birmingham.

Following this first title, in November Ryan was contacted by the Young Kennel Club UK, to invite him and Mitsi to try out for Team GB. Ryan is very happy to have been given these opportunities at such a young age.

Mum Nicki says, "Myself and all Ryan's family are very proud of how hard he has worked on training himself and Mitsi to such a high standard."

Ryan is overjoyed at the success he has gained in 2021 and says, "It's crazy, but feel I deserve it because my Mum has told me to 'never give up and if you keep going, you can achieve great things.' It's working."

Ryan's College Leader Mr Ives said, "Ryan is a great lad and is a polite young man who is smashing it."



Achieve's Assistant Principal Mr Doggett added, "It is always great to see our students combining their talents with their academic success. We are privileged to have Ryan within Achieve and we were very proud to see him do so well outside of school. Everyone at Venture wishes him well for the competition in March next year, when we'll all be rooting for him and Mitsi at Crufts."

NOVEMBER SAW THE RE LAUNCH OF ENRICHMENT GUILDS AT ORMISTON VENTURE ACADEMY.

Every student in years 7-10 were able to choose from a huge range of guilds – 29 in fact, to study for 4 weeks on a Wednesday afternoon. Guilds are designed to introduce or develop skills and activities to students and provide opportunities for them to follow their passions. Guilds included chess, a fitness boot camp, Friends, linguistics and building a nature garden amongst many others lead by the staff at the Academy.

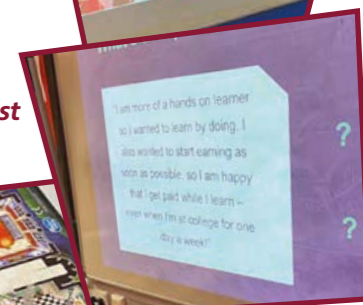
East Norfolk sixth form and Miranda Shaw from NEACO also contributed to the guild choices leading activities on Further and Higher Education as well. Students had an amazing time learning new skills, developing key employability skills such as teamwork, communication and leadership as well

as exhibiting their competitive nature in guilds such as beat the cube, football and cricket!

Staff commented that it was so nice to have groups comprising of students from different years together once again post covid restrictions.

Assistant Principal Mr McInally commented that:

"The staff have really put together an exciting, eclectic mixture of enrichment activities for our students to discover new talents and develop some really key skills whilst importantly having fun!"



GRESHAM'S Residential

The students have had an amazing first day. They have got to experience the new Dyson centre, where they have had Chemistry, (Jackson is growing some bacteria) Physics.

They have also got to experience DT and they really enjoyed it. They are all very impressed with the Dyson building and that all walls are whiteboards. Jackson food review, the hash browns are amazing. Haha...

Day 2: We started the day with Science, we had Biology this time. The confidence our students showed in putting their hands up to answer questions is amazing. It was also lovely to see Lilly chatting with a group of Gresham's students as they were trying to remember the photosynthesis equation ($6CO_2 + 6H_2O \rightarrow C_6H_{12}O_6 + 6O_2$) and working as a team. Where we have blocks of Physics, Chemistry and Biology, Gresham's have them all in the same week, the students said both ways work well.

Jackson and Gracie took part in a history lesson, where they discussed/ debated the Cuban Missile Crisis.

Oscar went to a Spanish lesson, which he really enjoyed and said it was very similar to a Spanish lesson at Venture and he knew all the answers.

Ruby went to art and did some stencil work which we are going back tomorrow to spray paint.

We then had PE this afternoon, the boys had a taste of Rugby and the Girls did Hockey.

We are off to watch the rehearsal of the little shop of horrors starring our very own Julianna, tonight.

Jacksons Food review Carrots are back on the menu (which I have to agree they are amazing) and the Chocolate cake is awesome. Although I don't think 4 sausages for breakfast is a balanced diet, but hey who am I to talk.

The students are having an amazing time and an every member of staff I have spoken to say how wonderful they all are and what a pleasure it is to have them in class.

Day 3: Back to a full day of lessons, we have had Art and Science, Maths and Languages.

Jackson did an experiment to see which Antibiotic would help fight our bacteria.

Ruby screen printed in art, although I think she enjoyed the cleaning of the screens more. Change Oscar's blazer and you would think he was a Gresham's student, he has fully embraced the experience.

We can't believe how quick the week is going.

Jacksons food review, The crispy chicken was amazing, and the pancakes for breakfast were really nice with the bacon.



Day 4: Firstly I would like to say what amazing students we have, and it had been an absolute honour to chaperone them. When I'm in the staff room (or even walking about) staff members are constantly coming to me and saying what a pleasure it is to have them in their class, they have all done Venture proud.

Another fantastic day, more science (I swear it's all they do) and I went to a music lesson with Lilly, who played the drums, the class had 4 girls and they played and sung "All I want for Christmas".

We then had a quick lunch and went into Holt. The students found everything very expensive, ask Gracie how much the ice cream was "PER SCOOP".

As a special treat we stopped and had fish and chips, at Eric's and we even tried battered Mars bars (I'm not a fan) it was really nice to sit down as a group and discuss our experience from the week.

Jacksons Food review, today we had roast gammon and it was lush. Although I think the brownie and cookie he bought in town was pretty amazing.

Final day is complete, we are now in the taxi driving home.

We have had a lovely morning at the shooting range. Oscar was the highest score with 97, I was a close 2nd with 96.



They have all had a wonderful time, and can't wait for the scholarship next year.



Venture's games room is now located downstairs in the Create corridor and is looking new, bright and fresh.

The students gaming room has three consoles, Nintendo Switch, Xbox One and a brand new PS5, with games such as Mario Kart, Fifa and Rocket League. This awesome room also hosts a half table tennis table, along with a pool table and two foosball tables.

We hold a selection of board and card games to come along and play with friends and lets not forget our comfortable chill out zone. There really is something for everyone!

To access to this fantastic opportunity the students need a games room pass.

They can gain this by earning an Instant Pass given out by staff to those students that are day in day out representing 'The Venture Way', students can also win a gamesroom passes on one of our Lucky Dip cards. Or cash in 40 visa points by going to student reception and seeing the wonderful Mrs Latchford at break time.

The games room is open every lunch time at 12pm or at 2.35pm on Wednesday and Friday's.

"We look forward to seeing you there, young gamer."

INNOVATE SPOTLIGHT

Harley in Innovate Year 9 is an essential member of the Venture Rugby Team not only as a key player, but with his skills and knowledge of the game he also supports with coaching of the team.

Outside of the academy Harley regularly plays for the Lowestoft and Great Yarmouth Rugby teams. Harley is a credit to the academy and community.





Year 8, 9, 10 & 11 Netball tournament

The year 9 team started off this year's tournaments at Lynn Grove with a bang, winning two games, drawing one and only having one loss against five other local schools.

Sienna was on fire with her incredible one footed on the move layup shots which found the net each time. It was a really spirited effort from the girls.

Year 8's had their first competitive game together as their progress has been hampered by the COVID break, however they got off to a great start winning two and losing two games. Similar to Sienna, Saule was finding the net with her amazing shooting regularly and topped off an amazing team effort.

Yr.8 Team: Daisy, Abigail, Taylor, Saule (STAR PLAYER), Elisha (CAPTAIN), Poppy, Kacey, Ilyssa

Yr. 9 Team: Isla, Alanna, Daisy, Emilyya (CAPTAIN), Sienna (STAR PLAYER), Skye, Emily

Yr. 10 Team: Esmee (STAR PLAYER), Fraia (CAPTAIN), Rubie, Phoebe, Jessica, Sienna, Alivia, Romanym & Gracie-Mae.

Yr. 11 Team: Emilia (CAPTAIN), Isobel (STAR PLAYER), Lauren, Amber, Nicole, Summer, Savannah-Sky and Maddison.



"It was great to see 17 different teams attend these tournaments from 6 different schools in the area and give the students the opportunity to get back into competitive sport. This is the reason I chose to teach." Miss Ermini.

Year 9 Football tournament



Great Yarmouth hosted the first 6-a-side football tournament of the year on Monday 4th October 2021.

The year 9 boys team (complete with a Covid call off the night before) entered with optimism and a new kit!

The team played 5 matches beating Flegg High Ormiston Academy and Great Yarmouth Charter Academy, drawing with Caister Academy and Lynn Grove Academy and only narrowly losing to Ormiston Cliff Park Academy.

The results concluded with a 3 way draw at the top of the mini league. Happily, due to the number of goals the team scored, Venture were crowned overall champions and received large round of applause.

Connor led the team superbly with notable mentions to Keegan for standing in as goal keeper at the last minute and Archie and Brodie for their ability to find the net!

The other team members included Alex, Kai, Taylor and George who were all excellent.

The girls' team had never played together before and finished in a credible third place in their first competition. Poppy, played up a year and Sienna was fantastic throughout.

Miss Ermini who took the teams over said she was so pleased to see competitive interschool sport resuming and was very proud of how both teams conducted themselves and represented the Academy with enthusiasm.



The U14 and U16 Netball team both competed at a netball tournament on Tuesday 19th October.

The U14s star player was Emeliya, although they all played brilliantly and worked really hard. They finished in 3rd place. The U16s star player was Maddison who did some fantastic defending against a county level opponent.

They beat Ormiston Flegg Academy and Lynn Grove Academy and finished the tournament in 2nd place. This means they qualify for the Norfolk County vFinals on Saturday 6th November.

This is the 8th year in a row that a Venture team has qualified for these finals. The U16 team are excited to compete at the higher level at the UEA next month.

Under 14s Rugby Tournament



The rugby squad from Ormiston Venture Academy entered the emerging schools 10-a-side rugby tournament hosted by North Walsham Rugby Club during September with optimism.

Even missing two key players (Ethan and Harley) through Covid and injury, Venture were able to call up a strong squad.

The likes of Dexter, Blake, Hunter, Fletcher, Alfie and Oscar have been training for a good few years now and led the team fantastically.

The team came up against a strong Wymondham High A team (who made it to the finals) in their first game and also came unstuck against Netherd, but recovered to put on impressive displays against Reephram and KES winning both games.

In the last two games Venture narrowly lost to Aylsham before ending the competition with a comprehensive victory against Wymondham High B team team.

Ronny ended as top try scorer, with Hunter, Keegan, Alex, Jude and Dexter also crossing the line.

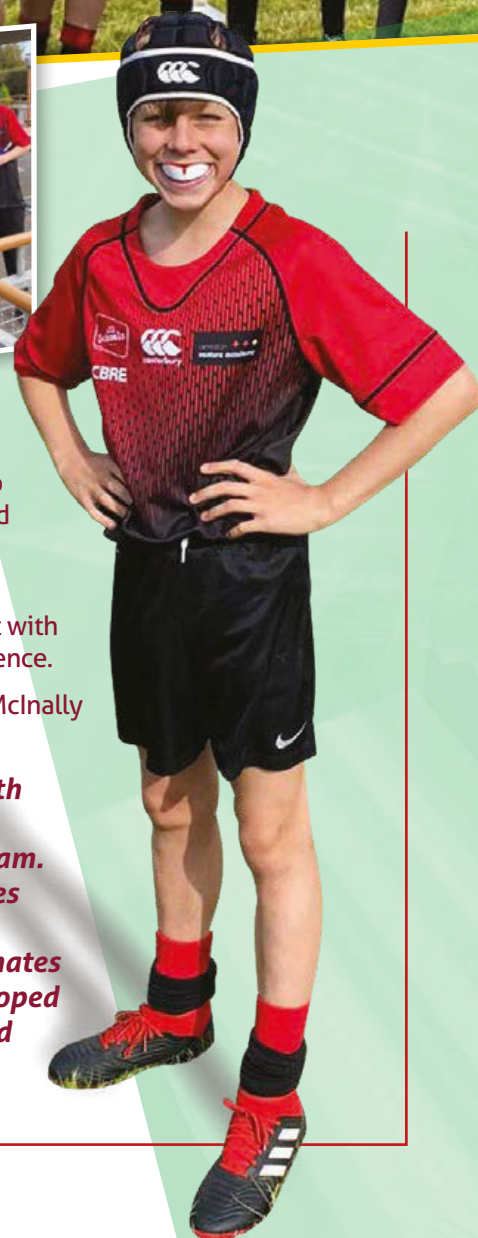


The boys enjoyed a good sing a long on the mini bus on the trip home and a well earned Mcflurry!

All are looking forward to the next tournament with a real degree of confidence.

Assistant Principal Mr McNally commented that:

"The lads played with real commitment and worked as a team. Rugby demonstrates just how much you rely on your teammates and the boys developed that sense of shared vision and togetherness."



Stay Safe
Team Venture!!!