

## Venture's Got Talent

'Christmas Revue' full photographic report



Children In Need



Yr 9 Winner



Gresham's Exchange



Inter College Dodgeball



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# The Success Centre

**Creating a Culture of High Achievement from Day 1**  
**Excited about the January Graduation ceremony for Year 7?**



**Well, we all should be! Our Year 7 Graduation Programme acknowledges the success and progress of every aspect of our Venture students' lives.**

In September, we launched the awards scheme which recognises students who have contributed significantly to the Venture community spirit; have attained 100% attendance; whose communication is outstanding – and so the list goes on. Bradley Chilvers was in the lead for November for his skills and achievements across the board, suggesting he is likely to pick up a Platinum Passport by the end of Year 7.

The Success Centre is up and running, led superbly by Ms Brown who is supporting Year 7 and Year 8 students to reach a minimum of level 5 in English and mathematics. We now have the Lexia Programme in use which enables students of all abilities to improve their skills.

The Success Centre page on the Venture ePortal (VeP) is looking magnificent and contains some key help and frequently asked questions (FAQ) sections to support all



Alistair Nicholls, Ryan Martins and Benjamin Turner - for their film-making. Most Venture students have seen some of the films made by these budding film directors, but do be careful, some of them are VERY frightening. Well done to Alistair and Ryan, in particular, who write, direct and act in their films.

# Principal Commendation Awards

Tuesday 6 December 2011 was a memorable day at Ormiston Venture Academy.

The very first Principal's Commendation Awards ceremony was held. Coincidentally, Peter Lauener, Chief Executive of the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA), was visiting, and he was delighted to present awards to the following students for their outstanding contribution to both Venture, and the wider community:

Brogan Lawes – for her fantastic photography work and outstanding movie, "At the Airport". Brogan is an accomplished photographer and has designed and created a very cool animated movie. She clearly spent hours making her movie, which consists of hundreds of screen shots put together into a movie using playmobile figures. Students enjoyed watching Brogan's movie, and Mr Lauener was highly impressed with her creativity.



Kaleb Bryant - a highly talented musician, who recently won 'Venture's Got Talent.' She also proudly represented Ormiston Venture Academy in December, when she was asked to play to an audience of over a thousand senior school staff at a conference in Birmingham.

**We are proud of all our students. If you are doing something fabulous – either in the Academy or in a club – please let us know.**

## Mathematics Specialism

**Thank you for all your help and support with the Mathematics Specialism over the past term.**

In January I will be rolling out the numeracy toolkits on the Venture ePortal. There is a core of skills which I hope will help make most students ready for most situations, but I would also really like to hear subject-specific requests. The idea is that we all use the same methods and resources, (wherever possible,) to provide students with continuity across the curriculum.

I'm looking forward to joining you in Faculty meetings to hear about your Faculty needs.

As many PL groups are finding in the run up to Christmas, deciding on the right shares to buy can still be tricky! Even Mr Giles is having mixed fortunes with his Thomas Cook shares!

Who was right about companies having a bumper Christmas? I heard various ideas about online retailers and supermarket giants!

**As if all this wasn't exciting enough watch out for Anti-Maths day next term too.**

## Here's to venturing further into loving literacy in 2012!

With the spring term around the corner we are pulling out all the stops to help our students succeed in their qualifications. We are putting on exam booster sessions, after-school master classes, weekend revision, discount vouchers for pizza study sessions, revision packs, break-fast study clubs, bananas and even chocolate. And, of course, the A-Team is always here to help...

**Let's make 2012 even better than what has been an amazing 2011.**

## RAISING ACHIEVEMENT KS4

**What a fantastic end to 2011! Options subjects have started for Years 9, 10 and 11 students, and the quality of the work being produced is amazing.**

The fantastic smells from the food technology room show that the proof is in the pudding! In fact, our students are excelling in all areas with 43% of our senior year already gaining a C or better in English at GCSE.



# Spotlight on... Kaileb Bryant

We are delighted to announce that Kaileb Bryant was selected from thousands of applicants to represent Ormiston Venture Academy at the The Schools Network National Conference in December 2011.

Kaileb was asked to play the piano as the Headteachers and Deputy Headteachers arrived at the Conference and again, as they had their lunch. Kaileb played a range of her favourite classical songs and was a brilliant ambassador for the Academy. The organisers of the Conference were delighted with Kaileb's musical ability and her professionalism. Kaileb surely is a star in the making...



# Children In Need

On the 18th of November, the Academy came together to raise over £600 for 'Children In Need'. Over the course of the week, students took part in a range of activities.

**The 2p Trail:** Each College within the Academy collected 2p coins and brought them down to The Great Hall.

PL Captains from each College were then tasked with lining them up in rows to see which College had collected the most. Overall, 4817 2p coins were collected with the results as follows:

Innovate College: £15.54    Aspire College: £6.82

Create College: £24.94    Achieve College: £49.04

**This gave us an Academy total of £96.34 - a great effort.**



**Students versus Staff Basketball:** Two basketball games took place between Year 10 students and staff in the Sport Hall.

With students getting a real education in the first game, crashing out 3-20, they put in a much better effort in the second game which resulted in a draw.

**Money was collected from spectators and donated to 'Children In Need'.**



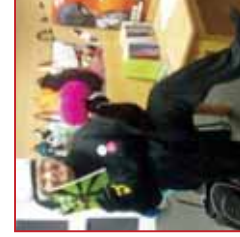
**Mathletics:** Year 7, 8 and 9 students took part in the annual Mathletics competition and ranked as the second secondary school in the UK - a fabulous feat.

**Dance-a-thon:** All week, students came down to our Games Room to play on the Wii and dance to Michael Jackson's 'Thriller'. £35 was raised by our dancers.



**Anti-Bullying Week:** Students wore blue on Wednesday 16th of November in support of Anti-Bullying week, paying a pound towards Children In Need.

**Readathon:** Year 7 and 8 students read all day in our Library and Resource Centre on Friday, 18th November, raising lots of money. Our Librarian even dressed up as a Ninja from her favourite children's book.



For more information on all events that take place at the Academy and to read more stories written by students about students, have a look at our Student eMagazine that can be found at: [www.radiowaves.co.uk/venturestudentmagazine](http://www.radiowaves.co.uk/venturestudentmagazine).



Ormiston Venture Academy are proud to present our student-run E Magazine. Since starting in November, the magazine already has over 40 articles and 70 student contributors.

With stories ranging from the latest student-made films and animations to reports on academy events, the E Magazine is a great read.

In order to find it, either click on the icon on the Venture ePortal or go to the website: <https://www.radiowaves.co.uk/venturestudentmagazine>.





# Can you help your local academy?

- Do you have a practical skill such as sewing, cooking, woodwork?
- Do you have a couple of hours spare each week?
- Would you like to inspire and motivate young people?

If you are interested in supporting the students at Ormiston Venture Academy and have a few spare hours in the week, please contact Gina Young on 01493 662966 or [gyoung@ormistonventureacademy.co.uk](mailto:gyoung@ormistonventureacademy.co.uk)

## Venture to take on the nation in Mock Magistrates Trial Competition.

We are very excited to have entered two teams into this year's Mock Magistrates Trial Competition. In January we will be assembling all the Year 8 and 9 students who showed an interest to form two teams to take part in the competition. Our local heat is in Norwich on 3rd March. As soon as our teams are sorted we will get straight to working on the case.

Along with all the other schools taking part, we have been given a real life case. Each of our teams has to have a defence and a prosecution team who will face off against other schools. Our defence team will take on another school's prosecuting team, and vice versa. The teams are judged by a panel, with the winners going onto the regional heat in May and potentially the National Final in June.

We will be looking to make use of the various expertises of staff in the Academy to help us prepare, as well as drafting in outside help from a local Magistrate and, hopefully, even go on a visit to the courts. Although there is a lot of hard work for us, it should prove to be a really interesting competition to be a part of, and one we will be looking to progress in.

If you are particularly good at English but don't want to be in the legal team there is a separate competition for a court reporter to write an article on the case as it happens and if you are a budding artist there is another for the best court room sketch. If you fancy either of those roles and are in Year 8 or 9, see Mr Richards to get involved.



# Yr 9 Multiple Award Winner



**Serena has been dancing since she was eight years of age and has competed in a number of local competitions. She was encouraged to start dancing by her aunt, who was a keen ballroom dancer.**

Serena attends ballroom dancing lessons every Saturday and enjoys both the competitive element and the complexity of learning a new dance. She regularly competes against other local dancers at the Litchfield Community Centre.

Serena has also taken a number of dance exams and currently has a Silver medal in Ballroom Dancing and a Silver medal in Latin Dance. Her favourite dance is a classic: the waltz, but she also enjoys the more upbeat Rumba. She hopes to be on Strictly Come Dancing one day and plans to visit Spain to compete soon.

**Hold your breath, Bruce Forsyth. We think that Serena will be your favourite!**

## Learning & Teaching

### What an exciting term for learning and teaching at Ormiston Venture Academy!

The start of the school year saw 'teaching prop boxes' given to all staff in the Academy. The boxes include props such as wigs and large foam dice, which staff have been using to make lessons more exciting. On the September training day, Venture staff collaborated with staff from Peterhouse, Moorlands and Herman Primaries to develop a range of innovative, creative and exciting strategies for using the props in lessons.

The Autumn term saw some exciting results in external faculty audits for learning and teaching. The Mathematics faculty received 'Outstanding' for learning and

teaching, and the English faculty received 'Good with Outstanding Features'.

Over the term, in observations of individual staff, the Academy has had a range of 'Outstanding' ratings in both the Ormiston external audit and the faculty audits. Some of these observations include Miss Mindley in the Maths faculty, Mr Townsend in Science and Mr Bridges in PE. A big well done to all staff! These results are a reflection of the hard work they put into teaching students at Venture on a daily basis.

Finally, this term we launched a 'Venture Learning and Teaching Executive Board' (VeLT-X). This board is made up of outstanding teachers from across the Academy. It aims to spread good learning and teaching. Watch this space for some exciting developments in learning and teaching over the Spring Term.



# Gresham's Exchange Students week

22/11/11 - 02/12/11

**Tuesday:** Well day two is almost at an end, and it's been great. I have managed to track down Kurt and, yes, he is still smiling. The student that is accompanying him seems lovely too. He didn't need to meet up any more today so I shall see him tonight for a get together.

I can't even find Ryan! I didn't worry as I am seeing him tonight, so we shall presume he is doing well.

The girls? They seem a bit happier and have been put with students that are doing similar subjects to the ones they do at the Academy, so we shall see how that goes.

All five of them? Well, tonight we are meeting about twenty minutes before the Christmas performance of 'Great Expectations' so I am going to pin them down for quotes. I have heard that the Show is good, so I am looking forward to it, though rumour has it the seats aren't that comfortable.

As for me? Well, I have had a good day so far, I did some work for the first part and then went to photography and got my mind blown by CS5 (The Adobe programme Gresham's have). This was followed by an afternoon of Cross Country at Felbrigg Hall. Three miles, I was told, and nobody said anything about hills!

Felt good though when I had finished. Callum is really good. He managed one and a half circuits with no problems. Bet Mr McNally didn't realise he had such hidden talent.

I am now in the Common Room writing this and waiting for tea and listening to the boys rehearse for their House Show next week. It is great and such good fun to listen to.

**Wednesday:** Well it has been a weird day today. The students? I have struggled to find them, which I believe is a good thing. Kurt and Ryan came and found me at teatime and they might be able to do some shooting tomorrow. The girls weren't interested; I have yet to find out what activity they did. Unfortunately the trips to the old people's homes were cancelled because of the strike.

I do have a quote from Oresta and Sachu from last night. They miss Mrs Williams and her smile and also Mrs Smith. We had an amazing time at the theatre. The play was really good, with some very funny parts in places.

While we were together before the play, I gave them a challenge, I wanted a quote about their experiences here. Sachu gave me hers this morning, I don't think the word quote covers it but it is very poignant.



"An amazing experience! Gresham's is such a special place with so much to discover and enjoy! The different style of education has inspired me to work harder, to secure a bright and healthy future. I won't lie, it has been a very emotional and tiring journey, but seeing the smiles of the wonderful pupils here has encouraged me to be stronger and more confident! I know for a fact that this opportunity will always stay right in my immaculate heart forever! But at the end of the day, surprisingly, I have to divulge to myself the fact that I miss my extraordinary learning establishment, Ormiston Venture Academy."

Oresta wrote hers straight away last night, off the cuff, so it is also from the heart.

"An interesting, sometimes even emotional, experience which will give me a clearer understanding of a different educational system, therefore this will help me to make decisions that involve education. Also a chance to make new friends."

The only other one I managed to get was from Ryan.

"Fantastic, a different educational experience".

I also spent 45 minutes with Callum while he was doing his art work; photos to follow. He did mention that he is in a team that represents the School in a National 16+ robotics Competition; he is their programmer.

Having just recovered from the Pilates Class I am afraid that is all for tonight.

Today has been strange, I can't find our students anywhere, they appear in the distance and then disappear. I hope I find them tomorrow when we go. It could be interesting, though, and even better, if I manage to be the one they can't find.

I can hardly give you an update on the students, they have integrated far too well. As for me, I read for a student in a Biology exam. Later on I went to the library. It is so frustrating not being able to get on my laptop to answer emails. I went for a cross country run and then had two hours of art. I am treating myself this evening to a quiet night writing on the computer and listening to the background noises of the boys in the common room.

The cross country run was tough but I could manage to do it so hopefully I am fitter. We ran from Morston to Blakeney and back. Art was peaceful, just sketching in the peace and quiet and the radio in the background.

Sorry I can't seem to write much today, too tired!

Barbara Clarke



# Your Academy Needs You!

Do you have English as a second language?

Are you able to translate another language into English?

Would you be interested in supporting your local community and Ormiston Venture Academy?

If yes, we need **YOUR** help!

If you are interested in supporting the students at Ormiston Venture Academy and have a few spare hours in the week, please contact **Gina Young** on 01493 662966 or [Gyoung@ormistonventureacademy.co.uk](mailto:Gyoung@ormistonventureacademy.co.uk)



# Venture's Got Talent

At the end of last term Venture put on its first 'Christmas Revue' to an expectant audience of 270.

The show included the 'Tales of the Uneggpected' by BTEC Performing Art Students, a lyrical dance from the BTEC dance group to the song 'Someone Like You' by Adele and renditions of 'Forget You' by Cee-Lo Green and 'Valerie' by Amy Winehouse, sung by Keeleie Greenwood and Esmee Murray. The grand finale came courtesy of Venture's very own Vixen Cheerleaders.



The night went fantastically well, with Ryan Martins and Alistair Nicholls putting in a sterling effort as two deluded detectives trying to solve the case of who tried to murder Mr Dumpty. The supporting cast shone and played their parts brilliantly. The audience seemed to enjoy it too, judging by the roars of laughter - it always helps when people laugh in the right places! The actors all worked incredibly hard and will go from strength to strength.



Next up, Macbeth! The play was followed by Keelie and Esmee who sung their hearts out to rapturous applause. The BTEC Dance group then followed and performed a beautiful lyrical dance to Adele's song of a lost love. Hopefully, they have gained a huge amount of confidence from their experience and can now go into their final exam unit with higher expectations.

The finale of the night from the Venture Vixens showed how diverse the Academy talent is. Their mixture of acrobatics, dance and pom-pommetry brought the night to a fitting climax.



**Our Academy is full of potential and our incredibly talented students showed how hard work, self-belief and bravery can translate into success.**

**Well done!**





## Second Annual Battlefields trip even bigger and better

On the 4th November at 4:45am, 59 excited Year 8 students and 7 members of staff were welcomed onto our luxury double decker for the weekend by our friendly Geordie drivers, the two Alans. The early start was to make sure we caught an early channel crossing on Le Shuttle. So we got to spend Friday afternoon taking in some sights rather than just travelling.

On the Friday we managed to visit Essex Farm Cemetery which is a small cemetery outside the town of Ieper (Ypres) in Belgium, but is famous as it is the place where John McCrae wrote the poem 'In Flanders Fields'. It is also the burial place of the youngest British soldier to die in World War 1, Valentine Joe Strudwick, who happens to be related to some of our students. Like last year, we took the time to pay our respects to him and others at the first stop. Next up was a quick stop at the smelly, but interesting, Yorkshire Trench which really gave us an idea of the size of a real trench, before we headed into Ieper town centre. Here the students got to try the local delicacies – chocolate and waffles – before looking round the brilliant 'In Flanders Fields Museum'. But, we weren't done for the day. After checking into our hotel, Jake Western showed everyone who was the boss at pool. We then had a quick meal at a local restaurant. We also went and observed the last post memorial at Menin Gate, played every night since 1927 at 8pm. It is a moving tribute to the 54,000 people remembered on its walls and one which our students thoroughly enjoyed.

On the Saturday we visited two museums, two cemeteries and a trench system. I think the students most enjoyed the trenches. While much drier than last year, they still gave a really good feel for what life would have been like in the trenches during World War 1. Like last year, it was the place where we probably learnt the most about the reality of war.

Another great part of the day was being able to compare Tyne Cot, the largest British Cemetery with its white marble headstones, and Langemark, the German Cemetery, where everything is very low-lying and made of black stone. There was a strange aura to the cemetery and everyone noticed how different Langemark was. Most noticeable was the mass grave for 24,000 soldiers as soon as you walk through the door. It was very moving and a little chilling.

Next up was the drive from Belgium to France which, with the help of Mr Richards' DVD collection, passed quickly enough. After settling into the second hotel, a bit more pool and Facebook, we headed off for dinner



and were a little more laid back than the previous night without having to get to a final visit of the day. We did find time, though, whilst temporarily locked out of the hotel, to wish Lewis Hunt a happy birthday and present him with a cake.

Sunday morning saw a visit to a local museum, underground in Albert, which has some excellent exhibits on the trenches and war in general. The best bit is being able to buy genuine World War 1 and World War 2 artefacts. The Humanities Department have added to their collection with a French Helmet, some trench art and a trench shovel. On the way back to the hotel, the students entered a boulangerie where they practised their French skills to order some delicious bread and pastries.



Then it was off to our final excursion to Thiepval, a memorial for 74,000 British and French soldiers who died at the Battle of the Somme. We took the time to lay our wreath along with one from the Royal British Legion, and hold a minute's silence as a mark of respect and to contemplate all that we had learnt on the trip.

After a short while looking around and some lunch we started the long journey back to Gorleston, finally arriving at around 9pm. A long but very enjoyable and educational journey had by all. Next stop is Berlin and Krakow in February before hopefully taking the current Year 7 on our third annual Battlefields trip in November 2012.



## Inter College Dodge Ball!!

**The first inter-college tournament kicked off in October with Dodgeball. All Colleges were competing to be ultimate Dodgeball and College champions.**

The biggest turnout was from Year 7 and Year 8 with around 80 students taking part on their night. The late bus had to make two trips!

Each College showed great courage and ferocity and were cheered on by their College Leaders and Assistant Principals. Special mention has to go to Mrs Williams of Innovate, who was so engrossed

in her cheering that she was hit with a stray ball. That's commitment!

The competition was run smoothly and efficiently by volunteer students and Sports Leaders. Many thanks to Ellie McKay, Dayle Searby, Emily Smith, Ebony Goodwin and Jess Gilham.

**However, there was only one ultimate champion, which was, of course, Innovate. This College had the most teams entered each night and therefore claimed the title of inter-college Champions!! Well done Innovate!**





