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### \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\* What's going on at Venture Academy for 2024

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Another 4 years seems to of crept up on us and the Paris Olympics are here! From the ancient Greeks to now, there is a message that truly resonates with our community.

The original values of Olympism as expressed in the Olympic Charter were to "encourage effort", "preserve human dignity" and "develop harmony". Over time, they have evolved and are now expressed as:

- Striving for excellence and encouraging people to be the best they can be.
- Demonstrating *respect* in many different manners: respect towards yourself, the rules, your opponents, the environment, the public, etc.

Celebrating *friendship*, which is quite unique to the Olympic Games – an event that brings people together every few years.

It is with pride that I can say these are also values that I see in action each and every day at Venture.

This is grounded in our colleges of Achieve, Aspire, Create and Innovate; embodied through our Venture Virtues and displayed in the Venture Way each day.

We continue to celebrate these in so many ways and I want to congratulate everyone involved in making this another spectacular year... not just in Venture but beyond in our wider community.

Read on, and see for yourself in our 40th edition of the Venture Voice.

Regards

Simon Gilbert-Barnham - Principal

### Community Governor: Chris Speed

**\*** 

I've been a governor here at Ormiston Venture for 3 years now, after being a governor at a number of other local OAT academies.

Wow, what a difference it was to be part of the team at Venture! The thing that hit me as being very different from any other schools was the amazing Union of Venture Students. It is fantastic to see a large number of people actively working together to improve the wellbeing of students and creating an atmosphere that helps learning. Both of my daughters have attended this academy and have become better people because of the way Venture nurtures every single student.

As a governor, we get to see all aspects of the academy, including classroom tours, meet and greets, school productions and we even get to attend the annual Venture Star Awards.

At the Star Awards, as a governor, I get to host a table with some of the amazing finalists.

At the table I was able to listen to the reasons the students were selected to attend, a big part of the event is to celebrate the success of those students; both in the academy and their achievements outside too.

The biggest question I get asked as a governor is why do you do this when you don't even get paid?

Well that's an easy one to answer, I've always had a motto that if you have the time you should help others because one day those others may need to help you. Oh, and I'm so proud to be part of Ormiston Venture Academy



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Tegan Engstrom, who is currently in Year 11 and attends Ormiston Venture Academy in Great Yarmouth, has won a fully funded scholarship for a Sixth Form boarding place at Gresham's School from September 2024.

Here, she will experience independent school life in its entirety, benefitting from a multitude of enrichment activities, a wide range of sport, which will be of particular interest to keen swimmer Tegan, and high-quality facilities to support her education including the Dyson Building, the new center for STEAM education, which opened in 2021.

After completing her A levels in Psychology, Business and Physical Education, Tegan would like to go onto complete a Business and Psychology degree before aiming to serve in the British Army in the Explosive Ordinance Disposal Regiment.

A focussed and hard-working individual who shone with her ability to debate and provide an evidenced opinion at interview, Tegan commented on receiving her place:

"I am so excited to attend Gresham's in September, spending time there through this scholarship process has made me realise how big of an opportunity this is and how everything that Gresham's provides its pupils can benefit me in achieving my goals and thrive in my time there as a student. I am

in achieving my goals and thrive in my time there as a student. I am so grateful for the opportunity and can't wait to get started once I have got my GCSE's out of the way."

### Venture Student Awarded Gresham's Scholarship

Simon Gilbert-Barnham, Principal said: "All of us at Venture are proud of Tegan gaining the Gresham's Scholarship, she like so many at Venture has high aspirations that I am sure this next step to Gresham's will continue to drive her to succeed".

Dave Richards, Vice Principal said: "We are so proud of how all of our students engaged in the Gresham's Scholarship process, all of the applicants showed an incredible amount of passion and resilience combined with exceptional oracy skills which shone in their interviews.

Our partnership with Gresham's allows all of our students to aim for a unique life changing scholarship opportunity, and although ultimately only one student can be the recipient, between the residential opportunities in year 10 and the scholarship process in year 11, a large number of students have benefited from improved confidence and identifying their goals for future life.

I have no doubt that the 2024 Gresham's Scholar, Tegan like those who have come before her will grab this incredible opportunity with both hands and be a brilliant ambassador for the academy and the process that will continue to benefit many more in the future".

Deputy Head Academic of Gresham's, Darrell Chart-Boyles, said "During interview, Tegan demonstrated that she had researched Gresham's and showed an excellent understanding of the opportunity that coming to study here would offer her; she will certainly make the most of this and we look forward to welcoming her in September,"

The academy and its sponsor, Ormiston Academies Trust (OAT), is committed to enriching the lives of its pupils by broadening their horizons and raising aspirations. The Gresham's scholarship is reflective of the broad range of opportunities Ormiston Venture provides to its pupils, giving them every opportunity to succeed in life. Gresham's has partnered with Ormiston Venture Academy, to annually offer boarding places to aspiring pupils. Last year, Gresham's awarded the OVA in Year 12 and is studying Biology,

Chemistry and Psychology.

#### More about...



- Gresham's is an independent, co-educational day and boarding school for pupils aged 2 to 18.
   The school is set in 200 acres of beautiful countryside, just four miles from the North Norfolk coast, most of which is designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.
- In March 2016, the Nursery and Pre-Prep, Prep and Senior School were awarded 'excellent' in all nine categories following an inspection by The Independent Schools Inspectorate. 'Excellent' is the ISI descriptor for the Ofsted term 'outstanding'.
- The school was founded in 1555 by Sir John Gresham who went on to become Lord Mayor of London and forged close ties with the Worshipful Company of Fishmongers. Strong links with the City of London remain today.
- Old Greshamians have achieved great success in many fields and include the composer Benjamin Britten, the poet W H Auden and hovercraft inventor Sir Christopher Cockerell. More recent alumni include Oscar winning actress, Olivia Colman, film director Stephen Frears, international rugby players, Tom and Ben Youngs and inventor, Sir James Dyson.

# **OAT's Got Talent**

Students from any of the OAT academies had to put themselves forward to send a short video of their talent to their academy performing arts teacher.

At Venture we had tap dancers, musicians, singers, dancers, and baton twirlers audition. 3 of the top performers were then shortlisted to get through to the next round where we sent their videos to OAT.

Then, the judging panel at OAT then selected the top 2 performers who then represented our academy at the OAT regional finals at Ormiston Victory Academy.



# Did we mention that the VOICE is 40 editions old!

All at Venture would like to say a mighty thank you to all the staff, students, carers and parents for taking the time to read about our awesome academy in Gorleston.

The aim is to deliver a termly newsletter that highlights all the amazing things that go on at Venture and for you to see what the students get involved in once they come through the doors at 8.25am each day... here is to more of the Venture Voice!

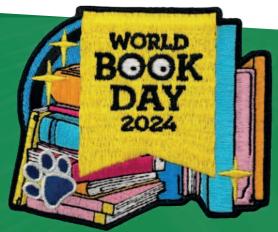
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At Venture Academy, World Book Day was a celebration of literature and creativity, bringing together students and staff alike in a delightful tribute to the written word.

The day kicked off with a unique event called 'Relax and Read' hosted in our Learning Resource Centre (LRC), the heart of our school for all things literary.

Here, selected students from across the academy were invited to unwind and immerse themselves in their favourite books in a serene and cozy atmosphere.

The English department, champions of storytelling and imagination, handpicked students based on their reading achievements, ensuring that those who truly cherished books had a chance to revel in this special day.

Adding a touch of mystery and excitement, our esteemed staff transformed into 'Masked Readers' for the occasion. Concealed behind beloved book covers. they delighted students by reading captivating excerpts aloud. The challenge was set for students to guess which teacher lay behind each disguise, creating an air of playful intrigue throughout the day.



Venture Academy was a spectacle of creativity as faculty members embraced the spirit of the occasion by dressing up as famous literary characters. From

wizards to superheroes, their costumes ignited curiosity and admiration among the students, making the world of books come alive within the school walls.

During lunchtime, the festivities continued with engaging activities, including the unconventional task of crafting book characters from potatoes! Students let their imaginations run wild, sculpting spuds into beloved heroes and villains from their



**Students at Venture Academy** embraced the spirit of giving and fun as they celebrated Red Nose Day on Friday, March 15th.

The school was abuzz with excitement as students participated in various activities to raise funds for a good cause.

One of the highlights of the day was the opportunity for students to ditch their usual school uniforms and dress in casual attire, with the added twist of incorporating something red into their outfits. For a small donation of £1, students showed their support for Red Nose Day and its mission to help those in need.

During lunchtime, a thrilling penalty shootout captivated the crowd as students showcased their football skills, all in the name of charity. Laughter and cheers filled the air as participants aimed for the goal, knowing that every kick contributed to a worthy cause.

After school, the sporting spirit continued with an exciting basketball match that welcomed participation from all students. Whether shooting hoops or cheering from the sidelines, everyone had the opportunity to be part of the action and contribute to the fundraising

The generosity of the Union of Venture Students shone brightly as they made a thoughtful decision to distribute the funds raised among multiple beneficiaries. It was decided to allocate the proceeds to Comic Relief, as well as two local causes close to the hearts of the Venture community: the James Paget Hospital and Young Carers.

Celebrates Red Nose Day with Fun-filled Activities

# RNDay '24

Red Nose Day at Venture Academy was not only a day of fun and camaraderie but also a demonstration of the school's commitment to making a positive impact, both locally and globally. Through their enthusiastic participation and generous donations, students showed that even small actions can make a big difference in the lives of others.

With smiles on their faces and warmth in their hearts. the Venture Academy community celebrated **Red Nose Day** in true style, leaving a lasting impression of kindness and goodwill.



In a thrilling showdown on the basketball court, the Year 10 students squared off against the staff in a highly anticipated match in aid of Red Nose Day.

The game was a high-scoring spectacle, filled with moments of skill, determination, and camaraderie.

A standout aspect of the event was the initiative taken by Uche, who played a pivotal role in organizing the student team, ensuring they were ready to compete at their best. Their efforts didn't go unnoticed, setting the stage for an electrifying clash.

As the game unfolded, both teams showcased their talents, with each possession adding to the excitement. However, it was Ashton who emerged as the game's Most Valued Player, delivering a stellar performance that propelled the student team forward.

Alongside Ashton, players like Raye, Zack, Jacob, Dimi, and Kerine demonstrated remarkable skill and teamwork, contributing to the students' spirited challenge against the staff.

Adding to the vibrant atmosphere was the presence of mascot Vinny, whose infectious energy and rhythmic drumming kept spirits high and encouraged both teams to give their all.

In the end, while the final score was secondary to the spirit of giving and unity, the real winners were the participants and supporters who came together to support Red Nose Day, making a meaningful contribution to a worthy cause through their shared love of basketball and community.



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#### **Enhancing Oracy Skills:**

### The Talk The Talk Workshop at Venture

In February, Venture welcomed expert trainers from Talk The Talk to collaborate with our fabulous OAT **Oracy Champions and students from** various Ormiston Academies.

These outstanding students earned their titles as Oracy Champions due to their exceptional oral contributions during lessons and their remarkable ability to actively listen and contribute effectively during collaborative

At Venture, we firmly acknowledge the significance of oracy as a crucial lifelong skill. Research consistently emphasizes that high-quality classroom talk is pivotal to students' thinking processes, learning outcomes, and overall academic achievement. Furthermore, it is closely linked to improvements in reading and writing abilities.

The Talk About Communication workshop held at Venture proved to be an exciting and engaging masterclass, focusing on developing speaking and listening skills within a dynamic and creative learning environment. Throughout the workshop, students were immersed in numerous speaking opportunities and received expert coaching and support to refine their oratory skills.

One of the highlights of the workshop was the structured two-minute presentations that students delivered to their peers. Each student selected a topic they were genuinely passionate about, ranging from light-hearted debates such as 'Should pineapple be allowed on pizza?' to more profound discussions like 'Why young people should have more say in the world'. This diverse range of topics encouraged students to explore various themes and express their viewpoints confidently.

The workshop not only provided a platform for students to hone their speaking abilities but also fostered an environment where listening and respectful dialogue were valued. Through interactive exercises and group discussions, students learned the art of effective communication, where listening attentively and responding thoughtfully were paramount.

The collaborative nature of the workshop allowed students to learn from one another and gain valuable insights into different perspectives. It encouraged them to step out of their comfort zones, articulate their thoughts clearly, and engage meaningfully with their

As educators, witnessing the growth and development of our students' oracy skills was immensely rewarding. The workshop served as a catalyst for empowering students to become confident communicators, equipped with the essential skills needed to thrive in academic settings and beyond.

Moving forward, we are committed to nurturing and promoting oracy skills within our learning community. By providing opportunities for students to engage in meaningful dialogue, express themselves articulately, and listen attentively, we aim to empower them to become effective communicators and active participants in society.

The Talk The Talk workshop was a resounding success, leaving a lasting impact on our students and reinforcing the importance of oracy in their educational journey. As we continue to champion the development of oracy skills, we remain dedicated to creating a supportive and inclusive environment where every voice is heard and valued.





# [OAT] Award winner for inspirational Learner:

It was with great pleasure and admiration that we nominated Annie. (Anneka) for the Inspirational Learner Award.

Annie's journey at Venture has been marked by resilience, determination, and an unwavering commitment to both her studies and her broader

Annie displays remarkable resilience, choosing not only to persevere with her studies but also to actively engage in various roles of responsibility within the Academy. Her strength and determination are evident in her involvement as a leader in the Union of Venture Students, where she has demonstrated exceptional leadership skills and a genuine commitment to making a positive impact on her peers.

Annie's commitment extends beyond the confines of the school environment. She wholeheartedly embraced the Duke of Edinburgh scheme, undertaking an extended voluntary placement at Barnardos, a Children's Charity. Her compassion and dedication to helping others were evident in this voluntary work, reflecting her character and sense of social responsibility.

Despite facing challenges, Annie consistently sought opportunities to excel academically. She applied for the OAT Oundle Scholarship and made it to the final four, showcasing her academic prowess and determination to secure opportunities for her future.

Undeterred by setbacks, she continued to pursue scholarship opportunities, eventually earning a 100% bursary to attend Norwich School for 6th form.

Her ambitious dream of becoming a vet and attending the Royal Veterinary College reflects her unwavering determination to overcome obstacles and achieve her goals. Despite the challenges, Annie has chosen a rigorous academic path, taking subjects like History, French, Photography, and Sport alongside her core subjects, with predicted grades of 8s and 9s across the board.

Annie's story is not just one of personal triumph but a beacon of inspiration for all learners. Her resilience, compassion, and commitment to excellence make her a truly deserving candidate for the Inspirational Learner Award. Annie is not just a learner; she is a source of inspiration and motivation for everyone around her.



The Union of Venture Students voted to contribute to four local charities this academic year, dividing the donations from our

Union of **Venture Students** 

two non-school uniform days into six beneficiaries, rather than just two.

Local charities were the focus, with East Coast Children's Hospice (EACH) and Leos for Ukraine each receiving £148 each on the first occasion, with Young Carers and the James Paget Hospital Charity receiving £137 after our second non-uniform day.

Maxine Taylor from the James Paget was delighted with the fundraising and came into Venture to accept the donation in person.



#### A Spine-Tingling Excursion: Year 9 & 10 School Trip to "The Woman in Black" at Norwich Theatre Royal.

The English Faculty recently organised an unforgettable trip for Year 9 and 10 students to witness a live theatre performance of "The Woman in Black" at Norwich Theatre Royal. This outing was a culmination of their exploration of the Gothic genre through the study of the novel in their English classes.

The aim was to provide students with a unique opportunity to experience the subtleties of the genre in a live setting and to witness how the elements of suspense and horror can be masterfully translated onto the stage.

Women in Black Theatre



Before the eagerly anticipated trip, students delved into the eerie world of Susan Hill's "The Woman in Black" in their English classes.

The novel, known for its chilling narrative, was carefully examined to unravel the complexities of the Gothic genre. Shared insights into the significance of the novel and the anticipation it built, preparing students for the live theatrical adaptation.

The Norwich Theatre Royal provided an atmospheric setting for the students to immerse themselves in the haunting tale. The simplicity of the two-man (and one woman!) performance added a layer of authenticity, allowing students to appreciate the nuances of live theatre.

Mrs. Doggett commented on the clever use of humour throughout the performance, which managed to balance the chilling elements of the story.

One remarkable aspect highlighted by Mrs. Doggett was the ingenious use of humour to overcome challenges

inherent in live theatre. The absence of a pony and trap on stage, a crucial element in the novel, was cleverly addressed through light-hearted moments.

This not only showcased the adaptability of the performers but also added an unexpected dimension to the production.

A student, reflecting on the experience, noted that despite the novels intent to be chilling, the live performance featured numerous light-hearted moments. The inclusion of humour did not detract from the suspense; instead, it cleverly enhanced the overall impact of the play.

The student also emphasised the effective use of jump scares, creating an atmosphere of immense tension that kept everyone on the edge of their seats.

"The Woman in Black" comes highly recommended for those seeking an exhilarating and spine-tingling theatrical experience.



Mental Health

January 25th was 'Here4You' day, which was a groundbreaking national initiative aimed at reaching every 11–14-year-old in the country to help empower young people to take control of their mental wellbeing.

Fronted by Radio and TV personality Roman Kemp, schools across the UK were encouraged to gather students together and view the recorded resource, crammed with hints, tops and ideas to aid students across



Key Stage 3 to do just that. As Friday is a Flexi slot for F groups, it seemed appropriate to allocate this time for such a great cause. Students from Year 7-10 watched the film across two sittings; morning and afternoon PL slots.

Alfie in Year 9 said, "It was good to see that famous people sometimes struggle with their thoughts and feelings. It's good to know wellbeing affects us all."



#### **Pharmacist Talk**

On Friday 27th January, Venture was pleased to have a visit from Leoni Palmer from the UEA.

Leoni talked 20 students through pharmaceutical careers and what courses the UEA could offer once they complete college.

Director of Personal Development, Mr Doggett commented, "I never knew so many different careers were possible with this career path. It was great to see

so many students choosing to drop in and speak to Leoni. I think we may have students who may now investigate this scientific path further as a result."





We kicked off 2024 with our first College Clash of the year. As it was Australia Day on January 27th, what better than hosting an Aussie pie eating contest.

This was held at break time in front of everyone in the cafe. Students and staff all took part, with the fastest time recorded being Mr. Edwards' 9.6 seconds for eating his piece of pie with a fork-what a performance! This took the title for Aspire, with Achieve a close second and Innovate and Create further back. Pancake flipping on Tuesday 13th February is next up.

### Friday Talks

Over the last 12 months we have established a series of 'Friday Talks'.

Via our UVS, students are given the opportunity to request a talk or a presentation they would like.

These usually fit into one of three categories.

- A career they might be interested in
- A hobby they have a passion for
- · An area of general interest

We have had over 20 individuals/companies in so far, ranging from an estate agent and a judge, to mental health ambassadors and a bird of prey enthusiast, through to a very successful YouTuber and even the RNLI, the surgery team from the James Paget Hospital, Paralegal and a prison officer.

After advertising the talk during the week in collectives and through PL Tutors, students simply opt to turn up and listen during Friday lunchtime in the academy library.

After an intensely competitive week of heats and over 60 entrants the latest Union of Venture Students college clash has come to its conclusion. Played in the cafe on the big screen and under the watchful eyes of students having lunch a combination of students and staff raced to secure their place in the finals. Classic Wii controls ensured that the interactive racing was high octane with 16 places secured over the week.

This was followed by the knockout stage and with College Clash points on the line it was the students who raised their game... knocking all staff out at the Semi Final stage! A final contested between Kya, Indie, Diogo and Ryan went down to the wire and left us with one...

The Venture Mario Kart Champion for Spring 2024 was secured by Diogo. Celebrated in his Personalised Learning group with rewards to share it was a fantastic victory

and a great finish to an amazing College Clash!

#### Venture on Tour



### Venture took the opportunity to join in Duke of Edinburgh Practice Expedition.



Ormiston Venture Academy joined City of Norwich School (CNS) on their planned practice expedition. Mr Lee at CNS organises and plans the expeditions, and they kindly allow our academy to join them. Mr Lee from CNS is the overall D of E Expedition Supervisor.

We arrived at the campsite in Trimingham on Thursday 25th April at 5pm. Upon arrival, the students worked together in small groups to put up their tents and lay out their sleeping bags. The students started to cook their evening meals using their Trangia's. Once students had organised themselves for the evening, Miss Lowe, Mr Webb and Ms Tomczak sealed their mobile phones in a tamper-proof bag with the trip phone number written on the front. Staff ensured students were aware of which number to call for emergency services in the event of an emergency.

The students keep their phones with them, sealed away in their back packs so they have access to them in case of an emergency. Not having access to their phones and social media allows them to engage and socialise with each other in groups. They are also provided with a GPS tracker for each group which also has an SOS button should they require our assistance. The DofE expedition is remotely supervised whilst staff remotely monitor the students' progress on the GPS trackers. Once the students were settled on to the campsite for the night, they all socialised together. It was really great to see all the students from Ormiston Academies Trust schools come together respectfully and share their Bronze DofE journeys.

On Friday morning all students woke up around 7am, cooked their breakfasts, got ready, put their tents down and packed everything away into their back packs ready to leave the campsite at 9am for their journey. They were split into two groups - Group 1: Poppy, Ruby, Daisy and TJ. Group 2: Ashnetha, Dylan, Uche, Uros and Kirstin.



In their groups they were given a map, compass and a route card where they calculated the timings of their route based on travelling at 3KM per hour and estimating their arrival time to the checkpoints. At each check point, the assessor met them to check in and ensure they were upholding their team goal. Both groups decided they would take photos of different types of trees they saw along the way. Both groups went slightly off track from the route they were provided so Miss Lowe, Mr Webb and Ms Tomczak walked with them a little and gave them some additional training on map reading, being able to identify their current location and then how to work out which direction they need to travel.

This training is an example of the life skill they gain from their DofE Bronze Practice Expedition; all students would feel competent and confident in using just a map and compass to navigate when they carry out their Qualifying Expedition in June 2024. All the students showed resilience, teamwork and worked hard to finish their routes. When the students arrived back to the campsite, it was time for them to cook their dinner on their Trangia's, then bed as they were exhausted.

Due to sickness a couple of the students went home on Friday evening, as there were only 6 students remaining on the final day, D of E requirements are that there should be between 4-7 participants in a group, we decided to merge the remaining 6 participants into one group to work together and they done an amazing job. They stayed on track and did not require much interception by staff. When the students arrived back to the campsite, they felt accomplished and emotional at the realisation of what they had achieved and were very proud of themselves.

DofE lead at Venture Miss Lowe commented "I am immensely proud of every student that participated in this practice expedition 2024. Every single one of them showed resilience, respect for others and respect for the environment they were in. They individually demonstrated invaluable skills. I am excited to support them on their Qualifying Bronze Expedition in June this year."





To get involved in the Duke of Edinburgh students have to be aged 14+ to do their Bronze award and have to be students registered in year 9. They have 4 sections to complete before receiving their award which includes volunteering for a minimum of an hour per week, learn a new skill for a minimum of an hour per week and take part in something physical for a

minimum of an hour per week. Two of those sections must be for a duration of 3 months and one of them has to be for 6 months. The students can choose which one they commit to for the longer duration.

The final fourth section is the expedition. When the students are in year 10, they will do a practise expedition in April time. They will go from Thursday evening until Saturday afternoon.

Then in around June time they will do their qualifying expedition where they will be remotely assessed using trackers, staff will meet them at their checkpoints which they pre plan and we will top up their water bottles when

we meet them. When we go on expeditions, we go with City Norwich School who are fully equipped and have a wealth of experience with expeditions. It is nice to be there together and work as a team, everyone we go with are friendly, welcoming and helpful. Once all of the sections are complete and an assessor report have been submitted for all of the sections, they will receive their Bronze award.

Miss G Lowe, DofE Lead commented: "Year 9 students are shown a brief video in their Personalised Learning with information by Mr I McInally and myself, then we ask them to come and see me for a registration form or if they just want to know some more information about the award".

The students can see me during breaks or after school if they need anything or any advice on what they need to do, and we also do D of E training with them when we offer Guilds. The training in the Guilds include map reading skills which Mr Sutton helps with, nutritional advice for expeditions which Mr Stevenson's helps with, putting up and down tents, basic first aid skills and how to safely use a trangia to cook their food. It is an amazing opportunity for students to get involved in.

# YR-9: CAMBRIDGE TRIP

#### Empowering Venture Year 9 Students: A Journey of Public Speaking at Cambridge University

In the bustling halls of Cambridge University, a group of Year 9 students recently embarked on an extraordinary journey of public speaking. Armed with passion, determination, and a wealth of research on carbon dioxide levels, these students, in collaboration with NEACO (Network for East Anglian Collaborative Outreach), stood poised to deliver impactful presentations on a pressing global issue. The initiative was not merely about academic discourse but about empowering young minds to engage meaningfully with the world around them. For many of these students, the prospect of presenting their findings at a prestigious institution like Cambridge University was both exhilarating and nerve-wracking.

The research they conducted in collaboration with NEACO delved deep into the intricate web of carbon dioxide levels and their implications for our planet. From understanding the mechanisms of carbon emissions to exploring potential solutions, the students embarked on a journey of discovery that went beyond textbooks and classrooms. As they stepped onto the stage, nerves tugged at their confidence.

However, fueled by their dedication to the cause and supported by the guidance of their mentors, these young speakers rose to the occasion with remarkable poise and eloquence.

Their presentations were not just about regurgitating facts and figures but about igniting a spark of awareness and action. They eloquently articulated the urgency of addressing carbon dioxide levels and the far-reaching consequences of climate change. Their words resonated with conviction as they urged their peers and the broader community to take proactive steps towards sustainability.

What truly set these students apart was not just their mastery of the subject matter but their genuine commitment to effecting change. They spoke not as passive observers but as passionate advocates for a better, greener future.

Their journey at Cambridge University was not without its challenges. Yet, with each word spoken and each idea shared, they defied expectations and surpassed their own limitations. Through their courage and resilience, they proved that age is no barrier to making a meaningful impact on the world. The applause that followed their presentations echoed far beyond the hallowed halls of Cambridge. It was a testament to the power of youth, the transformative potential of education, and the unwavering belief that change begins with a single voice.

As they bid farewell to Cambridge University, these Year 9 students left behind more than just memories. They left behind a legacy of inspiration, a testament to the boundless potential of young minds to shape a brighter tomorrow. Their journey may have begun at Cambridge, but its echoes will reverberate through communities, classrooms, and corridors of power for years to come. For in the hearts and minds of these students, the seeds of change have been sown, and the future is theirs to nurture and transform.

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# Achieve Honey (Year 10)

In early 2013, at age 4, Honey began learning to dance at Dance Estelle in Great Yarmouth.

She quickly made progress and negotiated a series of dance assessments in various disciplines. These include tap, flexibility, jazz, contemporary and ballet. At age 6, Honey took part in her first Hippodrome show.

Since then, she has starred in nine Circus Spectaculars as part of the official circus dance troupe. During the summer months, Honey has regularly participated in the annual Dance Estelle showcases, where she has enjoyed performing solo and group numbers. Honey has shown herself to be a fierce and determined competitor, overcoming injury and utilising her resilience to become one of the top dancers in the local area.

Her goal in dancing is to have fun, but also attend a specialist dance college when she leaves Venture. She currently trains 4 times a week for up to 4 hours each session. She also occasionally helps to coach the younger age groups, inspiring those who now look up to her.

#### Principal AWARD - Megan (Year 10)

Megan has been an incredible student this term. Since joining the UVS as a Senior Prefect, she has displayed fantastic leadership qualities, organising events and encouraging others. She works hard in all her subjects and is making great progress across the board, with a particular talent for History, Maths and Computer Science, showing her versatility.

Megan is passionate about making the academy a better place for everyone, while helping all those around her; so, this award is Create very well deserved.

### Toby (Year 7)

Toby swims for Great Yarmouth Swimming Club, County Cross Country came 8th in the County Cross Country event at Wymondham College and qualified for the regional event in Stamford, Peterborough, where he placed in the top 50 runners of his year group.

Toby plays football in the Player Development Centre (PDC) for Norwich City Football Club and also plays football locally for Gorleston FC Spitfires under 12's (scoring 7 goals this season from midfield). He also is in the Academy year 7 football team and basketball team as well!!

#### Principal AWARD - Florence (Year 8)

Florence was in Fame, plays in the Academy netball team. She has strong grades, a fantastic attitude to learning, has received volunteer points, Visa points and postcards. She is happy to help all round and demonstrates the Venture Way. Florence plays netball outside of school for a team and is learning the guitar already completing the first grade!



Dawson is a keen sportsman talented in a variety of sports inside and outside of the academy.

As well as natural talent he has the commitment and determination to be the best, a brilliant leader and all-round team player. Dawson trains twice a week and plays in fixtures for Norwich City Football Club ADC football squad, having played against teams such as Cambridge, Luton, Lincoln, Peterborough, West Ham and Chelsea and also trains and plays for Gorleston FC Tornados under 13's (playing a year up) at the weekends. At Venture Dawson plays for both the year 7 and year 8 football team, captioning the year 8 squad. He has had great success leading both teams. The year 7 team getting to the quarter final of the county cup and being undefeated in the league. Year 8 team have got to the final of the county cup and are having a successful run in the league. This is partly down to Dawson's, technical ability, amazing defensive skills and leading his team to work together to do the best they can.

#### Principal AWARD - Harry (Year 7)

Harry has made an incredible start to his journey at Venture. Academically he is pushing himself to be able to have as many doors open as possible due to his high academic performance achieving consistent 7s, 8s, and 9s. He has represented and attended multiple extra-curricular clubs and fixtures. This student is a pleasure to teach and work with every day, a future member of the Union of Venture



Aspire Addison: (Year 8)

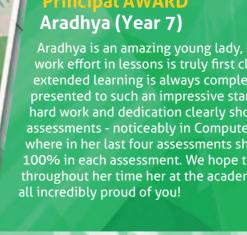
Addison has been playing golf for 6 years since he was 7 years old and recently won the Gorleston Golf Junior Centenary Cup.

> This is an 18-hole tournament over one day, there were 15 participants in this competition. Addison also plays football for the under 13's Hopton Barracudas and won the man of the match trophy when they played against Gorleston Rangers and won 5-0. Addison was strong in all of his tackles and was never beaten by the opposition. Well, done to Addison for all of his sporting achievements.

### **Principal AWARD**

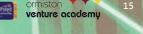
Aradhya is an amazing young lady, her work effort in lessons is truly first class. Her extended learning is always completed and presented to such an impressive standard. This hard work and dedication clearly shows in her assessments - noticeably in Computer Science where in her last four assessments she has achieved a 9+ getting

100% in each assessment. We hope this love for learning continues throughout her time her at the academy. Well Done Aradhya we are all incredibly proud of you!









Venture Voice 40 SPRING AW STUDIO.indd 14-15

#### Baraza opens up

Union of Venture Students

In summary, Baraza's discussions underscored the academy's vibrant culture of kindness, collaboration, and community involvement.

RAK (Random Act of Kindness) Week discussions kicked off UVS The Baraza, several exciting points emerged, highlighting the spirit of kindness and community engagement among both staff and students.



# 1. Students Supporting Chinese New Year Taste-testing:

One of the initiatives discussed was the involvement of students in the Chinese New Year taste-testing event. Students volunteered their time and efforts to help with the taste-testing, demonstrating their willingness to participate and contribute to cultural celebrations within the school community.

# 2. College Clash - Pancake Flipping Event:

The anticipation was high for the college clash event featuring pancake flipping, The Union of Venture Students (UVS) will be present during lunchtime to assist, fostering a sense of camaraderie and collaboration. PL Captains are tasked with organising representatives from each PL group to partake in the competition, adding an element of friendly rivalry and teamwork.

# 3. Role of New Prefects:

Discussions also centred around defining the roles and responsibilities of the new prefects. The role of prefects extends beyond mere authority; they are seen as ambassadors of kindness and inclusivity, tasked with fostering a positive school environment and supporting their peers.

# 4. Opportunities for Active Transport Eco-Award:

Baraza is embracing eco-conscious initiatives, with opportunities for students to get involved in the Active Transport eco-award. Encouraging alternative modes of transportation not only promotes environmental sustainability but also encourages a healthier lifestyle among students and staff.

### 5. UVS Presenting Two Different Collectives:

The Union of Venture Students is gearing up to present two distinct collectives in the upcoming term, offering students diverse avenues for engagement and expression of their interests and talents.

# 6. New Café Menu Taste Testing:

The school community had the chance to taste test four new dishes from the revamped café menu, featuring exciting additions like Thai curry and Jam Roley-Poley. This initiative reflects Baraza's commitment to catering to diverse tastes and preferences while promoting culinary exploration and enjoyment.

# 7. Feedback and Ideas for College Clashes and Friday Talks:

Students actively participated by providing feedback and suggesting ideas for future college clashes and Friday Talks. Mr. Doggett will work to organise these events based on the input received, ensuring that they remain engaging, informative, and enjoyable for all. Through various initiatives and events, both students and staff continue to demonstrate their commitment to creating a supportive and inclusive learning environment.



In a bid to empower the voices of tomorrow and foster action against climate change, Year 9 students recently embarked on a transformative journey as part of the Climate Action Project.

Collaborating with NEACO and 'Talk the Talk,' the program aimed not only to raise awareness but also to equip young minds with effective communication skills. The culmination of this saw students delivering their final speeches at none other than the prestigious University of Cambridge.

Kicking off the initiative at the University of East Anglia, students dove headfirst into communication workshops. Here, they honed their abilities to structure concise yet impactful talks, mastering the art of persuasive language to convey their message with confidence and clarity.

Over the course of four weeks, the students delved into workshops at Venture, delving into the complexities of climate change. Armed with newfound knowledge, they crafted persuasive speeches designed to mobilize action and inspire change within their communities.

The program's objectives extended beyond mere rhetoric, seeking to enhance speaking and listening skills, foster critical thinking, and cultivate confidence and leadership among participants.

The climax of their journey unfolded at Cambridge University, where students engaged in an immersive oracy workshop. They attended a lecture dissecting the evolution of climate change throughout history, refining their speeches to encapsulate the urgency of the issue.

Under the watchful eye of their peers, fellow schools, and university staff, students took to the stage to deliver their impassioned pleas for environmental action. Mr. McInally, reflecting on the transformation he witnessed, praised the newfound confidence and vibrancy displayed by many students. He lauded their depth of scientific research, recognizing the diligence and dedication they poured into their presentations.

Lillie, one of the participants, shared her nerves and excitement at addressing an audience but expressed pride in injecting humour into her speech, adding a touch of lightness to a weighty topic.



As these young voices echoed through the halls of Cambridge, they served as poignant reminders of the power of education, advocacy, and collective action in combating the climate crisis. With each word spoken, these students not only advocated for change but embodied it, leaving an indelible mark on their journey towards a more sustainable future.



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Venture Voice 40 SPRING AW STUDIO.indd 16-17



Venture recently led a group of Year 9 students, along with a few Year 8 students, on an intriguing journey to delve into the dark history of Great Yarmouth.

Dubbed 'The Tollhouse Trials,' the trip aimed to deepen students' connection to their local history and illuminate the eerie parallels between their hometown and the witch trials of the 17th century, as depicted in Arthur Miller's renowned play, "The Crucible."

The excursion took the students on a captivating exploration of the borough's entanglement with the witch trials. They had the privilege of conversing with local historians, absorbing firsthand insights into the harrowing events that transpired in Great Yarmouth during the 17th century. Adding a touch of theatrical immersion, actors brought historical figures from the tollhouse trials of 1640 to life, allowing students to witness the tension and drama of that era.

One of the highlights of the trip was the witch hunter games, a thought-provoking activity where students grappled with real historical evidence to discern whether individuals were accused witches. This handson experience provided a glimpse into the paranoia and hysteria that gripped communities during the witch trials.

Venturing into the grim confines of the prison cells, students confronted the grim reality of the accused witches' suffering. They witnessed firsthand the cramped conditions endured by those awaiting trial, gaining a visceral understanding of the ordeal these individuals faced.

Furthermore, students had the opportunity to observe the interrogation techniques employed to extract confessions from suspected witches. Through visual demonstrations and historical artifacts, they gained insight into the methods used to coerce confessions, deepening their

appreciation for the complexities of this dark chapter in history.

Reflecting on the trip, Mr. Popham, Teacher of English, emphasized its significance in connecting students with their borough's rich heritage and reinforcing the thematic resonance of "The Crucible."

The students themselves echoed Mr. Popham's sentiments, expressing enthusiasm and appreciation for the immersive learning experience. One student described the trip as "cool" and educational, while another found it "insightful and fun."

Many praised the staff's commitment to creating an engaging and informative atmosphere, which balanced entertainment with learning.



# Teacher Training launches at Venture!

# [ORMISTON] TEACHER TRAINING

From September 2024, our approach to teacher education is evolving as we enter into a new partnership with the National Institute of Teaching.

Ormiston Teacher Training – our School-Centred Initial Teacher Training (SCITT) – will deliver high-quality teacher education across four regional campuses situated in the West Midlands, Staffordshire, Norfolk and Suffolk.

We have a commitment to high quality, evidenceinformed teacher education and we are on a mission to improve the quality of teacher development across the system.

### Why train with us?

Our vision is to transform the lives of pupils by nurturing the talents of teachers.

Our initial teacher training (ITT) programme, in partnership with the National Institute of Teaching (NIoT), is a fully immersive school-centred programme – aspiring teachers will be in the classroom from the very start. They are fully supported, and each have a dedicated mentor and core training sessions once a week with the Ormiston Teacher Training team.

As an Associate College of the NIoT, we are in the privileged position of being able to offer our aspiring teachers a programme that is rooted in national research whilst reflecting the local contexts of the schools and communities in which they will work. Our future teachers will learn from established experts, including teachers, teacher educators, and specialists in teacher professional development, all of whom are authorities in their fields.

By training to teach with us, you'll have the confidence of knowing that you are participating in a programme that was designed by some of the most experienced teachers and leaders in the country, drawn from four leading school trusts with decades of teacher training between them. We also know from experience what headteachers look for in new teachers – so we'll ensure that you develop the skills necessary for finding an early career teacher (ECT) role. All our teacher training courses lead to QTS (Qualified Teacher Status), a PGCE (Postgraduate Certificate in Education) and 60 master's level credits.

#### **About the Norfolk Campus**

The Norfolk campus will be based at Ormiston Venture Academy and plays a key role in the development of both new and experienced staff with over a decade of experience in leading training across East Anglia. Through successful delivery of initial teacher training, NQT/ECT programmes, teacher development programmes and leadership qualifications we are proud of the number of educational practitioners we have supported throughout this time.

By training to teach at Ormiston Venture Academy you will be joining an outstanding academy team that has a true ambition for every child and believes in social justice for all.

Our academy is committed to providing a world class education for all students through a relentless focus on personalised first quality teaching in the classroom, enriching opportunities and a supportive and positive pastoral system.

When you become a part of our Venture community you will become a champion for our students and our community.

#### Your school placements

Your school placements will take place in any of our OAT and non-OAT partnership schools. For this campus, they include:

- Benjamin Britten
   Academy of Music
   and Mathematics
- Broadland High Ormiston Academy
- Flegg High Ormiston Academy
- Notre Dame
- Caister Academy

- City of Norwich School
- Ormiston Denes
- Cliff Park Ormiston Academy
- Thorpe
- Ormiston
  Venture Academy
- Ormiston Victory Academy

We are now recruiting for the September 2024 cohort. For more information and how to apply, visit the Ormiston Teacher Training website: www.ormistonventureacademy.co.uk/OTT-Norfolk

For more information about training to teach with us, please email us on: info@ormistonteachertraining.co.uk or speak with our director of initial teacher training (ITT), Kaye Patrick on: kaye.patrick@ormistonacademies.co.uk

We look forward to receiving your application!

#### Diary Dates

May 2024

Friday 24th May - Student break for half term Monday 27th May – Friday 31st May Half Term Break 2.55pm

June 2024

Monday 3rd June - Students return

to the academy 8.25am

Monday 24th June - Year 10 Work Experience Week

Thursday 27th June - Year 11 Prom

# What's coming up at Venture Academy...

Monday 1st July and Tuesday 2nd July – Year 6 Transition Days
Monday 1st July – Year 6 Parents Evening – 5pm – 7pm
Thursday 4th July – Academic Review Day 3.10pm – 7.30pm
Thursday 11th July – Venture Stars Awards Evening
Thursday 11th July – Create Show - 5pm - 7pm
Monday 15th July – Reward Summer BBQ – 3.30pm – 5.30pm
Friday 19th July – Students Break for Summer Holidays 12.20pm

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Venture Voice 40 SPRING AW STUDIO.indd 18-19



Venture Voice 40 SPRING AW STUDIO indd 20-21



Take a few miniutes to browse the wide collecction of what goes on druing lesson time at Venture...

And this is just a Monday!

# child Dev...



science

**Exploring wind farms** 



I PAINING GUI S

SIPPORTING

with Spanish & French















# nternet scratch programming











Venture Voice 40 SPRING AW STUDIO.indd 22-23



Year 7s played against Cliff Park and Great Yarmouth Charter Academy as part of the JR NBA Reigonal League.

The boys did an amazing job, as most of the two other squads were made up of year 8s and our boys really did compete hard in both games showing awesome teamwork and resilience.

We lost our first game vs Cliff Park 10 - 0 (a team who made it through to the regional final last year) and we won in our second game against Charter 14 - 13. Big thank you to our Team of Officials who also did amazing and kept all games running smoothly. (Will Y11, Raye Y10 and Jayden Y9).

Top Left to Right- Jayden Y9, Liam, Alfie, Raye Y10, Harry, Will, Will Y11.

Bottom Left to Right- Nate, Logan, Harry, Toby (Did play but had to leave pre-picture)

Girls Year 8 FOOIDEN

The girls finished the season on a high playing two games. The first against Acle Academy and the other against Sir John Lemon, winning both the final scores were a 4-0 win and a 4-2 win.

The teams played some lovely football and scored some great goals, what a great end to the season, well done girls!!

Acle Academy squad – (above): Amalie, Chelsea, Ella F, Kelsey (Captain), Evie, Ava, Rosie (Goalkeeper), Ava, Aaliyah, Bonnie, Isabelle, Phoebe and Ella G.



Sir John Leman squad – (above): Bonnie, Ella G, Jess, Ella F, Ava, Kelsey (Captain), Rosie (Goalkeeper), Ava, Aaliyah, Evie, Isabelle, Phoebe and Chelsea.

Venture Elite played Downham Market in the semi-final of the county cup and made a spectacular comeback from 3-0 down to win 4-3.

After a controversial penalty decision went against them, and some tidy possession football from a physical Downham Market team, the Venture Elite found themselves 3-0 down at half time.

Shay rounded the troops and delivered a spirited team talk at

half time alongside Mr Bentley. The boys went out in the second half and displayed tremendous character to get themselves back into the tie, with two goals from Jack and a goal from super substitute Sacha to even the score at 3-3.

It was Shay who scored the winning goal to put Venture 4-3 up and into Venture's first ever county cup final for football. Shay was awarded man of the match for his exceptional performance and leadership skills throughout. Special mentions to Bailey who defended resolutely in the second half and to the super substitutes Sacha, Danny and Wes who turned the game on its head and made the difference with their outstanding second half contributions.



Team: Sully, Ollie, Bailey, Dawson, Luigi, JJ, Shay, Luca, Frankie, Will, Jack, Danny, Sacha, Wesley and Riley.

Dawson, captain, said: "It's great reaching the county cup final, it will be a brilliant experience for the team and the school"

Ollie, vice-captain, said: "We made a brilliant comeback, we showed a great team effort."

Will, player, said: "I knew we would always do it; we are a strong team. We were consistent all the way to the final whistle."

Mr Bentley, Teacher of PE, said: "I am extremely proud of this Venture Elite squad for the resilience that they have shown, not only in this fixture, but in many of their fixtures this year. I look forward to seeing what the team can bring in the county cup final against Thorpe St Andrew."



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Year 10 Sports Leaders led an indoor festival for athletics, inviting year 4 students from Ormiston Herman Academy to attend.

The Venture students are following the Sports Leaders route in Key Stage 4 PE.

They designed, coached, motivated and organised 8 stations for the year 4 students to compete in and led relays at the end of the session, awarding the winners of each event an Easter egg.

Vinny the Venture mascot made an guest star appearance to inspire the year 4 students to greatness.

The students worked in small groups to demonstrate their event, lead warmups, collate results to work out who won, coach the students through the different techniques (running, jumping, and throwing) and motivate them to keep them going.

The students were led by TJ who had to deliver the welcome talk on her own in front of 32 excited children, where you could see her confidence grow by the minute. She felt really proud of her achievements and was pleased she overcame her nerves to organise a fantastic event.

Mr McInally was pleased to see the students step up and really help the younger students with the techniques of each event rather than just letting the youngsters have a go, they were actually teaching them how to improve which was heart-warming to see.

Sports News Round Up





Edition 39: Winter 2024

# Year 78 County Rugby from GRESHAM'S

Our Year 7 students attended the County Rugby Year 7's tournament earlier this month hosted at Gresham's school.

All students showed Venture in a very positive light. Venture squad played 4 games against some of the best teams in the county including Gresham's, Langley, Thetford Academy, Hethersett Academy, King Edward School and Wymondham College and proved themselves as a tough team to beat, battling hard throughout every game in some very tight matches and managing to win in one of their games, as well as stunning Langley School by taking an early lead against them which unfortunately Venture couldn't quite hold on to and narrowly lost the game.

Squad: Liam (c), Logan (vc), Harry, Levi, Harrie, Sacha, Reece, Keyain, Keegan, Jasper, Joey, Mitchell, Wesley and Chadley.

The whole squad showed amazing teamwork, determination and grit throughout the tournament, which was complimented by other teams, with even Mr Gilbert-Barnham receiving an email to praise the boys from Venture. Ronnie (Y10) also did Venture proud with some excellent match officiating, showing he can understand the game as well as play it.

# Year 8 Football County Cup Final

A huge well done to Venture's Year 8 football team who are the first to ever reach a County Cup Final for football. Unfortunately they were beaten at the final hurdle by Thorpe St Andrew. Well done boys and we go again next year!

Squad: Dawson(Captain), Sully, Luigi, Wezley, Sasha, Bailey, Danny, Riley, Luca, Jack, Shay, Will, Ollie, JJ and Frankie.



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Voice 40 SPRING AW STUDIO.indd 26-27

