

GCSE Success Again!



Ormiston Venture Academy have announced today that they have the highest results in Great Yarmouth.

96% of the Academy's students achieved 5 or more A* to C grades - and 59% of those included good passes in English and mathematics.

Just two years ago when the doors opened for the first time, only 45% of students were achieving 5 A to C grades, with 36% including the English and mathematics 'gold standard' measure.

The Academy's high achieving students also performed above national averages with 24 of students overall gaining at least 3 A and A* grades. GCSE English results reached 73% and results in GCSE mathematics also rose by almost 10% on 2011.

Many individuals succeeded in gaining 12 or more good passes and these included Ashley Scarlett who begins his scholarship at Gresham's Independent School in Holt this September, gained through the school's role as educational partner to the Academy. Ashley attained 19 good passes in total, including a staggering 12 A and A* grades.

Ashley said: "I'm delighted with my results. Overall I'm most pleased with my grades in Astronomy, Statistics and History as I completed those courses within one year. I was also glad to achieve my A* in science.



I'm very excited about starting Gresham's in September and quite confident despite the large amount of work to do!"

Connor Sartain also managed to achieve 12 good passes overall. He said: "I'm most pleased with my science results as I achieved my top grade. As for the future, I'm considering a career as a vet, but I'm feeling open to all options at the moment."

Other huge successes included the Academy's Head Girl, Susanna Ward who achieved 8 A and A* grades amongst her 17 good passes; Lily Crick who gained 6 A and A* grades and Sophie Mitchell who succeeded in reaching 6 A and A* grades.

Principal McCartney commented: "I'm over the moon with these results. Staff and students have worked really hard to achieve this and I'm so proud of them. This is truly exceptional and we plan to see results continue to rise."

Peter Murray, Chairman of Ormiston Trust added: "These are very impressive results and my congratulations go to Principal McCartney, her staff and the students. These results ensure that the Academy's students have a solid foundation from which to launch their futures."



What's going on at Venture Academy...

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Alistair and Ryan have worked hard to gain a fan-base for their unique horror films, such as 'The Belton Chainsaw Massacre', as well as their tributes to the great duo Laurel and Hardy. Last half-term alone they saw their work on display at The Forum in Norwich as a celebration of the work of young film-makers in the region.

Their current project, sponsored by First Light, is lottery-funded and is likely to include a Face Melting Productions film festival in Great Yarmouth later this year.

Nick Marcq of Latimer Creative Media said:
"I'm thrilled to be helping such talented young film-makers in Gorleston. It's really important to give young people an opportunity and I'm confident they'll make it in the industry."

The filming project, which will result in private screenings in both Great Yarmouth and London, involves working with Nick Marcq of Latimer Creative Media and a range of other professionals in the business. Over the course of just 2 weeks, the lads created 2 short films in celebration of all things Victorian and Gothic. Shooting on location at Somerleyton Hall, The Tolhouse Museum and the rows in Great Yarmouth, the boys created films inspired by Edgar Allan Poe's 'Tell-tale Heart'.

The opportunity could see them enjoy well-earned national recognition following the popularity of their recent work. Alistair said:

"It's been a great experience working with different people, especially Nick Marcq. We have enjoyed finding different locations."

Face Melting Productions go Professional!

Jamie Dale in Year 8 who participated in a 3-hour film-makers' workshop, also run by Nick Marcq, thoroughly enjoyed the experience. She said:

"It was really fun and interesting. I want to be an actress when I grow up. It will help me know what I'm doing and help to build my confidence. It was a great experience."

Destinie Lambert who was also keen to take part enjoyed the day:

"It was great fun and teaches students how to act. I think it helped students how to learn self-control. It was a really good experience."

Naomi Palmer, Senior Vice Principal, said:

"I am delighted they have the opportunity to showcase their talents in this way - they were inspired by being able to look at the private rooms at Somerleyton and thoroughly enjoyed the chance to work with the community to secure the right atmosphere for the films. They have worked tirelessly to produce something highly professional. These dedicated young men deserve success."

Move over Simon Pegg et al...



Ryan also said:
"I feel privileged to have the opportunity to be able to get a real feeling of what it would be like to be in the film industry. I've enjoyed meeting new people and visiting new places. Our dream location was Somerleyton Hall and it became a reality."



Literacy Rocks at Venture

Here at Venture, we are always ahead of the game, so when OFSTED recently announced their concerns over the level of intervention in raising students' literacy skills, we saw it as a chance to celebrate what we are already doing.



We have also launched a grading system to mirror the current one used at GCSE to ensure that understanding progress for every child is much easier. Essentially, a C grade is given for Level 5 work; B for Level 6 work; A for Level 7 work so you can predict with greater ease the standard of qualifications your child is likely to achieve. Of course, every measure is used to support every child in achieving at least C grades in every subject during their time at Venture. Literacy is about communicating effectively - and we want to ensure everyone feels we have achieved that!

Look out for Year 7's educational film about how to use capital letters accurately - amazing talent!

We have zoomed in on capital letters and improved presentation of students' work and the hard work is proving fruitful! We also have personalised packs of literacy work which is completed in PL time - along with peer reading and spelling. Here's to the Venture Spelling Bee in 2013!

We track students' progress in literacy development with great care - testing, using various methods, is used to make sure we have an accurate measure of what needs to be done to ensure every child has the right skills for communication at the Academy and later in the world of work. Students' commitment to the Accelerated Reader programme is celebrated through our LRC and the data provided by our online live tracking system, Go4Schools enables parents and teachers to analyse the grades given.



Great Fete!

Friday the 13th, unlucky for some, but not for the Venture Community Fete! Despite being forced inside by the poor weather, we managed to raise over £500. That money will be donated to a charity chosen by the College who raised the most money.

The Mayor, who opened the Fete, enjoyed herself immensely and wanted to have a go at each stall! The Mayor, like several other visitors, remarked on the creative ideas the students had come up with in an effort to take as much money as possible from visitors!

Before leaving, the Mayor had a quick tour of some of Venture's facilities and, like us, she is very excited about the ambitious new build plans which will truly open up the Academy to the Community.



Graduation Celebration in the Last Week of Term

As we come to the close of the first year of our Key Stage 3 students' Passport to Success programme, we are celebrating some amazing victories! We have 12 students who have already managed to gain a Gold Passport just one year in! All 12 enjoyed an all-expenses paid visit to Pleasurewood Hills at the end of term with Miss Brown, Success Centre leader.

The Graduation programme acknowledges students' successes in both academic and pastoral elements of their lives at Venture. The friendship award is a tough one to crack - as is the much-coveted Principal's award which is given for outstanding service to the Academy.

Bradley Chilvers and Susan Hart are leading the way as both have already gained 9 of the 10 awards available. When asked how they felt about their hard work being recognised so readily, Bradley said:

"My first year was good and I'm very proud of all my graduation badges and achievements throughout the year. Pleasurewood Hills was a brilliant way to end it all."

From September 2012, Miss Brown will continue to work hard to ensure every student is offered support to reach at least level 5 in English. She will be working

alongside students in class, hosting the Home Learning clubs and using the Lexia programme. She also leads the Wednesday Community Reading Group and we are always recruiting new volunteers - please contact Miss Palmer, Senior Vice Principal on npalmer@ormistonventureacademy.co.uk if you'd like to find out more.

We have also recently celebrated our Key Stage 3 students' outstanding achievement in Home Learning. 24 students have been nominated by Venture staff who always submit high quality, innovative homework - and on time! All 24 enjoyed a traditional seaside fish and chip lunch in the Success Centre in the final week of term to reflect on their hard work and create a hub of outstanding homework for others to aspire to! All great preparation for life at GCSE level.

Miss Palmer, Senior Vice Principal is delighted with the quality of work.

"I am extremely proud that so many students were nominated for this celebratory lunch - many of the project-based home learning tasks are of a very professional standard. It is clear that students take great pride in all of their work at Venture. It's often very pleasing to see that parents have pitched in and helped with home learning tasks - it helps to ensure that students continue to love learning for life!"

Venture Student Magazine surpasses 10,000 page views

Ormiston Venture Academy's student run eMagazine has reached a milestone, achieving over 10,000 page views since going live in November 2011.

Set up by students Ashley Scarlett and Jamie Skinner, Ormiston Venture Academy's student run eMagazine now includes over 170 stories ranging from film and book reviews to diary room entries and video clips of Academy-run talent shows.

With an editorial team made up of Jamie Skinner, Chris Hart and Victoria Hall, the magazine has over 50 student reporters.

Highlights include students winning a national competition to report at the recent 'National School Games', where Chris Hart got to interview former Badminton Olympian, Gail Emms.



Students have also used the eMagazine to showcase their talents, posting stories regarding sporting achievements and clips from the Academy's annual 'Venture's Got Talent' as well as showcasing the singing talents of Year 11 student, Esmee Murray who has recorded two songs on the magazine, including an original piece penned by teacher Mr Sprong.

Year 11 students Ryan Martins and Alistair Nicholls have used the eMagazine as a platform for sharing some of their own short films.

One of the most surprising achievements of the year, however, has to go to Brad Lacey who wrote a short article about the possibility of JK Rowling writing a new book. This story found itself at the top of Google searches and, as a result, currently has over 2000 views.

In recognition of all of the good work, Venture Academy has been invited to work with 4 other schools in the county to design and develop a nationally recognised online rewards scheme for student reporters.

All of the stories, videos and audio from the Ormiston Venture Academy student eMagazine can be found at:

www.radiowaves.co.uk/venturestudentmagazine





Olympic Torch 2012

By Margaret Greenacre Reptographics

I was fortunate enough to be fund raising groups and those a guest at the Civic Breakfast involved in public office made in St Nicholas's Minister on up the 50 plus guest list.

Thursday 5th July, before the torch relay arrived in Great Yarmouth.

The mayor, Colleen Walker, hosted that breakfast, which was a traditional feast of Kippers and scrambled egg!

Guests included Paralympic champion student Jess Applegate and Harlee Wicks (aged 6) who had just returned from Coratia having won a gold medal in the Junior Roller Skating Championships.

Members of the community, A truly memorable event.

Digital Media at Venture Academy

It has been a fantastic year for Digital Media at Venture Academy both in terms of curriculum ICT and the use of computer technology across all areas.

At Easter time our Year 11 class of 2012 entered their coursework for their OCR National in ICT qualification. The students had worked very hard, many since Year 9, on projects covering business information systems, animation, video production, graphic designs, technology and innovation, podcasting, website design and multimedia to name but a few.

This hard work from both students and their dedicated teachers resulted in all of the Class of 2012 achieving up to 4 GCSE equivalents in IT. This is a record for the team at Venture and must surely rank us amongst the top performing IT teams nationally. It is clear to see that as a specialist subject at Venture, Digital Media provides diverse pathways for future study and careers for all our students.

The Academy has recently joined the national Digital Leaders network which seeks to empower those students with an IT talent to share their skills with others. Every Wednesday after school a team of Digital Leaders made up of students from all years meet with Mr Thompson to work on their own personal projects and develop resources to help others learn new computer skills. Digital Leaders are currently working on movies and websites to showcase their learning from 2012, an animation website to teach others with video teaching resources and also produce a weekly podcast available on iTunes.

Some students in Year 10 and 11 are also starting to investigate how Twitter can be used to share and enhance their learning. Whilst it is still early days, students are responding to teachers' questions, completing home learning and giving feedback to their peers using the social networking site. Use of this technology as a teaching and learning resource also allows them to understand more about the potential dangers in some corners of the internet.

The Venture ePortal learning environment has gone from strength to strength since its launch in October. Every curriculum and pastoral area of the Academy is now available to students 24/7 via the VeP. Word of its success has started to reach other areas of the country and Mr Thompson, Director of Digital Media, has been

out presenting the technology to other academies in the south and east of England.

Our success in Digital Media have most recently been celebrated through our achievement of the Naace ICT Mark. This award is given to those institutions that are at the leading edge in their particular field and demonstrate sustainable future progress. Gareth Davies, who inspected the school as part of the application process, commented in his report that:

"Inspirational leadership and management of ICT are a clear strength of the school... children are excited and motivated users of ICT to support their Learning"

These comments reflect those of OFSTED who visited in April this year.

"The academy's specialism of digital media is used as a key tool for raising standards."

It really has been a truly successful year for all at the academy in Digital Media and we look forward to building on the strengths from this year in the next.



Go4Set

Go4Set is an awesome competition that seeks to link Year 8 students with Industry and Universities. The students use mathematical, scientific and technological skills to solve problems about water and electricity consumption in schools and academies.

Our students had to look at current consumption of water and electricity in the Academy. They researched what the water and electric are used for and where it could be saved. They also researched ground breaking technology to make any building more eco-efficient from photovoltaic cells to grey water harvesting.

Over ten weeks the students developed a model of their ideal classroom which showcased one or two key environmental features. They wrote a report on their eco-classroom and then prepared a display to represent their designs.

The final step was presenting their findings to industry experts. The pressure was on, but this was nothing for Venture students who won the entire competition!



New Student Executive Board Announced

After a tough day of interviews, Miss McCartney, Chair of Governors Lesley King and Governor Paul Hann appointed the new Student Executive Board:

Head Girl: Emily Smith • **Deputy Head Girl:** Danyelle Hodds
Head Boy: Jacob Talkowski • **Deputy Head Boy:** Bradley Goldsmith

The panel found the quality of the candidates' presentations and interview extremely high across the board, with Miss McCartney highlighting that, 'it was a very tough competition'.

Everyone at Venture would like to congratulate our new Executive Board and look forward to watching them grow into their new roles in September.

Share Dealing

This year each PL group once again was given £10000 of fantasy cash to invest in stocks and shares from around the World. The range of shares bought was, like last year, massive with purchases including abstract prospecting companies in South America to high street names like Apple!

Now share-dealing fever has spread to Business Studies and the team are running a competition for the year 9s, 10s and 11s who take Business as an option.

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

September 2012	September 2013
Thursday 27th Sept. - Academic Review Day	Thursday 25th April - Academic Review Day
Monday 29th Oct. to Friday 2nd Nov. - Half Term	Monday 20th May - May Day
December 2012	Monday 27th May to Friday 31st May - Half term
Monday 24th Dec. to Monday 7th Jan. 2013 - Christmas Holiday	June 2013
February 2013	Wednesday 26th June - School Closure for Norfolk Show Day
Monday 18th Feb. to Friday 22nd Feb. - Half Term	July 2013
March 2013	Thursday 25th July - Summer Holiday
Thursday 28th Mar. to Friday 12th Apr. - Easter Holiday	

V4!

Venture active learning personalisation assessment for learning

Another Outstanding term for learning and teaching at Ormiston Venture Academy! Again, staff have worked continuously hard to provide a first class education for our students.

The term started with the launch of the Venture Store containing 'widgets' which students will be trained on September. The widgets are designed to help students transfer skills across all areas of the curriculum and promote high quality learning.

As an Academy we have focused relentlessly on the Venture 4: active learning; personalisation; assessment for learning; and the learning of reading, writing, communication and maths over the last term. Whole staff INSET has developed these key priorities enabling staff to share best practice and have maximum impact in lessons. Moreover INSET has focused on developing fun, variety and flair with staff developing videos for the O2 Learning Competition.

To keep up to date with developments in learning and teaching at Venture follow us on twitter: @venture_lt

KEY STAGE

After the success of the Academy's first year, it was important that we built on this and ensured our students achieved an even higher standard in 2011/12. It has been an outstanding year for each and every one of our students with the Senior Year striving to achieve excellence in all areas. The results of the group are an achievement to be proud of!

Over half of the year already achieved the benchmark of 5 x A* to C including English and maths before the final examinations in June, while the number of students achieving 5 x A*-C is once again well above the National Average, ensuring all our students have the qualifications to support their next step into Further Education, employment or training.

We wish all our Senior Year the best of luck for their futures and look forward to further raising the standard of education for all students in Venture Academy

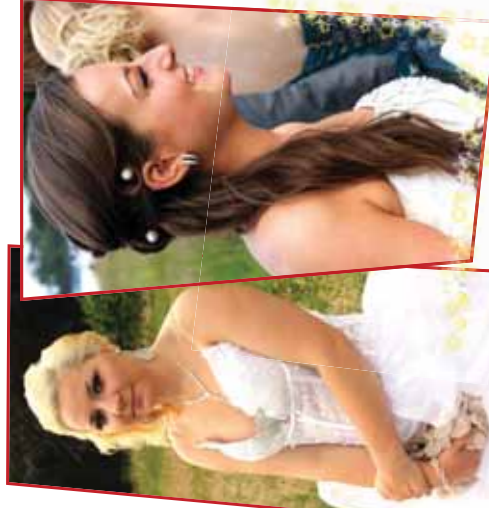


Senior Prom 2012

After a year of hard work and months of preparation, the Academy's second Senior Year had earned what was a fairy-tale ending. The venue (Somerleyton Hall) was an impressive backdrop for our prom. The students arrived in style with over 100 family and friends welcoming them to the venue.



The students looked amazing, the girls in their beautiful dresses and the boys in their very smart suits. They were treated to refreshments on arrival on the west terrace overlooking the stunning gardens, followed by a stroll through the grounds to their specially decorated marquee. The students enjoyed a delicious BBQ and beautifully made cupcakes... then the party started! The dance floor rocked throughout the whole evening with students and staff dancing the night away



The prom was a fantastic way to congratulate our Senior Year for all of the hard work they have put in; they worked extremely hard and deserved this night to remember.





Prom King & Queen
was awarded to –
Harry Farrington
& Suzanna Ward

Sports Leaders

The Sports Leaders did themselves proud once again as they acted as coaches and officiated a Year 5 and 6 basketball competition for our feeder schools. Mr Bunting commented on their professionalism, enthusiasm and knowledge as they represented the Academy honourably. The Headteacher from Herman also commented on the huge positive impact these students have made. As a reward, Mr Bunting

took them to see the Olympic Flame as it travelled through Great Yarmouth.

The year finished on a high with the annual PE Camp. Students had a fantastic time, surfing, sliding, bowling, playing games, completing 'bush tucker trials', eating and generally chilling out. It was a brilliant camp, arguably the best yet!

Congratulations to all staff, parents and most importantly students who have made this year such a successful one for everyone involved with Venture Academy. Thank you for everyone's support as we continue to raise the profile and quality of PE and sport within the Academy.

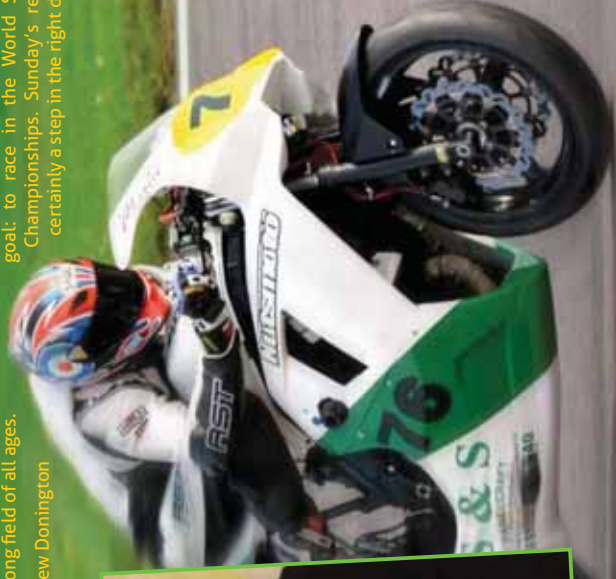


Charlie King 1st & 3rd

Charlie King, ex-Year 11 Prefect at Ormiston Venture Academy, produced his best ever racing in front of a crowd of over 15,000 spectators on Sunday, 13th May.

Competing in the National Mini Twins category during the World Superbike Championships at Donington, Charlie placed first and third in his two races, giving him the overall top spot against a strong field of all ages.

During his races, Charlie set a new Donington lap record of 1:42.32.5.



Charlie's ambition is to move back into the British Superbike Championships and is looking for help with funding. With tyres costing around £500 for each weekend of racing, Charlie's sport costs about £12,000 a year.

Charlie remains focused on his ultimate goal: to race in the World Superbike Championships. Sunday's result was certainly a step in the right direction.

Venture Games

On Friday 29th June the whole Academy engaged in a day of sport as the Venture Games was staged for the second year.

Every student and member of teaching staff was actively involved in a range of 14 sports and activities. The Games took on an Olympic feel; the majority of activities on offer related to the Olympic Games in London.

Students were awarded bronze, silver and gold certificates based upon their effort and performance in each activity. Thankfully the weather stayed dry and all enjoyed their day as the Academy strives to promote healthy, active lifestyles.



Fantastic Finish To A Year!

*Amazing achievements
from a range of teams
and students.*



Firstly... Athletics success at Wellesley

Overall we finished a hugely creditable 3rd place out of the six schools that competed. We are by far the smallest school so to compete and finish just 9 points off second place was an outstanding achievement by the students and staff managers alike. We are so incredibly proud of all of the students, especially those that were awarded bronze, silver and gold medals!



Football

The Year 8 boys' team managed to get to the District cup final, which was held at the Wellesley stadium. They faced a strong Lynn Grove side that had beaten them earlier in the season. The boys gave a really good account of themselves in front of a big crowd, but went down 4-1. The team let in a few goals which came from their own mistakes but Sam Waite scored the goal of the game after good work by Travis Webb. The boys showed some positive signs for next season.



Netball

The Year 7 and 8 netball teams finished 3rd as well in the local district league. This was excellent as the teams were new to the competition and format. The girls worked tirelessly in the tournaments and deserve our praise, well done.



Rounders winners

Each year group have had two tournaments held at different locations across the district. The results from the tournaments have been nothing short of phenomenal! All year groups performed magnificently and 3 of the 4 won their respective leagues. Miss Hollis and Miss Ermini have worked wonders with the squads and deserve huge congratulations for their efforts.

The girls were fantastic and tactically streets ahead of the other schools, they thoroughly deserved their victories. Rounders at Venture is flying high!!



An Ormiston Champion



Ormiston student Jessica-Jane Applegate set a new Paralympic record in the women's S14 200m freestyle at this summer's 2012 Paralympics. With only 50m to go, the 16-year-old was in 3rd place, and stormed ahead to finish with gold and a Paralympic record.

Ormiston Venture Academy is sponsored by Birmingham-based Ormiston Academies Trust, whose new chief executive Professor Toby Salt started on Monday.

He said: "What an inspiring introduction on my first day as chief executive of Ormiston Academies Trust. Congratulations to Jessica-Jane and to Ormiston Venture Academy for being the very best. News of her hard work, dedication and talent will spread through all 19 of our academies and spur all of us on in pursuit of excellence."

16 year old Jessica-Jane attended Ormiston Venture Academy in Great Yarmouth and finished her GCSEs this year.

"Everyone at Venture is celebrating - we are thrilled for Jessica-Jane and her family. Having gone from the bottom of the league tables to the top, Venture Academy has proven there are truly no barriers to success. Jessica-Jane is the embodiment of this resilience and commitment - she's

our champion and we cannot wait to hear about her experiences first-hand." said Principal McCartney.

