

# Venture VOICE

Edition 35: Summer 2022

Stay Safe

Ormiston Venture Academy

[OAT]  
AN OAT ACADEMY



Venture Star Awards



# Fete RESULTS SUMMER SCHOOL

OAT's Got Talent

in the SPOTLIGHT

**Summer Fayre**

Fun in the sun

**Summer School**

Keeps getting bigger

**Results 2022**

Stunning students do it again!

**Prom 2022**

Incredible celebration evening

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Union of Venture Students



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# Venture Into Our Success

## OPEN EVENING 2022

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## What's going on at Venture Academy for 2022

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

### After a sun filled summer...

...it is exciting to welcome our students back to a new year.

Although we had some rain on our results day it didn't take the shine off the quite exceptional achievement of our students. Our students, staff and community have once again improved on some of the highest outcomes in the East

of England to achieve even better. It is a true testament to the grit, determination and dedication of so many that they have not only overcome the disruption of the last three years but have excelled. With such fantastic outcomes we look forward to the mark this group of young people will make on the world in the future.

Moving forward into the year ahead we as always have plans to continue to improve on our journey. With our ambitious curriculum for all children, innovative support and exciting enrichment opportunities

I have no doubt that our current students will be preparing to step into the world ahead to excel in their futures whatever pathway they choose.

For now however we are looking forward to enjoying each moment of the year ahead and the opportunity it brings to work alongside these wonderful young people of our community.

Regards  
*Simon Gilbert-Barnham*  
- Principal





## After school committment and an Exemplary Attitude to Learning Pays Off



Posh Tea and cake!

Each year at Ormiston Venture Academy we encourage our senior year students to take responsibility for their learning by committing to additional period 6 sessions in their core subjects.

Every year students talk about how much these help them in preparing for their exams, and whilst most do it for the intrinsic purpose of improving their learning it is always nice to reward their commitment.

Throughout the year prizes were given out to randomly selected students whose attendance to period 6 was excellent, those with exceptionally high attendance and excellent attitudes to their studies were rewarded with pizza lunches and a special Christmas Dinner but to cap the year off we wanted to do something a little larger.

In total, 50 students with the highest period 6 commitment levels and excellent attitudes to learning were invited to an Afternoon Tea at the Assembly Rooms followed by some Ten Pin Bowling in Norwich.

We wanted to mix something that most students haven't had the opportunity to experience, with the overwhelming majority trying an afternoon tea for the first time, but plenty having bowled before. We also managed to allow a bit of free time in the city in between the two activities. Having jumped off the train at Norwich station we worked up an appetite by walking up to the Assembly Rooms, where we had been reserved an entire function room to ourselves.

It was lovely to see the students sat round their tables enjoying the variety of savoury and sweet snacks, and to top off the experience Cody asked permission from the Assembly Rooms to play us a few songs on the Piano – once again showing off his incredible talent!

The afternoon tea had a jubilee theme and favourites were up for debate. The biscoff cheesecake seemed to be a winner alongside the chocolate tiffin, however Mr Richards was a big fan of the little cheese and pistachio biscuits!

There was plenty left over for students to pack up and take home to share with friends and families, although some may have been snacked upon at the bowling alley!

We walked as a group down to Riverside to have a game of bowling, Miss Tungatt winning the award for the most random but strangely successful bowling technique!

It was a lovely relaxed afternoon and a great way to end a really successful year for these students who should be proud of the attitudes they displayed in making the most of their senior year.

We can't wait to see it pay off in the most rewarding way of all on results day on the 25th August.



# Work Experience

This June saw the return of year 10's work experience week after 2 years of covid preventing it from happening. Over 130 students secured a meaningful placement for the week across Norfolk and even as far as London.

Companies such as Tesco, KLM, Fusion, Barnardos, Ford, Norwich City Football Club and Probe Oil were all enthusiastic to host and love to have Venture student's year on year.

Students' were visited throughout the week by the staff at Venture; both the employers and staff couldn't speak more highly of the students with some even gaining employment; one employer in their feedback said "If there was a job available, it would be offered to her!" Another stated, "He was a huge positive role model" and another expressed "Enjoys having Venture students- I believe it's crucial for students to gain experience and be given the opportunity"

It was a staff training day the Monday after, and students and business' enjoyed it so much they even went in for an extra day. 8 students all returned on Monday morning to the Bread Kitchen in Gorleston to gain even more time and experience. It was a brilliant end to a brilliant week

# SUMMER Barbie

On Monday 18th July, over 100 young people attended the inaugural Venture Summer Barbecue, as a reward for their fantastic attendance, attitude and engagement over the academic year.

In addition to consuming numerous burgers and hotdogs, students played a variety of games, culminating in 'catch the waterballoon'. It was amazing to share in the success of so many at the end of the academic year. Well done to all of the those students (and staff) who attended, and to all others whose success we have celebrated throughout the year.



## 2022 Diary Dates *What's coming up at Venture Academy...*

- September 2022**  
Thursday 29th September - Year 6 Open Evening 5pm - 7pm
- October 2022**  
Thursday 20th October - Academic review day  
All year groups 2.45pm - 7pm  
Friday 21st October -  
Students break for Autumn half term 2.35pm  
Half term Monday 24th October - Friday 28th October  
Monday 31st October -  
Students return to the Academy 8.25am
- November 2022**  
Friday 25th November - Staff INSET day

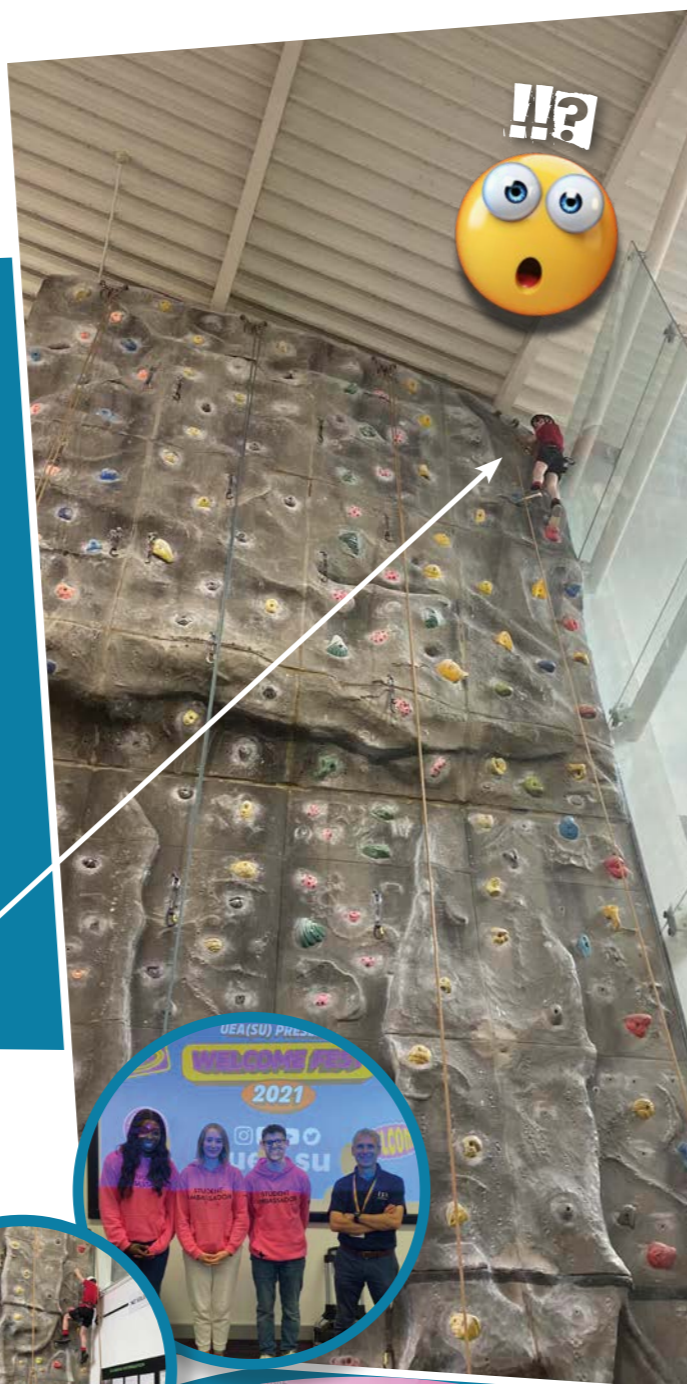
- December 2022**  
Thursday 8th December 3pm - 8pm - Year 11 Parents Evening  
Monday 12th December - A Merry Little Christmas Party  
Wednesday 14th December - Christmas Fayre  
Thursday 15th December - Christmas Dinner Day  
Thursday 15th December - Christmas Jumper Day  
Friday 16th December - Students Break for Christmas 12.20pm  
Half Term Monday 19th December - Friday 30th December
- January 2023**  
Monday 2nd January 2023 - Bank Holiday  
Tuesday 3rd January 2023 - Staff Inset Day  
Wednesday 4th January - Students return to the academy at 8.25am

## Year 7 students got the opportunity to visit the University of East Anglia as part of the Future Stars programme.

As a follow up to an initial presentation by the UEA outreach team earlier in the year, the year 7 boys had a guided tour of the campus – including an opportunity to see student accommodation in use, lecture and seminar rooms, social and sporting areas and the hub.

Students received presentations and workshops on Sport at the UEA, the Student Union and 'University Life'. UEA ambassadors were on hand to answer questions and were really impressed with the range of interests and talents Venture students already have, including golf, football, gaming and coding.

The group finished the day with an hour's tuition on the climbing wall in the Sports Park. Tyler and Charlie were the first ones to reach the very top!



The programme is designed to show younger students what university life is like and having the opportunity to look around a real university and see where students live and study has made this future more of a reality to the students.

Assistant Principal Mr McNally commented that: "The students have seen real life student accommodation and the different ways university students study firsthand which brings to life what they have heard and seen back at the Academy. The students were buzzing about starting their university life after this experience!"

# Sundaes in the Sun-2022



With the weather being so warm, the opportunity to bring back 'sundaes in the sun' was just too irresistible.

It was always going to be a popular reward for students with high attendance across the academic year, but with the humid weather was particularly well received. The event was held on the final Thursday, the day before students at Venture leave for their long summer holiday.

Following lunch in the Venture café, students had the chance to wander outside into the sunny playground and take their place in line to receive a delicious frozen treat of their design. Chocolate, toffee or strawberry sauce was poured generously over Cornish ice-cream by the fair hands of our very own Principal, Mr. Gilbert-Barnham, before being decorated with smarties, nuts and hundreds and thousands by Vice-Principals Mr Richards and Mrs Rossage.

Mrs Latchford, who works in the Learning Cultures office and helped to scoop the ice-cream commented,

"It was great to see students rewarded for having such great attendance at the Academy. The sundaes looked so delicious; most of the staff joined the queue."



**What a way to conclude a brilliant year at Ormiston Venture Academy.**

For the first time in 3 years doors were flung open for the community to join with us at our annual Summer Fete. Student led stalls ran along the perimeter of the playground and beyond as youngsters, staff and the community joined together.

Ice creams, fizzy drink and ice pops sold like, well 'hot cakes' and the sumo wrestling, top bins penalty shootout and face painting were huge hits.

The entertainment was provided by break-dancers and the 'Freshly Greated' group of singers as well as the Venture Vibe radio station pumping out hits – which Vinny the Academy mascot seemed to love!

The raffle proved a huge success once again and with prizes such as a British Cycling shirt signed by Sir Chris Hoy himself (courtesy of HSBC), a Nintendo Switch (from CEX) and a hamper of goodies (from Morrisons) as well as a scooter, and an Alexa, the people in attendance could see why.

Archie in year 7 won the Switch, Marley in year 8 won the cycling shirt and Mr Riches was the lucky recipient of the hamper.

The sun shone, wet sponges were thrown at teachers (as part of a stall!!!) including Principal Mr Gilbert-Barnham himself and burgers were devoured as the Academy reflected on our first full year back after Covid in style.

The Union of Venture Students (UVS) helped to collate prizes and sell raffle tickets leading up to the event and Mr Waters who leads them commented that...

**"It was so nice to see the whole Academy enjoying the afternoon and fully immersing themselves in the stalls and entertainment. We look forward to putting on more events next year as the student leadership roles in the Academy grow ever larger."**



# SUMMER SCHOOL

This year's Venture Summer School saw over 150 new year 7 students attend a range of sessions over a week of the summer holidays.



Each day students had a varied range of up to 6 sessions to choose from. Sessions included, Football, Dodgeball, Softball, Ultimate Frisbee, and Tennis.

This year we kicked things off with Monday Funday that saw students tackling giant inflatables which included an assault course, hungry hippos and inflatable axe throwing.



Those who preferred arts and crafts enjoyed Pom Pom making, Mask Making, decorating cards and gift boxes. Cookery meant that students got to practise their culinary skills by making chocolate oats, sausage rolls, cups cakes and pizza.

The wonderful world of photography was also enjoyed by many, with the week drawing to an end we finished off with a Celebration Assembly that was attended by parents and carers, and on the final day of the week all students and staff spend the day at Pleasurewood Hills

# RESULTS ACHIEVED 2022

We are so proud to be able to celebrate some exceptional achievements by the class of 2022.

They have shown incredible resilience and determination to make the most of their time at Venture despite disruption in the past two years to achieve some of the highest results the academy have ever seen, both individually and collectively.

- Mollie Speed is the first-ever recipient of the Nelson Scholarship, an award for fully-funded entry into Sixth Form at Langley School. Identified as a future leader, she succeeded after an arduous application and selection process modelled on a Graduate Training day.
- Daisy Abbotts-Freeman secured a scholarship to Evolution Foundation College in Colchester to study a Level 4 qualification in musical theatre.
- Every year one student at Venture is awarded the Gresham's Scholarship, a fully funded boarding scholarship to Gresham's School in Holt. After several stages of rigorous interviews, visits and tests Sama Abdulkawy secured this year's scholarship.



Simon Gilbert-Barnham, Principal said:

*"This group of young people are truly quite amazing. The exceptional outcomes are inspiring and have set a new benchmark for our community; going beyond our already outstanding achievements of previous years. It really is with pride that we wish them all the very best in their futures."*

*"I would like to thank our students for a fantastic five years, our staff for their commitment to champion every child, our parents for the support they continue to give and our community for the many partnerships that make it all possible."*

It is incredibly difficult to pick out such a small number when we could extend this list to so many notable achievements throughout the year group.

We hope this allows the overwhelming majority of our students to access the next step on the pathway to realising their dreams and cannot wait to hear of their future successes.

Whilst many will go on to study at East Coast College and East Norfolk Sixth Form, our students always strive to look for different opportunities to help them achieve their goals with several achieving scholarships to different institutions.



A number of areas of strength were highlighted in particular, including Student Voice, our rewards, the Venture Way itself and all communication with parents. The assessor concluded that,

**"Ormiston Venture Academy is a school where, students are noticed, pushed and encouraged to do well and succeed. It's a community school where they promote what they have to offer and take a true interest in students."**

**Ormiston Venture Academy has been awarded the Gold Standard for provision of Social Moral, Spiritual Culture.**

Through the extensive evidence on our provision for Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural education, the virtual verification and our student voice were key parts of reaching the Gold standard. Venture was also asked to make a video of everything we were proud of - a tough challenge to fit into just 30 minutes.

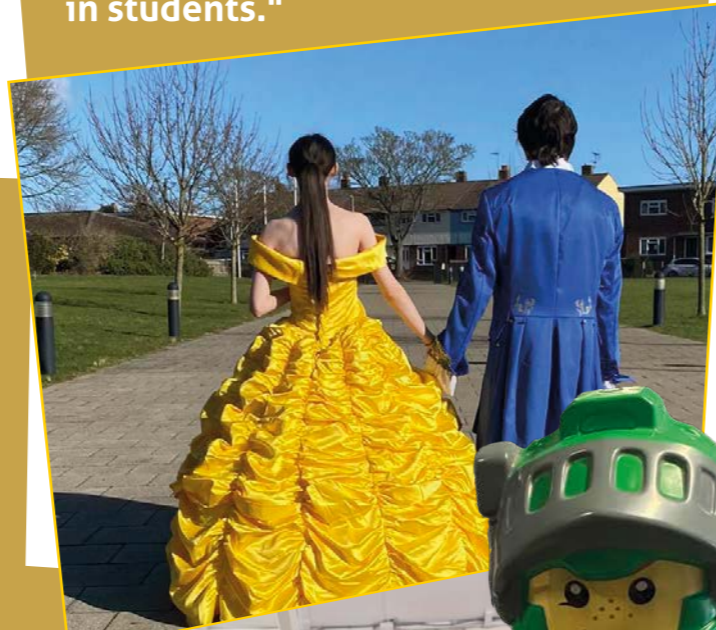
The verification process consisted of interviews with students, parents, Governors, Assistant Principals and Mr Gilbert-Barnham, Principal. The assessor from Young Citizens was truly amazed by what she learned about Venture and commented that opportunities afforded to pupils was outstanding in the academy.

When asked to describe their school in one word, students said,

**"Encouraging, incredible, fun, inspiring, supportive, unique, outstanding, rewarding, creative, achieving, respectful, communal and world class." One student went on to say, 'It's a school filled with opportunities and the facilities are excellent!'"**

Having spoken with governors and teachers, the assessor commented, 'Students have grown in confidence in themselves and their abilities and, most of all, in understanding their potential.' She later said, 'parents were heartwarmingly honest and positive about Venture Academy and used words such as 'fantastic' and 'helpful' when describing the school. One mum said,

**"The Venture Way is the happy way - it's part of their nature now!"**



**A busy time for our 'Rewards' crew**

First week back was a welcome back pencil case for a bargain 10 Visa Points

Trinity won a £5 gift voucher from the Venture Vault too.

Skyla, Year 7 and Karman, Year 8 won chocolate bars from the Venture Vault.

Wow a busy week this week. Another Venture Vault winner, a £5 Amazon voucher this time, well done Waylon. Year 7. This week's funtastic Friday was a No Diet Goodie bag, filled with sweets.

Emily, Year 8 won a chocolate bar from the Venture Vault.

Ilyssa, Year 8 won a £5 gift card from the Venture Vault.

**Venture Vault Winners:**

Laila (Year 8) won a £5 gift card, and then we had 4 chocolate bar winners Thomas (Year 8), Alfie (Year 9), Isabelle (Year 7) and Mahy (Year 7).

**Funtsatic Friday goodies** that students have been able to cash their Visa points in for:

- Spicy Crisps - 20 Visa | Popcorn - 20 Visa
- Fortune Cookie - 20 Visa | Croissant - 30 Visa
- Candy Pizza - 20 Visa | Easter Egg - 75 Visa
- Welcome Back Pencil Case - 10 Visa
- St Patrick Day Goodie Bag - 30 Visa
- Mother's Day Card and Chocolates - 50 Visa
- Strawberry Sweets - 20 Visa | Maths Set - 30 Visa

**Lots more on offer next term, collect your visas and cash them in.**



**The evening of 23rd June couldn't have been any more perfect, from the weather to the array of incredible transport delivering the students, everything was just right.**

Prom 2022 was the biggest Prom we have ever hosted with over 140 students in attendance and this year students pulled out all the stops.

Arrivals varied from an open-top double-decker bus, a Delorean, Gold Maserati to motorbikes. It was such an impressive affair that the hotel guests at Park Hill Hotel started their own ranking system for the stylish entrances and we awarded prizes for the top 3.

The students were dressed beautifully and so many family members turned up to see the students arrive it was a real family affair. Staff and guests at the hotel

alike commented on how polite and well-behaved the students were and how they set such a good example for our community even at a time of celebration.

Once the students had arrived they were welcomed into the beautiful marquee at Park Hill which had been beautifully decorated by Kacey's Crew, a welcome drink and a look around the various areas found a Cash Grabber (think Crystal Maze), caricature artist offering up personal portraits for the students, a doughnut wall, sweetie bar and a huge dancefloor which was full all night apart from a quick break for a BBQ dinner and a few photos in the VW Campervan photo booth!

**Best dressed boy and girl were chosen by the students on the night and were Alfie and Romy.**

**Prom King and Queen were chosen by the staff in the lead-up to the prom and they chose Harvey and Lily.**

(Harvey had left just before the announcement so Head Boy Alex Doggett acted as a stand-in and also made sure Harvey received his crown and sash).

The students did themselves proud and it was lovely to celebrate a wonderful (despite Covid disruptions) five years at Venture.

We look forward to celebrating with the class of 2022 further on results day and at their graduation in January, and cannot wait to hear about their next steps in life.

*Thank you must go to...*

The Raising Achievement team and Miss Parker for the set up during the day, Kaceys Crew for decorations, DJ Hunter, Vintage car and camper Hire, Coleys Caricatures and Park Hill Hotel for the beautiful venue.



# OAT's Got Talent

A group of Year 9 and 10 students took the stage at Ormiston Victory Academy to showcase the amazing things they have learned in Performing Arts over the years.



Our dance troop dazzled the audience with their sassy performance of 'More More More (Encore!)' From the hit West End Musical 'The Moulin Rouge', Grace who played Belle in our 2022 production of 'Beauty and the Beast' wowed the audience with her beautiful rendition of 'Dangerous to Dream' from the West End Musical 'Frozen' and finally Mya and Isla-Jade performed a stunning duet dance to 'With You' from 'Ghost The Musical'.

It was a wonderful evening and so heartwarming to see the students from different academies take the stage to show off their passion in Performing Arts. Our students worked incredibly hard to pull together their performances in just two days! This project was fully led by them and would not have been possible without their hard work and talent.

Grace our soloist said, *"I was terrified at the thought of singing on stage in front of all those people being just me and not in a character, but it was a fun challenge and something I need to get used to, to prepare for my future as a performer."*



# Venture Star Awards

Ormiston Venture Academy were delighted to roll out the red carpet for the first time in three years for our annual Venture Star Awards evening.



The Venture Star Awards see four students, one from each year group awarded a Venture Star in categories of outstanding achievement both in and beyond the curriculum, including the Venture Philanthropist Award and Venture Spirit Award.

One of these four is then chosen for a special commendation award. The awards are sponsored by our local businesses or partners who join the celebrations and present the awards to the students.

Although we have continued to award the Venture Stars over the past two years it was incredible to be back in person with parents able to come and enjoy the event too.

Being in the presence of so many incredible young people is always inspiring enough on its own, but this year the awards evening were pleased to have guest speaker Ormiston Venture Alumna and former head girl (2013-14) Alana Taylor.

Alana is now a full time Production Coordinator for ITV Studios/ Lifted Entertainment, working on shows like The Voice, Love Island and Dancing on Ice. Outside of this work she is presenting on Westside radio and at BoxPark and has produced music videos for the likes of Davido, MS Banks and various other grime/ rap artists

Alana spoke to the Venture Stars about her pathway through to her current career, the lessons she learned at Venture that have served her well and inspired the audience with her message of self-belief and determination.

Inspirational speakers are always great to have at events like this, but it meant more to hear such sage advice from a member of the Venture community.

Whilst more than 70 student's achievements were recognised across the 17 award categories, there was an

additional award presented on the behalf Ormiston Academies Trust - the OAT Outstanding Achievement Award. This award is presented to one student who stands out from an already talented and committed field of stars to be a role model of what student's at Venture can aspire to. This year's winner was year 10 student Phoebe.

Principal Simon Gilbert-Barnham said

*"The recognition these students deserve for their amazing achievements is something to be truly proud of. A Thank you to their parents for the support and great work that helps these young people along the path to exciting futures".*



# #WeWill

*Come for a chat and a chill on Wednesday lunchtimes!*

#WeWill is a fantastic project brought to Ormiston Venture Academy by our friends at Ormiston Families. Wellbeing Ambassadors have been trained by #WeWill and actively lead the project by making decisions about how best to support fellow Venture students.

Mr Cooper supports the work between Ormiston Families and Ormiston Venture and believes

*"The #WeWill Wellbeing Ambassadors are an invaluable support; not only giving themselves the skills and confidence to talk to others and support their peers but also helping our Venture community in giving these students a place to go where they can speak to Our Wellbeing Ambassadors and discuss any issues they may be having. This allows our Wellbeing Ambassadors to help the students get support within the academy from key staff or signpost them to any support agencies necessary. Naomi Swain has been such an amazing support in implementing the #WeWill project within the academy and we hope to continue this amazing partnership with Ormiston Families for years to come to ensure we can support not just our students here at Venture but our wider community."*

#WeWill Wellbeing Ambassadors meet every Wednesday lunchtime and offer pupils various activities to opt to take part in. Recent examples of this are arts and crafts, as well as outdoor Connect4 and Jenga. Pupils can choose to take part or use the space as a quiet place to spend their lunchbreak. Wellbeing Ambassadors are on hand to chat to fellow pupils about their day, anything that might be on their mind, such as difficulties they may be experiencing with friendships. #WeWill is able to support anyone who needs further help by signposting them to staff or services, or sometimes to just be a listening ear when someone needs a chat.

Naomi Swain, Senior Youth Support Worker on the #WeWill project, stated

*"The Venture Wellbeing Ambassadors are a fantastic group of young people who represent their school with enthusiasm and endeavour. Whilst we have provided them with training for their role, they already all have great attitudes of kindness and empathy and go out of their way to make the lives of students better. I wish Wellbeing Ambassadors existed when I was at school - pupils have peers to talk to about their wellbeing and who take the time to support each other"*



The #WeWill Wellbeing Ambassadors recently ran their own guild – identifying areas of mental health which they felt important in their school and inviting speakers in for sessions. Norfolk and Waveney Mind discussed anxiety and low mood, Embrace tackled resilience and motivation to change negative situations, Norfolk LGBT talked about gender identity and sexuality and NSFT addressed eating disorders for Ambassadors and others who had chosen the Mental Health guild.

#WeWill Wellbeing Ambassadors have further supported new Venture pupils by taking part in July's transition days; being on hand to answer any questions that the then Year 6s had and talking to them about their school.

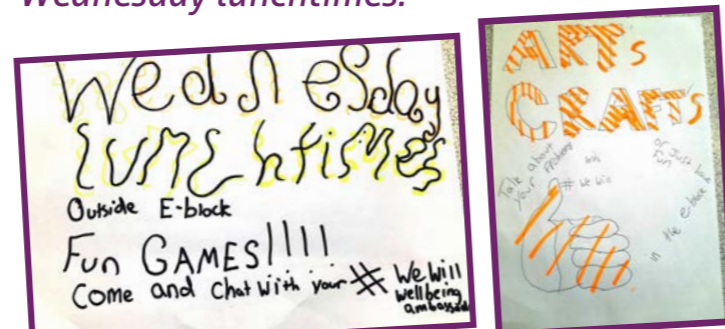
They also assisted in supporting pupils at the August Summer School, taking part in various activities as well as joining new pupils on the Pleasurewood Hills trip.

#WeWill has also hosted 3 huge Summer Fun Days during the school holidays, involving all 15 schools which they work in across Yarmouth to offer families a free day of fun and wellbeing activities.

The project will continue to run in school in September, with weekly wellbeing activities as well as new and exciting social action projects. Want to make a change in your local community? Feel that school is missing something? Get involved in #WeWill and their next social action project!

#WeWill Wellbeing Ambassadors are available on Wednesday lunchtimes with dedicated activities for everyone to enjoy and can be spoken to any day of the week (you can spot them by their white Wellbeing Ambassador badges).

*If you would like to become a Wellbeing Ambassador yourself, please speak to Mr Cooper anytime or Naomi on Wednesday lunchtimes.*



# FOOD

**Venture Food Champions' main aim is to educate students on the importance of a healthy and balanced lifestyle, whilst also exposing them to a range of rich and diverse cultures through food.**

Over the course of the last six months alone, the Food Champions have planned and run the Academy's first cultural day focused around 'Eid' where students could engage with information about the Arabic Festival and also taste foods from around the countries that celebrate 'Eid'.

To celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, the Food Champions decorated the Venture Café and offered classic British dishes with the help of the canteen staff, celebrating the British Values that we as an Academy hold dear.

With veganism and vegetarianism growing in the 21st Century, it was important to the Food Champions that students are educated on the reasons that people seek meat-free alternatives and therefore held a 'Meat-Free' Day in the Academy.

Through the use of educational videos and PL-class discussions, students were made aware that there is more than one reason why people do not eat meat: for personal health; avoiding illness perhaps due to intolerance; for animal welfare beliefs; for environmental protection reasons and for religious beliefs where a person's religion does not permit them to eat certain meats.

Additionally, the students have worked hard to research and promote alternative options on food for dietary, health and religious reasons. The Food Champions have also run multiple

# ChAMPIONS

taste tasting sessions for students to get involved with in order for them to try sugar free and/ or fat free alternatives as a part of a healthy lifestyle.

The Food Champions meet weekly to discuss and plan whole academy events that will allow all students to explore and learn about new foods too.

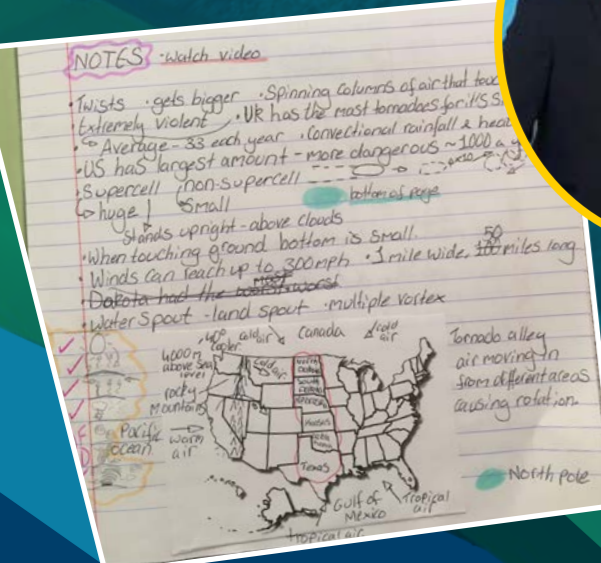
In order to gain a direct voice from the Venture cohort, Food Champions have run multiple audits, including using 'Question of the Week', to gain information on how to improve 'food culture' within the academy. Moreover, the Food Champions have also run numerous Collectives to advertise these events to ensure students know why these events are running and the importance of the Champions' aim



**Achieve College can be recognised around the academy via the bright blue badges students wear.**

Led by Mr Doggett and assisted by Mr Ives, the college consists of three major subject areas; these are English, Humanities (History & Geography) and Modern Foreign Languages.

Achieve students will therefore always be a member of one of these faculties.



# Achieve

During their time at Venture, students study a broad curriculum that prepares students to be experts in all areas of study. Our vision at Venture is to provide World Class education to all and provide opportunities for our students to be subject specialists in all their subjects. Therefore in English, students have the opportunity to study Shakespeare, analyse poetry, write creatively and all students are also exposed to both modern and pre 1900s texts.



Trips to the Houses of Parliament for debating competitions and the Globe Theatre are popular annual events. The English team also always lead the way with our annual World Book Day celebrations and run key events such as the 'poetry slam' when all colleges compete against each other and the annual spellathon, run by students for local primary school students.

In History, students are taught about the development of Britain following the Battle of Hastings through to the reign of Queen Victoria, while international topics are explored such as apartheid in South Africa and the conflict in Vietnam. In Geography, students learn about the eco-system and the impact climate change has on rivers and flooding as well as other hazards and the causes and consequences of population growth all over

the planet. Local fieldwork on our coast, as well as to Poland and the First World War trenches are always well received.

Our Modern Foreign Languages incorporate French and Spanish; both very popular choices at GCSE. Key topics include the theme of identity, culture, school, the local area, future plans and international global dimension.

Beyond the classroom, MFL offers inter-school debating competitions and you may spot students proudly adorning 'master linguist' badges, attained in either subject for excellence in examinations or extended learning.

Trips to Disneyland Paris, Belgium and Madrid have been organised for the coming year and are sure to further enhance the reputation of this burgeoning area of the academy.



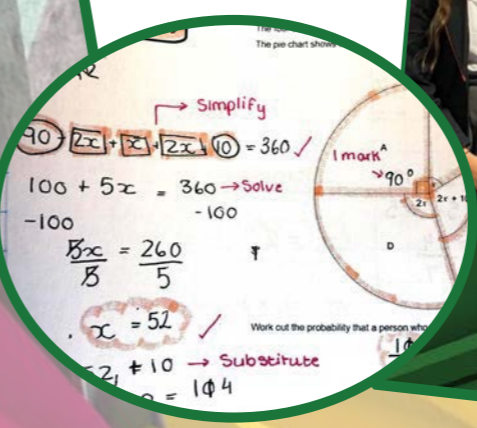
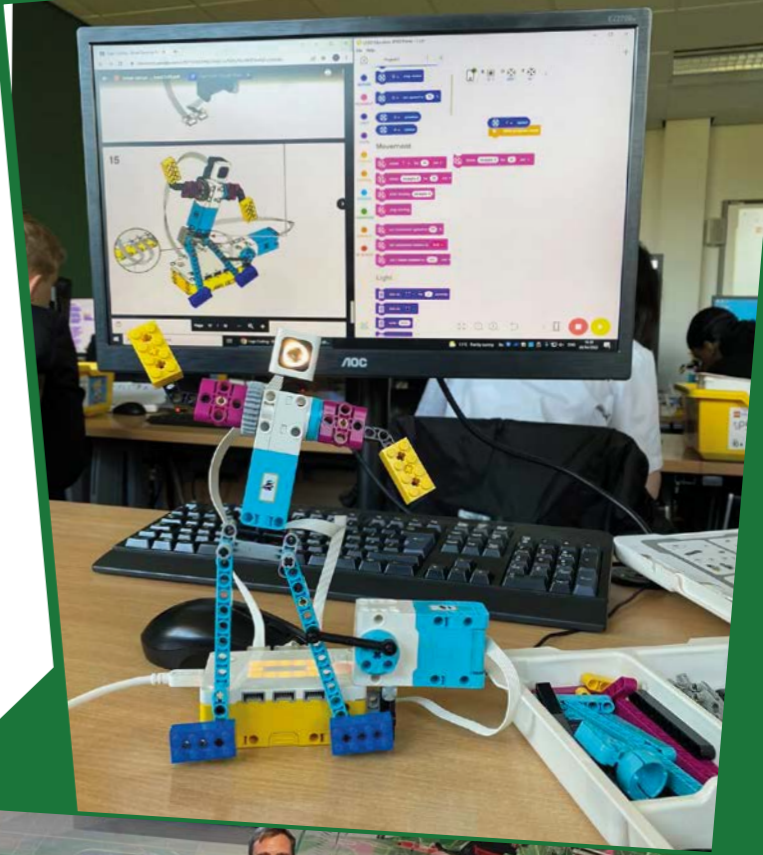
**Aspire College has been driven forward to another exceptional year by the amazing students!**

Achievements and experiences in and out of the classroom have been the hallmark of a year living the Venture Way! Within Aspire we have Maths and Computer Science, as well as our fabulous pastoral team.

In Maths pupils are challenged and supported, with an exceptionally well developed curriculum and an incredible team of teachers, to not only learn the mathematical content, but to apply it fluently in various scenarios. Pupils enjoy learning Maths, which is a huge contributing factor as to why they leave with such wonderful results, ready for their next stage of life.

Computer Science is becoming one of the most popular subjects for pupils in the Academy, as the skills it allows pupils to game become more and more relevant in a technological 21st century.

As well as learning about E-Safety, hardware and software, the programming skills pupils learn readies them for technical jobs that don't yet exist!



# Aspire

Pupils have had some incredible experiences in Maths and Computer Science inside and outside the classroom. A Maths Unlocked visit to UEA allowed Year 10 to explore applications of Maths, including the famous "Futurama Theorem", which pupils explored with baseball caps!

**A visit to Bletchley Park shone a light on the history and importance of code-breaking, tying programming skills pupils learn into lessons to real world applications.**

A culture of praising success embodies the Aspire college, from individual success (Dominic Boulton and his gymnastic medals), whole college success (college collective rewards collective) to teacher success (Mr. Parker, Mr. Madsen, Mr. Edwards and Mr. Akers on "thank a teacher day").

Mr Scotney Assistant Principal welcomed Mr. Malcolm College leader to the dream team in Aspire this year, who quickly became a pupil favourite, being there with a smile to support all the pupils in Aspire College!



**The Create College is made up of a team of highly dedicated team and students which is led by Mr McNally, Assistant Principal and Mrs Vincent, College Leader.**

Subjects include Art, Catering, Music, Performing Arts, Photography and Textiles. Best practice and expertise is shared on a daily basis, within the faculty, but also outside of the Academy through Ormiston Academy Trust links.

The Create College is the one of the most enjoyable places to be for staff and students. It operates a broad and balanced curriculum for students in Key Stage 3, with an option of further development in year 9, studying favourite subjects in more depth.

Key Stage 4 offers GCSE and BTEC qualifications and is hugely popular. An incredible amount of students go on to study at least 1 Create subject from year 10, and many leave with aspirations of further study in this area after achieving some exceptionally high results.



Students go on to study these subjects in more depth in Colleges and Sixth Forms. Apprenticeships in engineering and scholarships at Greshams are also available. We have had success with Callum Cooke then going on to study Fine Art at Oxford University for example.

The extra-curricular opportunities within the Create College dominate the academies provision. Clubs and activities such as Musical rehearsals, orchestra (Venture Vivace), photography skills and street dance amongst others, compliment sessions based on improving qualification grades.

**Peri lessons enhance musical talent, and we are very grateful for the team of staff who come into the Academy for this.**

Showcase events such as the bi-annual musical sell out audiences and the Create show is a representation of the fine work produced by students in Create. The show includes incredible Art and Photography exhibitions, phenomenal Craft and Textiles products, spine tingling musical entertainment, singing and performances as well as a breathtaking fashion show demonstrating the high quality pieces of clothing made in Textiles.

The faculty ran a musical last year – Beauty and the Beast, which sold out for 3 consecutive nights, making it the most popular show we have ever had!

The College is prominent in the local community attending carol services, lantern parades and performing at the Hippodrome concert. The Performing Arts students also performed in the recent Ormiston Academies Trust annual talent showcase.

Guest artists, graphical designers, animators, photographers, chefs, singers and dancers have graced our College and many trips to exhibitions and the West End theatre companies have occurred, broadening horizons and showing students the fruits of what can be achieved in this area.

# Create

A showcase of Outstanding

# Innovate

*Students in Science have had a fantastic relaunch of their practical experiments as Covid restrictions have eased.*

Practical skills are so important and it creates the love of learning and awe and wonder that is amazing in science. Year 7 were investigating how shape effects streamlining using wallpaper paste and plasticine models and year 8 have been investigating acids and alkalis.

In other news - the Science Faculty has invested in a 3D printer and are now redesigning and 3D-printing equipment that allows students to work more safely and more efficiently in lessons.

The picture shows a redesigned test tube rack that is more stable and allows observations to be made more easily, a bespoke stand for electrolysis equipment that

reduces the risk of it tipping over in the middle of an investigation, a beaker lid that holds a thermometer upright in the centre of the beaker and a mini quadrat so that ecological sampling can take place whatever the weather.

Many other improvements to commercially available equipment are in the design phase and a College Clash competition to design improved science equipment is planned for next academic year.

*The Innovate College is led by Mr Waters, Assistant Principal and Miss Teasdale, College Leader.*



At Venture we deliver a traditional PE curriculum for all five year groups with all key stage four students completing a Sport Studies qualification, as well as a diverse after school enrichment offer. After a very tough few years we are extremely excited that Venture Elite clubs and fixtures are back.

Students have been participating in our summer sports such as Athletics, Softball, Cricket, Tennis and Rounders across all year groups. We recently came third in the Wellesley Athletics tournament that all six local schools were involved in. Students also won lots of medals at the OAT sports cup for Athletics.

Venture Games is back with a bang with the whole academy enjoying sport in the sunshine. All students at the academy picked three sports to take part in and play throughout the day.

*It was great to see all staff and students getting involved in a variety of sports.*



# Frantic Assembly Workshop:



**A mixture of Year 8, 9 and 10 students rose to the challenges of Physical Theatre and developed their skills in teamwork and lifts to work with Richard from Frantic Assembly.**

This was an experience that assisted the students in understanding how the body is used to communicate narrative within a performance.

Finn In Year 9 stated

"I really enjoyed learning new lifts to support with transitions in scenes."

The students challenged themselves and pushed out of their comfort zones, I am a firm believer in, if I am making the students push themselves out of comfort zones then I have to demonstrate this myself!

So, to support students that were incredibly nervous to be lifted, I allowed a team of them to lift me...

**It was a success and definitely not as scary as I thought it would be!**

## Fraia Wicks Awarded OAT East Secretary and OAT National Parliament

**Fraia was successfully appointed as Venture's Head Girl in January 2022, after she blew away the interview panel with the maturity in her responses and the skills she would bring to representing the student body.**

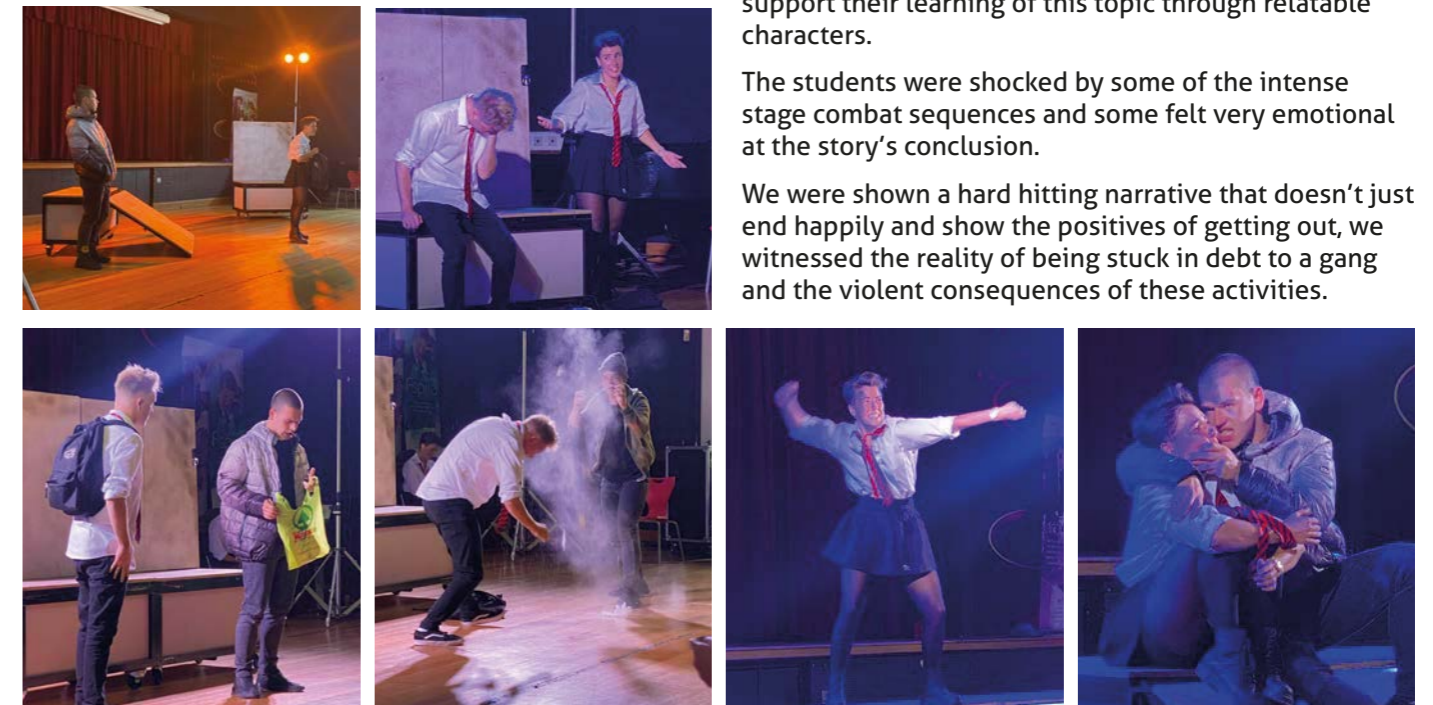
In her short time already as head girl she has brought about change, leading the first whole school UVS Barraza. Following on from this the students now have 120 extra outdoor seats and tables, the student PL captain role has doubled in numbers, the UVS raised over £2000 for the Ukraine humanitarian appeal and many college clash events such as the Colour Run and Doughnut eating contest.

Due to the success of Fraia's application she was put forward to apply for a role on the OAT East student parliament. Again Fraia completed a speech on why student voice was important to her and how she would have an impact on making social change. Fraia was successful in achieving the role of Secretary for the OAT East student parliament. The students will discuss priorities of how to make school life more enjoyable for students across the East. Fraia has also been selected to be a part of the OAT National student voice so she and her fellow colleagues can take the OAT Easts ideas to the OAT National forum.

This is an exciting role for Fraia and for Venture being involved as an integral part of the OAT Regional and OAT National student voice.



## INK County Lines CASH Lesson Performance 'Cuckoo'



**Year 9 and 10 students were able to watch an incredible and moving performance about teenagers and their experience with County Lines.**

This was a fantastic way to engage students and support their learning of this topic through relatable characters.

The students were shocked by some of the intense stage combat sequences and some felt very emotional at the story's conclusion.

We were shown a hard hitting narrative that doesn't just end happily and show the positives of getting out, we witnessed the reality of being stuck in debt to a gang and the violent consequences of these activities.

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## We ventured into London's West End with 80 students from across Year 7 and 8 to see Frozen The Musical.

We let it go and became fully immersed in the Disney experience which showcased skills of projection and puppetry to bring the animated story to life.

For our students it is not only an incredible experience of live theatre but for some their first time in our country's capital.

Members of the public praised our students for their mature behaviour within the theatre and enjoyed chatting with them about their thoughts on the performance.

One student expressed their delight at the phenomenal costume changes.

**"I can't believe they did that! How is it possible to make Disney magic real?"**

# CASH Week

CASH week takes place annually during Year 10 Work Experience week in the summer term.

It offers students the opportunity to explore aspects of our Community, Ambition, Spirituality and Health curriculum (CASH). During this week, regular timetabled lessons are collapsed and students experience carousels of activities, talks from outside agencies and visits to places of interest. This week forms part of the statutory PSHE curriculum (Personal, Social, Health and Economic education).

Like CASH lessons on Wednesday afternoons with PL Tutors, it is a whole week when we investigate and ask and answer interesting questions, get involved in debates and discuss ideas. Our Venture values include; 'Enable students to be well prepared to respect others as 21st Century global citizens in Britain and beyond.' This is the mantra for CASH week and stitches the activities, visitors and experiences together.



## Year 7

Year 7 focused on the theme of identity and this included looking into Christianity, how we treat others-including a session named 'Bullying or Banter?', democracy, British Values and also included a 'Create Day', where students worked with one member of the Create faculty and baked, composed music, painted, made items in textiles and explored photographic techniques.

Visitors included Norfolk Safer Police, who presented a workshop on gangs and knife crime, the charity Hope Not Hate who travelled from London on two separate days to conduct workshops on Identity and then on Britishness.

## Year 8

Year 8 focussed on justice. This include sessions of poverty, crime and drugs & alcohol. Year 8 also explored aspects of Christianity and had their own Create Day.

Visitors included the Matthew Project who presented workshops throughout the day on the dangers of drugs and alcohol.



## Year 9

Year 9 focussed on relationships. As well as a day that concentrated on Religion and morality, Year 9 had workshops that included healthy relationships, the media, online relationships, awareness of different types of grooming and Relationship and Sex education (RSE)-including consent and finally relationships with money.

Visitors included Norfolk Safer Police who presented a workshop on Healthy Relationships, Norfolk LGBT+ Project who offered a workshop on bullying, Gamcare who presented on the dangers of gambling and Jigsaw, who ran a carousel of workshops regarding consent.

One staff member said,

*"Students seemed to enjoy the LGBTQ+ visitors and the activity on bullying. It really showed them both sides of the scale and made them think about how they acted towards others and how cruel words can have a terrible impact."*

Spencer Doggett, who is lead for PSHE commented,

*"CASH week provides an annual opportunity for our students to explore topics and themes they discuss in their Wednesday afternoon CASH lessons on topics that may not be addressed in regular time-tabled lessons. It's particularly great to be able to invite outside visitors who are experts in their fields. It gives students real-life examples in terms of policing issues within the community, drugs and alcohol, the LGBTQ+ community, gambling and charitable trusts."*

42 Year 7 Geographers chosen by their geography teachers due to their excellent attitude to learning in lessons completed a day of fieldwork investigating the contrasting geography of our local area.



Students used a range of fieldwork techniques such as field sketches, pedestrian counts and bi-polar surveys to investigate ecosystems, tourism and coastal management.

Students walked approximately 6 miles and enjoyed the excellent weather and ice creams from the seafront.

# CREATE SHOW '22

*The Create show celebrated the fantastic achievements the students have made this year in the Create faculty.*

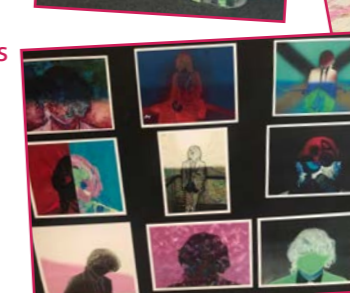
Stunning art and photography masterpieces adorned the corridors leaving visitors to the exhibition amazed at the quality and obvious commitment that had been put in.

Soloists and duets pitched perfect to the parents, staff and students as they enjoyed wonderful canapés served by students. The quality of the Textiles pieces amazed the visitors as they perused the Create corridor. It was wonderful to see so many Venture alumni students returning to see the work as well.

Anna Mallory, Head of the Create Faculty commented that:

*"The quality of the work in all areas blows me away, and this year the students (and staff) have done themselves proud!"*

Mr McNally, Assistant Principal of the Create College, was keen to highlight and praise the hard work of all of the teachers and support staff in Create especially Miss Cornwell, without which the success of the evening would not have happened!





# Achieve

In early 2011 Abi began learning to skate at Retroskate Artistic Roller Skating Club. She quickly progressed and moved on to Grades sessions later on that same year. Having completed Grades 1 to 4 she began skating as part of the club in late 2012, before competing in her first competition in Basic Skills in 2014 finishing in 1st place!



In 2015, Abi took part in her first British Championships in the TOTs category finishing a creditable 6th. Then in the following year, she has competed regularly at National and club competitions, often pulling out surprises, but rarely finishing outside the top five

The highpoints of her skating career so far:

- 2nd place in the 2019 British Championships having recovered from a knee injury which had put her out of action for several months.
- 2018 Abi was selected to skate at an international club competition in Slovenia and then for Team GB at 'Cup of Europe' in Spain.
- 2019 skating in Italy on her 13th birthday again in the Cup of Europe.
- Winning her group at the last Retroskate Gala before the old rink closed at the end of 2019. This was particularly special.

Abi has shown herself to be a fierce and determined competitor, overcoming injury and confidence issues to become one of the top skaters in her category in the UK. Her goal in skating is to have fun and both skate and perform the best that she can.

She currently trains 3 times a week for 3 hours each session. She helps with coaching at Learn to Skate sessions, helping to inspire the next generation of competitive artistic roller skaters. In July 2022, Abi will again compete in the UK championships and everyone at Venture wishes her the very best of luck.



# Aspire

Over this year so far, Dominic has worked incredibly hard with his gymnastics, outside of school. He has been lucky enough to be chosen to compete at the Eastern Counties regional finals recently.

He came home with 1 gold medal for Vault and 2 silver medals for Bar and Floor!!



# Create

Ilyssa has been skating at Retro Skate for just one year and has already progressed through 5 grades! She has been awarded numerous certificates of achievement and received many commendations from the club.

Ilyssa originally enjoyed skating as a hobby and then decided to try her skills in a proper club, deciding to join Retro Skate in Gorleston. She says she feels free when skating and can flow without care!

She has made new friends at the club and would encourage others to try the sport and join the club. Ilyssa said it helps her with her health and fitness and the coaches are really nice and encourage everyone to do their best.

She has some expensive new skates so will definitely keep training at the club as she hopes to compete in her first ever competition soon. She has been performing stroke skating, backwards skating and perfecting jumps like the free jump and a toe loop jump.

Well done on your achievements and dedication Ilyssa.

Miss Vincent commented that,

**"Ilyssa is a wonderful student who shows the others in Create the best way forward, and that we are very proud of her".**



# Innovate

Ruby is an amazing ambassador for the PE department's Venture Elite programme.

She has been the captain for her year groups Netball team, as well as playing up years as she is such an amazing player.

She has been a part of the Netball team that has never lost a game and won every tournament. Ruby has also been a part of a winning Y8 Athletics team, Ruby won her events absolutely smashing her Discus even beating the score of the year above.

Ruby has a very competitive streak in her but also an amazing attitude to learning and work ethic. She is a valuable part of our leadership programme and works with younger students.

Outside of school Ruby competes for a regional and national level in Dance and Gymnastics, competing in different competitions at a high level. Ruby is a year 8 student who has so much potential to be an amazing star in the future for Venture.

**She has been nominated for a Venture Star award for PE, which is our highest accolade**







# Carrow Road experience

On Wednesday 25th May some of Ormiston Venture Academy's most talented youngsters joined with Gorleston Football Club in a festival of football at Carrow Road in Norwich – Home to Norwich City Football Club.



In a joint event to raise awareness of the Community Sports Foundation and celebrate the success Gorleston FC have had this season. Players and staff were allowed on the hallowed turf for a series of mini sided matches and then full 11-a-side exhibition matches.

Age groups from Under 8s right through to the senior squad were represented, with Venture bringing 17 players from year 9 & 10.

The players had the opportunity to visit the home and away changing rooms, practised interview skills in the media room and saw the ice / recovery baths used as well.

The players from Venture had a penalty shootout competition and a free kick contest between themselves, with the year 10s coming out victorious. Rio and Ollie took some amazing penalties. In the big matches, the Venture teamwork was evident as Russell set up Arthur (who is more accustomed to being between the sticks) to score from just outside the area.

Reggie also knocked one in to the big goal. Playing on the same pitch as the professionals had only days earlier will certainly be an experience the players will never forget.

Assistant Principal Mr McNally commented that:

*"We are really pleased to show our support for both football clubs (NFC and Gorleston FC), and the opportunity to see the changing rooms, media interview rooms and to ultimately play on the pitch will be forever etched in the memories of the students".*



# OAT SPORTS CUP

On Wednesday 8th June 60 students from Ormiston Venture Academy participated in the East and South region of the Ormiston Academies Trust Sports Cup.



Students took part in different athletics events gaining points for their academies depending on where they finished.

Overall Venture finished in a hugely credible 2nd place, and will look to take this success into the regional Wellesley tournament coming up.

Ms Gogar commented that:

**"The students were excellent right throughout, and the community feel of the event with just OAT academies taking part led to a fantastic family type atmosphere!"**

Eight OAT Academies from the East and South took part in the event which also included Boccia for the first time.

The day began with some amazing dance spectacles from each academy before the athletic events started – managing to dodge the wet weather!

The dancers from Venture finished 3rd in the competition, and the athletes did themselves proud. Venture had a number of individual winners including Ronny, Alfie, Evie, Archie, Winter, Ruby, Diogo, Ethan, Tegan, Tia and Alivia.

The competition was rounded off with some brilliant relay races, year 8 boys and year 10 girls winning their events in style.



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## AND YOUR WINNERS ARE!

# VENTURE GAMES '22



Venture Games 2022 was another huge success with the most students in Venture's history taking part in their favourite sports, including capture the flag, dodgeball, softball, rounders, football, tennis and many more.

The sun was shining, lots of sun cream was applied and water being refilled, however even with the warm weather conditions there were plenty of smiles from staff and students. All students and staff were joining in and having fun playing a variety of sports throughout the day.



Each student picks three of their favourite sports and gets to join in with their friends learning some skills and having friendly matches.



*And finally...*

*a welcome word from 'the Govenors'*

**On behalf of the local governing body at Ormiston Venture Academy I would like to add our welcome to all new students and staff who are joining our academy this September.**

One of our jobs is to make sure that you all receive the support and challenge you need to find happiness and success here, and we feel sure that the systems are in place to enable you all to settle in quickly to what is an ambitious, well-organised and friendly learning community, led by an outstanding principal and his staff.

This newsletter provides our opportunity to welcome back all present staff and students who have done so much to face recent challenges with commitment, determined optimism and good humour. We hope that this academic year will provide you with the full Venture experience inside and outside the classroom and know that you deserve nothing less. Thanks to you all for your strength of character and hard work. I know that you will continue to make us proud.

Of course, special recognition needs to go to the previous year 11 cohort , who faced their educational

challenges with energy and hard work, leading to their awesome results in this year's public examinations and a lasting legacy to the academy. Huge congratulations and good luck in your future lives. We know that you will make the world a better place.

Lastly, many thanks to parents, carers and the wider community who have supported the academy and its students in so many ways. Our results would not have been possible without you.

**All good wishes to you all this year. We will watch your achievements with great pleasure and pride.**

*Lesley King,*

Chair of the local governing body.



## TRAIN TO TEACH



[www.ormistonventureacademy.co.uk/Oaks-Norfolk](http://www.ormistonventureacademy.co.uk/Oaks-Norfolk)

# The OAKS Norfolk

The OAKS is an Ofsted Outstanding provider of Initial Teacher Training, working with seven hubs spread geographically across the UK.

Our mission is to nurture future professionals and give back to the local communities through high quality teacher recruitment, education and retention.

The OAKS Norfolk will now maintain and enhance the current outstanding provision that The OAKS offer.

Contact email address – [oaksnorfolk@ormistonventureacademy.co.uk](mailto:oaksnorfolk@ormistonventureacademy.co.uk)

[@OAKSNorfolkHub](https://twitter.com/OAKSNorfolkHub)

[@InitalOAT](https://twitter.com/InitalOAT)

## There's more to Venture P.E.

*At Venture we want everyone to attend an after school club every week whatever your ability. We also want everyone to join a sports club outside of school.*

Venture Elite is about celebrating our success but our main goal is encouraging participation. Every student is welcome at any of our sports clubs, and we have links with clubs in the community.

We enjoyed celebrating our Sports Awards celebrating all students that have participated or represented the academy in a sport and presented many awards and achievements for multiple athletes and teams.

*We have had huge success winning major honours during the year and the term. These include;*

### NETBALL

Another amazing year in regards to Netball with the vast majority of teams winning the league and achieving extremely well in the Norfolk County Finals.

We also took a group of students to the Netball World Cup in Liverpool to inspire our Venture Elite athletes.

- Y7 League Winners
- Y8 League Winners
- Y9 League Runners Up
- Y10 League Winners
- Y11 League Winners
- Y10 team beat Gresham's
- U14s 3rd in County Finals
- U15s 4th in Norfolk
- U16s 5th in County Finals

### ATHLETICS

As an academy we came third in the Wellesley competition with the academy winning over 50 medals. It was a lovely day in the sunshine. After a two year gap the students enjoyed the day but the lack of experience was telling at the end for the final results.

A massive thank you to some students who stepped up and helped us fill events which proves the strength in depth and incredible talent we have at Venture.

- Y7 Tea time 4th • Y8 Tea Time 1st
- Y9 Tea time 3rd • Y10 Tea time 1st
- Wellesley day time overall 3rd place

### FOOTBALL

Another successful year with two teams participating extremely well in the district and county cup.

The emergence of the girls football team has been a great success and something to look forward to for the future.

The year 8 football team followed up a previously successful year winning the cup, by winning the league this year.

A great effort from all the boys involved in the squad.

- Y10 Football Cup Runners Up
- Y7 Girls' Football County Runners Up
- Y8 Football League Winners



### HANDBALL

Handball has been an emerging sport at Venture this year with some participation in key stage 4 on the Cambridge Nationals Sport Studies course and after school clubs. However with little teaching and training time the year 9&10 girls did extremely well winning all the local fixtures and coming 3rd in the county.

- Y9&10 Girls Handball 3rd in County Finals

### ROUNDERS

Well done to the year 7 girls who won the Rounders league.

- Y7 Rounders League Winners