

We Are OUTSTANDING

Ormiston Venture Academy is celebrating after achieving 'Outstanding' in our Section 8 Ofsted Inspection.

Ofsted inspectors observed the Academy's work, scrutinised documents and met with the Principal, senior and middle leaders, groups of students and representatives of the Governing Board to examine every aspect of Venture Academy life.

The Academy was awarded a glowing report praising the day to day running of the school, the quality of learning and teaching, student achievement and the capacity to improve even further.

The report stated: "Standards have risen sharply since opening. Changes introduced by senior leaders have generated a strong ethos based on regular attendance, hard effort and high achievement. Senior leaders have raised students' expectations and engendered a corporate willingness of staff to provide every student with the skills and qualifications for the next stage of their education, training or the work-place. A combination of improved teaching and behaviour, extensive monitoring and targeted interventions to support students at risk of underachieving has led to a rapid rise in standards."

The report further stated that students believed that "they are on-track to achieve what they are capable of because of the high expectations teachers have of

them and the help and encouragement they provided. Lessons observed jointly by senior leaders and inspectors confirmed this. Classrooms were orderly, calm and purposeful. Lesson planning was thorough with clear objectives. Teachers used a range of techniques to capture students' interest, encourage them to contribute their ideas and learn together in small groups."



The report concluded that pupils make outstanding progress in their studies. They greatly enjoy coming to school and attendance is high. Pupils behave well and they respond enthusiastically to the growing team of dedicated staff. "Inspirational, highly effective leadership from the Principal has driven a wide range of improvements in a short period of time. Aply supported by senior and middle leaders, she has reignited students' belief that they are capable of achieving success. She has won the confidence and respect of students and gained the full commitment of staff to deliver the Academy's aims.

Principal McCartney said: "We are delighted that Ofsted has endorsed our work in creating an innovative, creative and achievement-driven Academy; a place where pupils come to learn and develop. I'm particularly pleased that they have highlighted the hard work of our staff and the good behaviour and work of our pupils."

"We are completely committed to making Venture Academy an outstanding school that achieves success for every pupil. I'd like to thank all our staff and pupils for their commitment to making Venture the centre of educational excellence that it is quickly becoming."

What's going on at Venture Academy...

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Venture ePortal (VeP)

The Venture ePortal, or VeP, is the online learning gateway for both our staff and students. It gives us 24 hour access, seven days a week to all the materials and information that we need to progress our learning in line with targets.

Since its development in October 2011 the VeP has had well over 60,000 visits! For an Academy of our size that is a very, very impressive amount of hits.



The VeP lead developer and Director of Digital Media, Mark Thompson, said:

"The VeP is simply a fantastic opportunity. Students can visit the site either inside or outside the Academy and find out more about the subjects they are learning in class. The site proves very popular over the weekends and holidays and there are some great ideas coming from students to feed future developments."

Parents can access the site with the help of their student. The site can be visited at www.venture-eportal.co.uk and accessed with student email address and password.

Ormiston Academies Trust - ICT FORUM

Venture Academy welcomed representatives from across the country as we hosted the ICT forum this term. The forum involved guests from industry and national organisations presenting the latest developments and innovations in technology. Not only was the day a huge success, we have been invited to lead in a number of cutting-edge pilots and trials that will ensure Venture continues to offer every student in the Academy a world-class experience in the classroom. Keep an eye out for this exciting technology in a classroom near you!

Quick Rising Maths Results

Last year, in the first year of Venture being open, the maths department enjoyed some seriously impressive results. This year things look set to be better than ever.

Results just in show that at least half of the senior year have already achieved a GCSE in at least one of the maths options available. Several students already have an additional GCSE in Applications of Mathematics which is one half of the new linked pair of GCSEs. The second half of the pair is Methods of Mathematics which students are sitting in June.

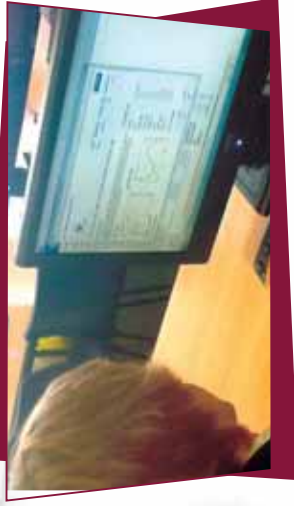
Venturing ahead with the linked pair pilot

Apparently, as a nation, we are pretty bad at Maths. Various reports, such as a recent one by Carol Vorderman and another by the charity National Numeracy, highlight our national failings. Up to 17 million UK adults do not have the basic numeracy skills they need. Clearly this is not the case across the Ormiston family, and at Venture we are ahead of the game again with solving this problem!



The Methods of Mathematics GCSE concentrates on mathematics as a discipline in its own right and as a powerful vehicle for developing the skills of thinking, reasoning and problem-solving. It encourages learners to develop sound basic technique in number, algebra and geometry. In addition to this, it builds confidence in applying these techniques to solve problems in mathematical contexts. It also emphasises the coherence, creativity, elegance and power of mathematics.

All this means that Venture students will leave the Academy ready for further education, apprenticeships, training or the workplace.



Many of the reports published recently recommend that the current GCSE be divided (no pun intended) into two separate qualifications so they can be examined more rigorously.

About six months ago Venture started helping to pilot the two new GCSE qualifications (the Linked Pair) and all students in Years 9, 10 and our senior year are now following this course.

The Applications of Mathematics GCSE concentrates on the skills and content required for everyday lives. The questions, on all of the topics, emphasise the relevance and purpose of the subject. Many are set in finance, scientific and other relevant contexts.

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venture's got TALENT 2



Ormiston Venture Academy held its annual talent competition on Thursday, 29 March 2011, following the format of 'Britain's Got Talent'.

With live phone voting, a capacity audience was treated to ten diverse acts before being asked to text the name of their favourite act to a specially set-up number.

Acts included baton twirling, cheerleading, dancing, singing, piano playing and drumming. Venture also showcased its very own boy band!

The evening's competition was superbly presented by two of Venture's upcoming stars, Year 11 students Ryan Martins and Alistair Nicholls.



Once the phone votes were in, Alex Frith, a Year 10 student who was runner-up last year, was proclaimed the winner for his fantastic drum solo. Alex was a worthy winner as his glow-in-the-dark routine was a great spectacle.



Presented with the trophy on the night, Alex said, "I'm overwhelmed. All of the acts were brilliant so I'm really pleased to have won."

Videos of the acts can be seen by accessing Venture's student-run eMagazine at www.radiowaves.co.uk/venturestudentmagazine.

On the night, the audience of 250 was also treated to a show-stopping performance by one of Venture's Year 11 students, Esmee Murray, who made a special guest appearance, singing 'Black and Gold' and a song that she co-produced with teacher Mr. Sprong, 'Head Over Heels'. Both songs can be heard on the eMagazine at the above address.



Venture into Business...

When Ormiston Venture Academy opened in September 2010, Principal McCartney vowed to make the Academy a hub for strong community relations. Above all, the aim was to enable the students to reap the benefits of those good relationships.

their chosen career paths. A student from Venture has designed the Christmas card for local architects, PURE - and the company director has run a training session for ten Venture students on securing a career in architecture.

Two sessions have been run for local businesses to lead events on applying for jobs and training posts and further collaborative work is planned with local award-winners Bradwell Butchery, including another sculpture workshop! Many attendees are keen on students designing their websites and assisting with marketing.



Senior Vice-Principal, Naomi Palmer, embraces the long-term business partnerships:

"I feel that too often events are held which bring local businesses and educational institutions together but lead nowhere. At Venture we are determined to create sustainable links which have the greatest impact on our students."

Venture held its first Venture Into Business breakfast meeting before Christmas - and the event was well attended by local businesses (big and small) and members of further and higher education institutions.

All who attended agreed to make relationships stronger for the sake of the up-and-coming workforce - they vowed to meet again in the Spring Term having achieved something positive. And they certainly did!

So far, a Venture Business Directory has been set up so students can access the companies who've signed up to help directly and crucially find out more about

But it's not all about business at Venture when it comes to the community. A monthly Film Club runs in the Academy Hall, providing a free cinema experience for anyone who would like to attend. A selection of favourites have been shown in recent months including, 'Moulin Rouge', 'Casablanca' and 'West Side Story'. Refreshments are provided for all who attend. Mr Giles, Assistant Principal said, "In these times of austerity, it's difficult for the local community to find free events to attend - especially ones which are warm, safe and embrace a love of culture. Our regular attendees thoroughly enjoy the social aspect of the films too!"

Mr Giles is also keen for more people to attend - the hall offers plenty of space. If you would like to come to the next film event, please pop in and see Mr Giles.

If you'd like to support the Venture Into Business group, please email Naomi Palmer on npalmer@ormistonventureacademy.co.uk

Diary Dates: Keep up to date with events at Venture Academy...

June	July	September
Friday 1st - Academic Review day and Academy closes for half term	Monday 2nd - Thursday 5th - Year 6 Transition Days.	Thursday 6th - Academy opens for academic year 2012/2013
Monday 11th - Academy Reopens	Monday 2nd	Keep up to date with all that's going on via our 'outstanding' website: www.ormistonventureacademy.co.uk
Thursday 28th - Academy closed for Norfolk Show Day	Monday 9th - Friday 13th - Year 10 students work experience week.	
Thursday 28th - Senior Year Prom - Somerleyton Hall	Friday 13th - Ormiston Venture Academy Fete	
	Friday 20th - Academy closes for Summer holiday	

European Adventure

During February half term Venture went into the fields of Germany and Poland on an exciting six-day visit. We went to see Berlin and the dark history of the city, to Krakow to see the evidence of the Nazis' final solution of the death camps, and also to experience some new cultures. All were moved at what they saw. We had a tour of Berlin and saw the Jewish Museum, Checkpoint Charlie and the T.V. Tower, which we all wanted to climb with its massive 986 steps.

In Poland we went to the Salt Mine - where the madness continued with the licking of walls! Then we made our way to the Jewish Quarter of Krakow, where Schindler's List was filmed, and to Auschwitz/Birkenau. To finish the tour we had a traditional Polish meal and folklore evening which included dancing and singing.

Mr Richards, Head of Humanities stated that the view from the T.V. Tower in Berlin was amazing, you could clearly see the old and the new. The Reichstag is still standing with what looks like a massive iPad 2 standing in front of it!

The trip was one of the most amazing trips we have ever gone on. One of the sights was one we will never forget.

Share-Dealing Challenge

This year the PL Share-Dealing Challenge is even bigger than ever!

Each PL group had £10,000 of fantasy cash to spend on shares, based on real data from markets around the world. Every other week the PL time specialism focus is on maths, and after watching the specialism video for the week students get trading via an online system.

"Wheeling and dealing on the stock market is a lot of fun" said Mr Plume, Director of Specialism. "It's important that students get to understand the markets and get an appreciation of the pitfalls of investing as well as the benefits."

This year the challenge is being fiercely fought, with the lead PL group sitting on around £5000 of profit! The competition is, of course, wide open because markets can change overnight and fortunes can be quickly lost.



forget. There was a sign on one of the entrances to the camps stating: 'ARBET: MACHT FREI'. Translated into English, this means 'work sets you free'. We were left reflecting that this was probably one of the worst lies told in history.

Overall, this quote from a Year 10 student sums up the tour perfectly: **"It was a truly inspirational, educational and emotional trip. It has definitely changed my perspective on life and I will never forget it."**

Ormiston Academies Trust - ICT FORUM

Venture Academy welcomed representatives from across the country as we hosted the ICT forum this term. The forum involved guests from industry and national organisations presenting the latest developments and innovations in technology.

Not only was the day a huge success, we have been invited to lead in a number of cutting-edge pilots and trials that will ensure Venture continues to offer every student in the Academy a world-class experience in the classroom. Keep an eye out for this exciting technology in a classroom near you!



STEM Innovation

The STEM organisation (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) was originally set up to encourage students to study those subjects at A-level and then degree level. In recent months and years it's been recognised that often these subjects are united by innovation and enterprise.

Our brand new Innovation Club is helping students make the connections between these subjects and enterprise. The students develop skills in the subjects while getting an understanding of how it could all fit into the bigger picture.

Recently, our Year 7 students had a visit from a STEM Ambassador (and Serial Entrepreneur) to help them with an English project on gadgets. Gary, the Ambassador, spoke to the students about how you develop a product from the initial idea to taking it to market.

Two of our Year 10 students involved with the Innovation Club are doing just that, with a device that is set to revolutionise your Xbox live experience! Through the club the students can receive business mentoring, product support and patenting advice.

Whatever your interest or idea the Innovation Club can help you. See Mir Plume for more information, which will soon be available via www.innovationclub.info.

Venture now looks set to become a regional centre for STEM and provide training and support for other schools setting up or running STEM clubs.

Raising Achievement update

The Academy has made outstanding progress in ensuring our students achieve success both now and throughout their futures. We have implemented a range of personalised and innovative strategies to ensure that all students achieve their potential including focused intervention groups, 1 to 1 mentoring and live reporting for both students and parents. In fact the current senior year have already achieved fantastic results!

Nearly half of the year group have already achieved 5 A*-C including English and Mathematics.

Most students have already secured 5 A*-C grades.

With our students demonstrating a clear commitment to excelling and the Academy supporting them in a range of exciting and innovative ways we look forward to seeing every one of our students achieving the success they deserve.



The Diary Room



Venture's Diary Room continues to go from strength to strength. Students have recently been telling us what they would like to see as alternative rewards at the Academy, with the Student Executive discussing the suggestions during their meetings.

Fridays have now been labelled, 'Voice It Friday,' where students are able to talk about whatever they would like in the Diary Room. So far, students have voiced their opinions on:

The use of outside space during lunch
The new build
The possibility of locker space

For all of the latest Diary Room footage, check out the student eMagazine page at:
www.radiowaves.co.uk/venturestudentmagazine/diaryroom

Year 8 Science Fair

'Movement' was the theme for National Science and Engineering Week this year.

Year 8 students working in small groups designed, built and manned their stalls for our annual Science Fair.

Year 5 and 6 students from Herman, Peterhouse and Moorlands Primary Schools spent several hours being entertained and taught by our students.

The primary school students also took part in a Chemistry workshop where they made rainbows in test tubes and tried instant green strawberry ice cream made with liquid nitrogen!



They also spent some time in the Games Room.

Once the younger ones had gone, there was a massive clear-up followed by prize-giving. Winning stalls included Magnetic Animals, Tsunami in a Tank, Colour Changing Milk and the Solar System.

Ethan Hall won a special award for being the most helpful student throughout the day.



NEW BUILD

In the short period since it started, our Academy has achieved a step-change in student achievement, and has successfully raised aspirations within the Academy community.



All this has been achieved within the existing building that is sometimes problematic. There is now a chance to capitalise on the hard work already done with the remodelling of the existing building. Balfour Beatty Construction Limited and Ormiston Venture Academy have submitted a planning application for the redevelopment of the Academy building. The proposal is a scheme that links seamlessly existing, remodelled and new build accommodation, to provide a great learning environment where the Academy's principles of achieving best performance for students and staff can be realised. Our intention is to provide a new and refurbished building that will match the educational improvements already achieved by the Academy's students. The scheme presents significant opportunities and benefits including:

- A clear and welcoming student and visitor access to the new Academy
- Improved facilities and sports facilities for both students and the community
- A new tiered lecture theatre seating 90
- New parking on site adjacent to the existing sports hall

Views of the new building from Oriel Avenue give a clear sense of entrance, kerb appeal and increase the Academy's status in the community. The new building encloses a south-facing square, landscaped and open, with hard and soft informal play spaces, low walled external dining area and an amphitheatre.

Karate Champion - Mark Burgess

Mark Burgess is a keen student here at Ormiston Venture Academy who participates in karate at a club in the community. Mark achieved his black belt in January this year, and has won a number of national competitions.

Mark attends the Chinto club at Magdalen Church, which is run by Tracy Pillar four times a week, to practice and progress through his grading of belts.

Mark has been doing karate for the last four years now and thoroughly enjoys it; he last went to Stalham to a competition where he had to win six fights to be recognised as the competition winner.



The site fronting Oriel Avenue is a public entrance space, with a new pedestrian boulevard running directly to the main entrance, while a separate visitors' vehicle entrance, with dedicated parking bays, ensures student safety and provides an appropriately civic sense of entrance to the Academy. We would welcome your views on the development proposals.

Please email your comments to sthomson@ormistonventureacademy.co.uk

Football Success

The Year 8 boys' football team managed to reach the District cup final at Wellesley this season. The team beat Lynn Grove but still faced a tough task. They tried hard and stuck to their roles well, but conceded Lynn Grove two goals in the first ten minutes. Venture came back into the game and had the upper hand for periods in the first half. Sam Waite pulled a goal back after great work by Travis Webb to give Venture some hope. Unfortunately the boys let in two more goals in the second half and lost the match 4-1. This was a big improvement from earlier in the year, though, and gives the squad something to aim for in the future.

The Year 11 side progressed to the quarter-finals of the County Cup and travelled to Wyomondham College. Mitchel McKay led the team superbly but like the Year 8s, they let in some easy goals in the first half. The second half saw Venture have a real go and create a number of good goal scoring opportunities. Unfortunately they couldn't follow through this time and went out of the competition 4-0. Hopefully the boys will continue to play football next year.

Venture Students to commentate at the Olympic Park

Four Year 10 Ormiston Venture Academy students have won a national competition that will see them reporting on the upcoming Sainsbury's School Games at the Olympic Park in London.

The competition, run in partnership by 'Radiowaves' and the 'Youth Sport Trust', saw students from across the country posting entries of their own sporting commentaries with 30 winners forming a youth reporting team.

Venture students, Bradley Goldsmith, Joshua Mitchell, Sunny McKay and Christopher Hart, won their place on the reporting team after recording their own commentaries at the BBC Radio Norfolk studios. Their efforts can be seen on the Ormiston Venture Academy Student eMagazine at the website: www.radiowaves.co.uk/VentureStudentMagazine/

As part of their prize, the four students will work alongside, and learn from, a professional media-training team and be responsible for producing content that will be shared nationally across a range of media platforms, including the BBC. They will be reporting, commentating and photographing the Sainsbury's School Games, held on the 9 May 2012 at the new Olympic Park.

All four students are incredibly excited by the event and can't wait to be part of it. Bradley Goldsmith, 15, explained how he was simply 'gobsmacked'. Chris Hart, 14, told us how he was, "looking forward to meeting new people and seeing the new Olympic Park".



From left to right: Chris Hart, Bradley Goldsmith, Josh Mitchell and Sunny McKay



Chris Hart and Josh Mitchell, commentating on Norwich versus Ipswich

Sports Relief Mile



On March 21st 2012, students and staff from Ormiston Venture Academy helped raise money for the BBC's 'Sports Relief' by completing a sponsored mile around the Academy's sports field. Students also paid a £1 donation in return for the privilege of wearing non-uniform for the day.

Although the official target for students was two laps of the Academy's field (measuring just under a mile), many students opted to complete three or four laps, in response to sponsorship that they had collected. A number of students also decided to wear fancy dress. Earlier in the week, students had watched one of the 'Sports Relief' campaign videos highlighting the plight of children in both Africa and the United Kingdom.

Money raised from the event will be split between the 'Sports Relief' campaign and 'Children with Cancer UK', in support of one of Venture's teachers, Miss Swanston, who ran the London Marathon on April 22nd 2012, for this charity. Venture student reporter, Chris Hart, summed up the mood of the day, "Today was a great day, not just for students who were able to wear non-school uniform, but for charity. We raised a lot of money for them by topping the day off with a one mile fun run."

After the Easter break, students will be competing as form groups against each other in an Academy tug-of-war. Money raised during this event will also go towards the two charities. For more pictures and all of the latest reports from Ormiston Venture Academy's student reporters, go to the Venture Student eMagazine at: www.radiowaves.co.uk/venturesstudentmagazine



Venture/UEA Sports Day

On January 19th 2012, Mr McInally and Ms Cornwell took a group of Year 7 boys to the University of East Anglia (UEA) for a Sports Day. The students had the opportunity to experience two sports chosen from fencing, climbing, judo and archery. They also had a tour of the campus and conducted some sports science reaction time tests in the labs. It was a fantastic and insightful day which, hopefully, helped to open the boys' eyes to the possibility of going to university in the future.

Ormiston Venture Academy student, Charlie King, aged 16, raced to second place in the under-25 Mini Twin class at Brands Hatch in April.

Riding his motorbike at speeds of up to 140 miles per hour, Charlie was not only placed second in the under-25 event but finished an incredible third overall in a competition featuring 40 riders. Charlie's finishing position was due to consistently high finishes in his four races.

Racing across the country at tracks such as Brands Hatch, Donington and Norfolk's very own Snetterton, Charlie's races are part of the British Motor Cycle Racing Club which can lead to the European Championships.

Charlie's biggest hurdle in the sport, which he says gives him an 'adrenaline-rush of energy', is that of funding. With just the cost of tyres totalling around £500 for each weekend of racing, Charlie's sport costs about £12,000 a year.



MOTORCYCLE KING



In order to compete at a national level, Charlie continues to look for sponsors and is hoping that he can turn some heads during a feature race at Donington during the World Superbike Championships next month.

Everyone at Ormiston Venture Academy wishes him luck for this event and in finding sponsorship deals in the future.

Athletics

The focus of lessons and after-Academy clubs turns to athletics now, with the big district competition happening on June 14th this year. Training is on every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday for every event which all students are encouraged to attend.

Sports News

Joy for Jessica-Jane In the GB Olympic Pool

March 3rd – 10th 2012 saw local youngster Jess Applegate compete at the Olympic & Paralympic selection trials held at the London Aquatic Centre.

Anyone wishing to compete at either event had to race at the selection trials to have a chance of selection. It was not just a massive achievement to qualify to attend this event but Jess also achieved a personal best time. She was accompanied by her head coach Alex Pinniger, to make sure everything ran smoothly!

15 year old Jess, from Gorleston, was swimming in the S14 disability category. Jess stormed the pool on Saturday morning finishing with a personal best and a place in the evening's finals. The pressure was really on. It was the first round of trials for Paralympic swimmers, she was competing in an unfamiliar pool and it was live on BBC1's red button! Jess did not disappoint and anyone at home viewing can verify how electric the atmosphere was. Jess finished not only in first place within the Paralympic qualifying time but now holds a new British record for her time. Jess said 'I swam so hard I couldn't feel my legs afterwards, they felt like they had turned to jelly'.

To qualify for the Paralympics there are two rounds of trials, further classification assessments and then a selection process. The final team should be confirmed by May.

Sunday saw Jess compete in the 100m backstroke where she also had a strong race and touched just outside her personal best time, unfortunately not making finals in this event.

Jess swims with Alex Pinniger under the UEA city of Norwich. Alex said "We had seven swimmers qualify and attend the British Gas Championships which is a fantastic achievement. We also had 157 other parents and swimmers come to London to show their support. Of course it's all about the swimming but the club offers a fabulous support network for every swimmer. Now it's back to training for everyone preparing for the forthcoming events".

Thank you to all of the staff at the Phoenix pool in Bradwell for helping Jess out with some training sessions when she had some difficulties.

Anyone interested in joining the UEA City of Norwich swimming club please contact: Alex Pinniger
alexpinniger@gmail.com

