

Venture VOICE

Stay
Safe

Ofsted
Outstanding

Ormiston
Venture Academy

[OAT]
AN OAT ACADEMY

Edition 45: Winter 2026



the
Principals Award
SPOTLIGHT

Aspire
Create
Achieve
Innovate

CLASS OF 2025
GRADUATION

Shoebox Appeal

Venture's festive generosity shines

Christmas Fayre

UVS bring the fun to the end of term

Eco Garden begins

Students start a new eco venture

Natural History trip

Photographic trip of exploration

Graduation 2025

Celebration of Class of 2025

Head Boy & Girl '26

New UVS leaders, prefects announced

College Clash

End of term kart races

Sports round-up

So many activities to catch up on

**So much going
on @Venture!**



[ORMISTON] TEACHER TRAINING

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, evidence-informed 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 (NlOT), 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 NlOT, 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 & Mathematics
- Broadland High Ormiston Academy
- Notre Dame Academy
- Caister Academy
- Flegg High Ormiston Academy
- City of Norwich School
- Ormiston Denes Academy
- Cliff Park Ormiston Academy
- Thorpe Academy
- Ormiston Venture Academy
- Ormiston Victory Academy

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!



What's going on at Venture Academy for 2026

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Showcasing the pride, ambition & achievement

Welcome to our Venture Voice, showcasing the pride, ambition and achievement that define our Venture community.

As you read through these pages, you will see the extraordinary accomplishments of our students and the dedication of our Venture team in action — in classrooms, on stages, on sports fields and within our wider community.

Guided by our focus to Aspire, Achieve, Create and Innovate, we continue to be an academy where excellence is expected, personal success is celebrated, and every young person is supported to become a confident, caring and successful global citizen.

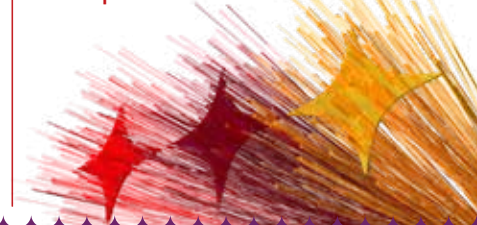
While our Venture Voice celebrates how far we have come, it also reflects our determination to go further.

As we look ahead to 2026, we are clear in our ambition to raise the bar even higher — building on our Outstanding Ofsted judgement and strengthening a culture where high expectations drive exceptional outcomes.

Our focus remains on continuing our journey... *"Raising the bar is not about standing taller than others, but about reaching higher than we did yesterday."*

With the continued support of our parents and community, we move forward with confidence, purpose and belief — proud of our achievements and resolute in our commitment to delivering a truly world-class education for every child.

Regards,
Simon Gilbert-Barnham
Principal



On behalf of the local governors at Venture...

...I am glad to add our welcome to Venture Voice which perfectly reflects the vibrant learning community of the academy.

The principal's welcome piece here makes us proud to be linked to the academy and to watch its continuing success over the years since its inception.

What is particularly pleasing in Venture's progress is that, despite the recent glowing Ofsted judgement, there is no complacency, but an optimistic determination to continue to do better each year, with last year's achievements being the starting point on a continuing journey to further excellence.

We pay tribute to the leadership of the academy and to all staff who play their part in making this aspiration a reality, while congratulating them on their outstanding progress so far. We look forward to another exciting year!

Lesley King

Chair of the Local Governing Body,
Ormiston Venture Academy.



Shoebox Appeal

Venture students once again showed kindness and community spirit by taking part in this year's Shoebox Appeal.

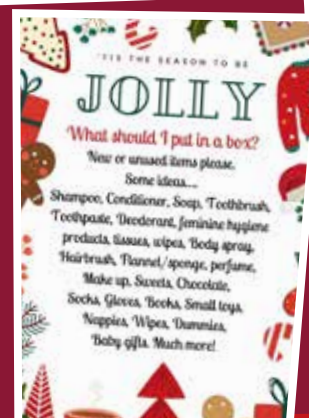
Working together in their Personalised Learning groups, students carefully contributed items to fill shoeboxes that could be donated to those in need.

This year, Venture proudly supported a local collection point in Norwich — Project Shoebox Norwich. Thanks to the generosity and teamwork of our students and staff, we were able to send over 50 shoeboxes to the appeal.

The donated shoeboxes are distributed to the Leeway Project, an organisation that supports families fleeing domestic violence. Each box provides comfort, essential items, and a message of care to individuals going through incredibly difficult circumstances.

Across the region, Project Shoebox Norwich and Project Shoebox Wayland delivered an amazing 1,982 boxes in total. We are extremely proud that Venture was able to play a part in this important effort and help make a real difference in our local community.

This initiative truly reflected the values of Venture, demonstrating compassion, teamwork, and a commitment to supporting others.



Christmas Fayre

The Union of Venture Students at Venture organised a spectacular Christmas Fayre.

Stalls included festive hot chocolates, popcorn, decorative cakes biscuits and mince pies of course!

Santa was accompanied by his reindeers and elves to deliver a super event for the student and staff community. Dancers, singers and the band provided entertainment belting out Christmas favourites and a sneak peek at the upcoming musical Six being held at Venture in February. (tickets on sale soon!)

The raffle made over £1,000 for guild and enrichment activities with the top prize of a 4-day holiday for up to 6 people at the Haven Wild Duck Holiday Park, which was won by a very excited Ms Hurrell-Watson.

Other prizes included a Nintendo Switch which was won by Will, a phone charging alarm clock, vouchers for shopping and the Pleasure Beach as well as tickets for the Norwich City Football Club home match v Watford and lots of chocolates - many prizes were kindly donated by local businesses.

Students left with sweets, fizzy drinks, temporary Christmas tattoos and glittery face decorations to enjoy their well deserved break.



A Merry Little Christmas Party

As the festive season drew closer, our school celebrated in style with a Merry Little Christmas Party that brought together fun, laughter, and well-deserved rewards.

The special event was organised to recognise students with high attendance and those who consistently exemplified the Venture Way, showing respect, responsibility, and a positive attitude throughout the term. A total of 100 students were invited to attend, and the hall was soon filled with excitement and Christmas cheer.

The afternoon featured a range of activities that kept everyone entertained. Bingo proved to be a huge hit, with students eagerly listening for their numbers and celebrating every win.



One of the highlights of the party was Mr Gilbert-Barnham's famous Charades, which had the room bursting with laughter as students and staff acted out festive and funny clues. No party would be complete without food, and the delicious party snacks were thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Friends chatted, laughed, and relaxed together, making the event a perfect way to end the term on a high note. Overall, the Christmas party was a great success. Fun was had by all, and it was a wonderful way to reward positive behaviour, celebrate achievement, and spread festive joy across the school community.



Christmas @ Venture

Christmas at Venture is a special time when our school community comes together to celebrate the virtues of kindness and neighbourliness.

Throughout the festive season, students take part in a range of activities that reflect these values. Our Communitree is at the heart of this, with students attaching thank-you labels to the Christmas tree, alongside the preparation of shoeboxes for those in need both at home and abroad. Festive cheer is also spread by our UVS, who hand out mince pies to students and staff.

At the same time, Venture students are mindful that Christmas can be a difficult period for some members of our community. For this reason, every December we hold a Christmas Jumper Day, where instead of paying the usual £1 donation, students are encouraged to donate an item of food for the local food bank.

This year, around 1,000 items were generously donated by students and their families, once again demonstrating the kindness and generosity within the Venture community. The donations were received on the final

Thursday of term by Reverend Matthew Price from St Mary Magdalen Church on behalf of the local food bank.

Director of Personal Development, Spencer Doggett, said: "I am aware the food bank is being used by increasing numbers of people in our community. This is an opportunity to give back to local people who have always supported our academy. Venture students have once again responded so positively to the annual appeal, and we are pleased we can make a difference."

Christmas at Venture truly reflects the caring spirit of our students and their commitment to supporting others.



As part of our successful Green Flag Award for 2025, Venture has begun developing an exciting new Eco Garden — a project that will transform an outdoor space into a thriving hub for sustainability, learning, and biodiversity.

The initiative is being project-managed by The Papillon Project, who specialise in helping schools become greener and more environmentally aware.



So far, we've made fantastic progress! Over 50 student volunteers have already contributed to the build — installing raised beds, planting trees and bushes, constructing a fence from reclaimed wood (treated with linseed oil for waterproofing), setting up a shipping container, starting a compost patch, and installing a water butt.

Plans are also in place to add a nature camera to monitor local wildlife.

Each month, The Papillon Project visits Venture to work with our team of Eco-Ambassadors — around 30 students per session on a rota — who are playing a vital role in shaping the garden. In their latest session, students began filling the raised beds with straw and soil, ready for planting.

Our Venture team also runs Eco Club every Friday during registration, where up to 50 volunteers complete practical jobs guided by The Papillon Project.

The Eco Garden will continue to develop throughout 2025 and 2026, so watch this space for updates as it grows!

We were also excited to include the new Eco Guild that took place in November and December. The Eco Guild worked alongside The Papillon Project Manager, Matt Willer, to continue building and improving this fantastic green space.

This project truly showcases Venture's commitment to sustainability — and with so many students involved, it's a brilliant example of teamwork making a real difference to our environment.

Diary Dates 2026 *What's coming up at Venture Academy...*

February 2026

Thursday 5th February – Year 7 & 8 Parents Evening 3pm – 7pm
 From Tuesday 10th/11th/12th February – SIX the Musical
 Monday 23rd February – OAT Training Day –
 Students not in the academy

March 2026

Friday 6th March – World Book Day
 Wednesday 18th March – SEND parental
 drop in 2pm – 3.30pm
 Thursday 19th March – Year 9 & 10 Parents Evening
 3pm – 7pm
 Friday 20th March – Red Nose Day Non Uniform for students

March 2026 continued

Wednesday 25th March – Year 11 Preparing for Exams Evening 3pm – 7pm
 Thursday 26th March – Students break for the Easter half term break – 2.55pm

April & May 2026

Monday 13th April – Students return to the academy – 8.25am
 Monday 4th May – Bank Holiday
 Friday 22nd May – Students break for May half term – 2.55pm

June 2026

Monday 1st June – Students return to the academy – 8.25am
 Monday 22nd June – Year 10 Work experience week
 Wednesday 24th June – Year 11 Prom 7pm – 11pm

Venture Students Pay Their Respects on Remembrance Day

In November, Ellie, Cohen, Jack, and Logan proudly represented Venture at the local war memorial in Gorleston Cemetery to mark Remembrance Day.

They joined members of the local community in a moment of quiet reflection, observing the two-minute silence to honour those who have served and sacrificed in conflicts past and present.

The ceremony also included prayers and the laying of wreaths, offering a poignant reminder of the importance of remembrance and gratitude.

It was a moving occasion, and our students represented the school with respect, maturity, and pride — a fitting tribute to those who gave so much.



Record-Breaking Baraza Kicks Off Autumn Term with Exciting Opportunities

This term's Autumn Baraza was the biggest in school history, with over 230 students in attendance – a fantastic show of student engagement and leadership.



The event opened by sharing the incredible achievements since September. Students raised £100 for Macmillan Cancer Research, welcomed 52 new Prefects, 64 Progress Leader Captains, 30 new Eco Ambassadors, and introduced a new team of Wellbeing Ambassadors. In recognition of their contributions, badges were presented to all new appointees during the assembly.

A highlight of the event was a visit from East Norfolk Sixth Form College, who introduced the UK Youth Parliament and explained how students can get involved. Former Union of Venture student Tiana Westwood also returned to speak passionately about her role within the Youth Parliament, inspiring many with her journey and encouraging students to step up and be heard.

The Baraza also saw the launch of an exciting debating competition, with dozens of students signing up on

the spot to take part – a clear sign of the talent and enthusiasm waiting to be unleashed.

Looking ahead, students had the opportunity to vote for the charities that will be supported during upcoming Non-School Uniform Days. This term's chosen causes are the James Paget Hospital, the British Red Cross, and the RNLI – all very worthy organisations.

Finally, students began to brainstorm ideas for upcoming events, including College Clash, Friday Talks, and the much-anticipated Christmas Fayre.

With so many opportunities on offer and an ever-growing number of students stepping forward to take part, this term's Baraza set the tone for a vibrant and inspiring season ahead.

Ormiston Venture Academy proudly supported BBC Children in Need by inviting students to wear something yellow.

To help raise awareness and take action for children and young people in need across the country. Students donated £1 each to come to the Academy in non-uniform, supporting not only this national cause but also two local charities. The Academy was filled with Pudsey ears, onesies, Children in Need T-shirts, and plenty of Norwich City FC shirts to honour the yellow theme.

After school, the highlight of the day took place in the sports hall as the Year 11 netball team faced the staff in a closely fought match. The staff secured a narrow 19–15 victory, but Miabella, Brooke, Tia, Lily, Ava, Kelsey, Evie and Jossie all delivered fantastic performances—valuable preparation for their upcoming county finals.

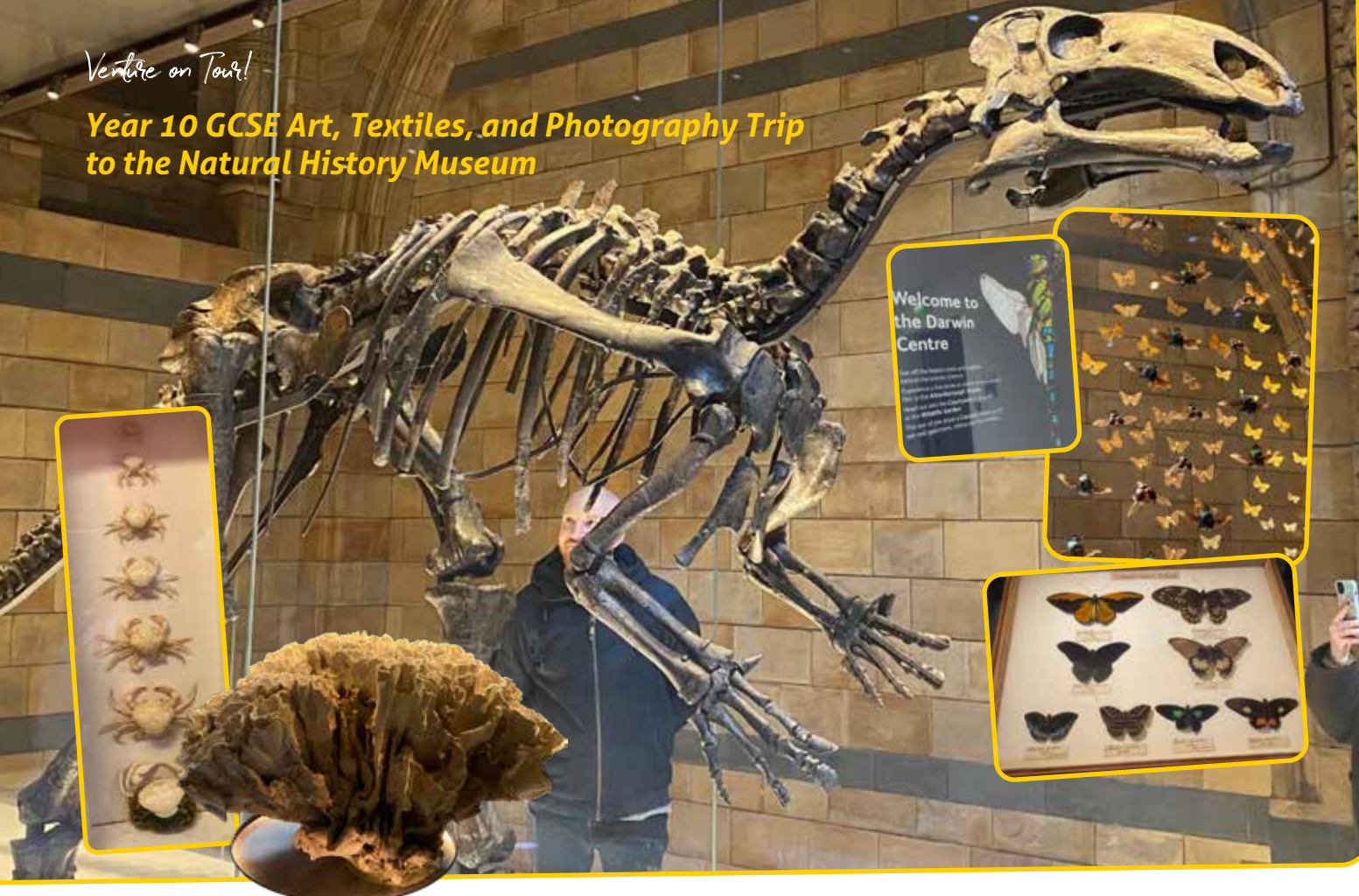
Following the most recent Baraza, students in UVS voted to divide the funds raised from each non-uniform day between three charities:

- 50% to BBC Children in Need
- 25% to East Coast Children's Hospice (local)
- 25% to James Paget Hospital (local)

A big thank you to Mrs Willis for organising the netball match, and to alumni members Abi, Zoe and Ebony for returning to take part. Their involvement made the event even more special.



Year 10 GCSE Art, Textiles, and Photography Trip to the Natural History Museum



In October, our Year 10 GCSE Art, Textiles, and Photography students took an inspiring trip to London's Natural History Museum to gather primary research for their GCSE coursework.

The visit provided a fantastic opportunity to explore textures, shapes, colours, and patterns found in nature — from intricate fossils and gemstones to animal forms and botanical displays.

Inside the museum, students viewed and photographed exhibits, taking particular interest in details that could influence their future projects.

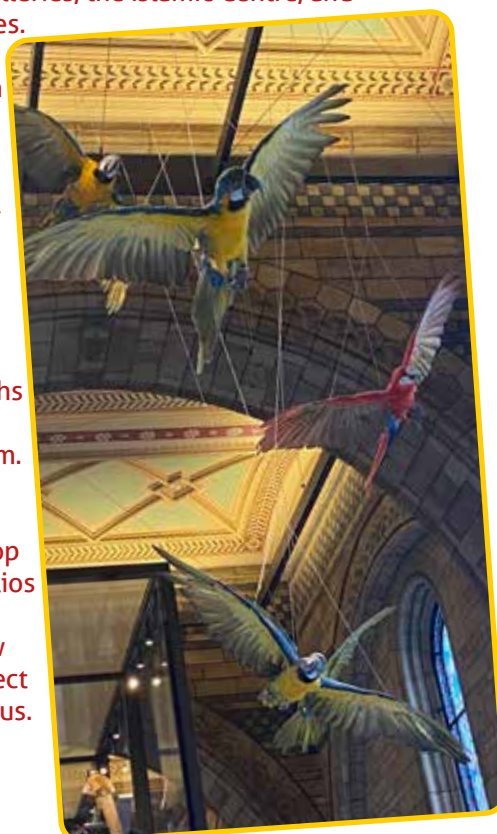
Many found inspiration in the museum's architecture itself — the grand arches, stone carvings,

and decorative motifs offered rich visual references for both Art and Textiles studies.

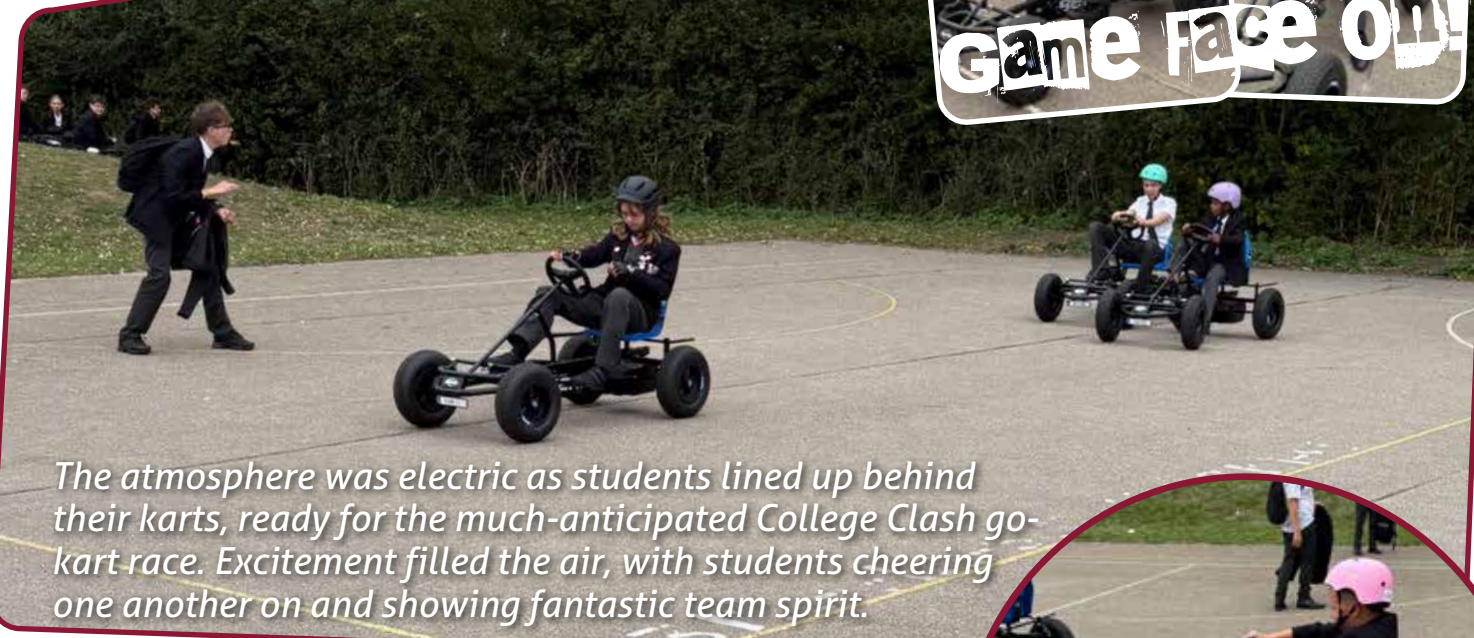
After exploring the museum, the Photography students continued their research with a walking photo shoot around the area. They captured a variety of architectural styles, visiting landmarks such as The Royal Albert Hall, the National Galleries, the Islamic Centre, and several local churches.

They also observed examples of modern architecture, contrasting historic and contemporary design through their lenses.

The day was filled with creativity, exploration, and plenty of photographs and sketches to take back to the classroom. Students returned with new ideas and inspiration to develop in their GCSE portfolios — and a deeper appreciation for how art and design connect to the world around us.



college clash Go-Kart Race: Staff vs Students



The atmosphere was electric as students lined up behind their karts, ready for the much-anticipated College Clash go-kart race. Excitement filled the air, with students cheering one another on and showing fantastic team spirit.

Leading the way for the staff team was Mr. Waters, determined to give the students some tough competition. Race after race, the energy never dipped, and the rivalry between teams made for an afternoon full of thrills.

When the final results were tallied, Innovate sped ahead to victory, taking the most wins of the day. Achieve and Aspire weren't far behind, battling hard to secure joint second place, while Create rounded off the competition in fourth.

It was a fantastic event enjoyed by everyone involved—full of laughter, teamwork, and plenty of friendly rivalry.



Celebrating Student Leadership AT VENTURE

Venture is exceptionally proud of our student union, the Union of Venture Students (UVS).

For many years, the UVS has been a driving force for real, positive change led by students, offering meaningful leadership opportunities from Year 7 all the way to Year 11.

Since September, student leadership has continued to grow. We have welcomed 50 new prefects, 30 wellbeing ambassadors, 55 eco-team members, 64 PL Captains, and 4 new OAT Ambassadors across Years 9 and 10.

Year 10 students, in particular, have the special honour of applying for the senior UVS roles: Head Boy, Head Girl, Deputy Head Boy, Deputy Head Girl, and three Head Prefect positions.

These roles represent the highest level of student leadership—students who work tirelessly to make their academy the best it can be.

The selection process began in October with a presentation to all students, outlining the timeline and giving everyone the chance to ask questions and consider future applications.

This year, 24 students applied, marking the start of a challenging but exciting journey.

The first stage was a group interview, where students discussed questions in groups of six. Each student had the chance to lead the discussion, and it quickly became clear just how strong and capable our applicants were.

Mr Gilbert-Barnham, Principal and Mr Doggett, Director of Personal Learning then faced the tough job of narrowing the candidates down to just ten for the final interviews.

The final round of interviews were more in-depth and included the invaluable support of our Chair of Governors, Lesley King, who joined via video link.

Candidates spoke about their motivations, their visions for the school, and the legacy they hoped to leave behind.



Head Boy: Cohen



Head Girl: Kelsey

Deputy Head Boy & Head Girl



Deputy Head Boy: Jack



Deputy Head Girl: Ava

Head Prefects



Head Prefect: Will



Head Prefect: Jess



Head Prefect: Lily

Student Support



Student Support: Marley



Student Support: Fayth



Student Support: Emelia



Student Support: Jack



Student Support: Will

Reflecting on the process, Director of Personal Development and UVS Lead, Mr Doggett, said:

"It is great to see so many Year 10 students having the confidence to apply for the senior positions in the UVS. The decision seems to get harder each year, as there were so many positive interviews and great ideas."

Every interview was stunning and showed the strength we have in our student body, with students speaking passionately about their determination to give back to the academy and drive further change."

Guilds & Societies



Shanley



Evie



Areeba



Elsie



Tiger-Lily



Rosie



Tamish



Ruby

Learning Partners



Jess



Lily



Neha



Logan



Ava



Cohen



Evie



Cyndy-Lei

Media

Community & Culture

College Clash



Charlie



Florence



Kelsey

UVS SENIOR TEAM 2026

- Head Boy: **Cohen**
- Head Girl: **Kelsey**
- Deputy Head Boy: **Jack**
- Deputy Head Girl: **Ava**
- Head Prefects: **Will, Jess, & Lily.**

Union of
Venture Students

Congratulations to everyone who applied, who will now make up our UVS Senior Team for 2026!

YAB Adventures From Parliament to Police Training

Throughout 2025, Venture has been working closely with the Youth Advisory Board (YAB) to give young people across our area opportunities to share ideas, develop skills, and take part in exciting events.

Over the summer, YAB organised a whole series of activities, from trips to London to outdoor residentials, giving us the chance to experience new things and build cultural capital.

A Day at Parliament

One of the highlights of the summer was the trip to London, where YAB groups from Norwich, North Norfolk, Broadland, and Breckland came together. We started the day with a visit to the Shrek Experience, which was packed with interactive activities—including the famous magic bus ride—that brought out everyone's inner child.

"It was like we were in Disney, as kids," said one Norwich YAB member.

After a picnic lunch in the park, we headed into Parliament for a guided tour. The expert guides showed us the House of Commons and the House of Lords, explaining everything from the meaning of the carpets and colours to how voting works, the history of the monarchy, and even the process of e-petitions. It was a unique chance to see democracy in action.

This trip was part of YAB's successful Right to Play campaign and gave young commissioners the opportunity to see first-hand how Parliament operates on a daily basis.

Residential in Essex

From 4–6 August, we travelled to Danbury Outdoors in Essex for a residential packed with adventure. The journey itself was fun, involving two trains, a coach ride, and even a McDonald's stop along the way.

Once there, we were divided into cosy cabins of about five people, ensuring everyone had a friend nearby. Over the three days, we tried activities like bridge building, aerial obstacle courses, and bushcraft. The evenings were just as memorable—on the second night we held our own "YAB's Got Talent," where everyone felt confident enough to perform in a judgment-free space. It was a brilliant way to meet new friends who we'll see again at future events.

Riot Training with the Police

Another unforgettable experience took place on 29 July, when we travelled to King's Lynn for riot training with the police. After exploring the inside of a police car and learning about first aid and crime scene investigations, we were kitted out in full protective gear.

We were taught how to use shields, follow the commands of a sergeant, and work together as a unit. Finally, we put our training to the test—half the group acted as officers holding the line, while the others became "rioters" armed with batons and wooden blocks. It was equal parts fun and educational, giving us a real insight into the challenges the police face.



Year 11 Reward Meal @ ZAK'S



To celebrate commitment, dedication, and positive attitudes, a group of Year 11 students were rewarded with a special evening at Zak's at the end of the first term of the academic year.

The reward was awarded to students who consistently attended Period 6 sessions, maintained strong overall attendance, and embraced the Venture Way every day.

A total of 48 students attended the reward meal and enjoyed a delicious burger meal followed by tasty brownies. Alongside the food, students took part in a fun quiz, which added plenty of laughter and friendly competition to the evening.

The atmosphere was relaxed and celebratory, making it a lovely way to recognise the hard work and commitment shown by our Year 11s. It was a well-deserved opportunity to unwind and enjoy time together after a busy and demanding term.

We are extremely proud of our students and the effort they continue to put into their learning and behaviour. Keep up the good work, and we look forward to celebrating more successes in the future.

The Union of Venture Students recently hosted a Coffee and Cake event in support of Macmillan Cancer Support, raising nearly £100 for the charity.



Students enjoyed a welcoming atmosphere, with green balloons and bunting decorating the tables, while hot chocolates proved especially popular throughout the event. A wonderful selection of cakes was available, all generously donated and sold in aid of the cause.

The cakes were baked by students, staff, and volunteers, including the ever-reliable Ms Callaghan, who once again treated everyone to a superb batch of cupcakes and sponges.

The event was a great success and supported a very worthy cause.



HONOURING THE CLASS OF 2025

Ormiston Venture Academy was proud to celebrate the achievements of the Class of 2025 at its annual Graduation Ceremony—an inspiring evening recognising students' hard work, resilience and outstanding GCSE success.



More than 100 students attended alongside their families and staff, coming together to mark the culmination of five years of dedication, personal growth and achievement.

From the moment guests arrived to a red-carpet welcome, the evening was filled with pride and celebration. The venue was beautifully dressed with vibrant balloons, and following the formal ceremony, guests enjoyed canapés and photo opportunities, creating a warm and joyful atmosphere.



Graduates looked the part in red gowns and mortarboards as they proudly received their certificates.



A symbolic turning of tassels from right to left marked the completion of this significant academic milestone, signifying both accomplishment and readiness for the next chapter of their journeys.

The Class of 2025 achieved the academy's highest number of top grades to date.

In recognition of these exceptional outcomes, a number of students received additional awards, including:

Archie, Brandon, Ashton, Taylor, Sienna, Connie, Anna, Alexander, Diva, Tiwa, Daisy, Dylan, Kya, Aaliyah, Lucy, Maddox, Freya, Kirstin and Ashnetha.

Their success reflects the high expectations, ambition and commitment that are nurtured at Venture.

Principal Simon Gilbert-Barnham shared his pride in the cohort, saying:

"It was a real pleasure to see our Class of 2025 formally graduate as Venture alumni. We are incredibly proud of everything they have achieved and the exciting futures they are embarking upon. They have grown into confident, capable and exceptional young adults."



Ashnetha, speaking on behalf of the graduating year group, delivered a heartfelt address, thanking staff and families for their unwavering support. Her words captured the shared sense of gratitude, achievement and optimism felt throughout the room.

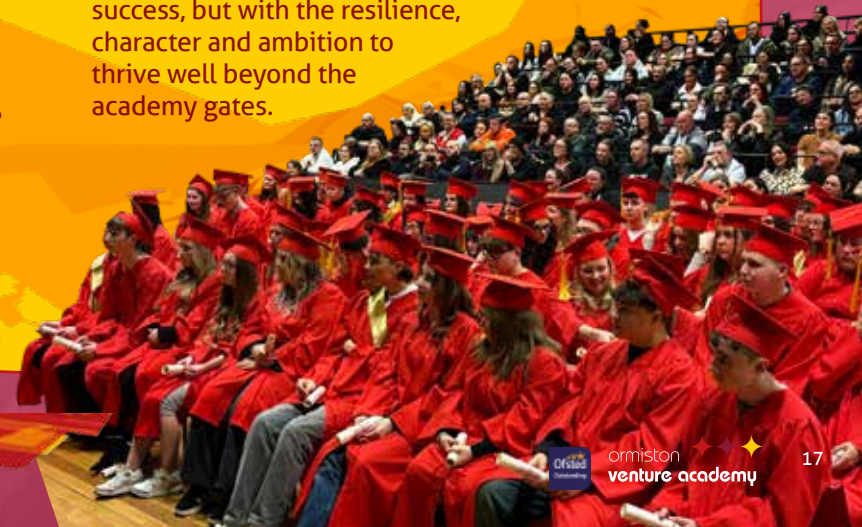


A small selection of the graduating students from the evening

The ceremony also reinforced Venture's strong commitment to its alumni community, encouraging students to stay connected and inspire those who follow in their footsteps.

True to the academy's motto, "Once a Venture student, always a Venture student," graduates were reminded that they will always remain a valued part of the Venture family.

As the evening drew to a close, the Class of 2025 departed with certificates in hand and confidence in their futures. Their time at Ormiston Venture Academy has equipped them not only with academic success, but with the resilience, character and ambition to thrive well beyond the academy gates.



Achieve Alfie – Year 7

Our featured student is Alfie, a talented Year 7 student and exceptional karate athlete who proudly competes for Great Britain.

Alfie recently returned from a tournament in Norway, where he earned several impressive medals. His dedication and hard work continue to shine, and he'll be travelling abroad again next year to compete — aiming to bring home the gold!



Principal AWARD – Harrison Year 9

Harrison is an exceptional student who consistently demonstrates outstanding resilience, no matter the challenges he faces. He achieves excellent academic results while also being an amazing young man with a strong sense of kindness and integrity. Always willing to help others, Harrison is a positive role model for both students and staff, readily offering support whenever needed. He is someone we are incredibly proud of and a true example for all future students to follow.



Create Maggie – Year 9

Maggie is always smiling, polite, and exceptionally kind. She is a genuine pleasure to teach in every lesson, and this is echoed across the Create faculty.

She has been learning the piano since Year 7, practising regularly and attending her lessons with consistency and commitment. Maggie has also represented the school in athletics, reliably attending training sessions throughout the summer.

As a PL captain, Maggie has been outstanding. She represents her PL with enthusiasm and dedication, confidently sharing ideas and advocating for the best interests of others. Each year, she thoughtfully prepares and beautifully wraps the Christmas boxes for our PL—one for a boy and one for a girl—always filling them with great care and generosity.

Maggie also contributes to school events by bringing in delicious homemade cakes for fairs and has even arranged for her aunt, a professional baker, to donate wonderfully presented treats. Beyond school, she represents Great Yarmouth Swimming Club, regularly competing in galas, often against older swimmers. She consistently shows resilience, courage, and determination, working hard in both training and competition while always striving for personal bests. Maggie truly is an exceptional student and a fantastic role model.

Principal AWARD – Poppy - Year 8

Poppy has worked incredibly hard to overcome her challenges this year and has shown a strong determination to catch up on any missed learning. She is a well-liked member of her PL, and it's easy to see why—her interactions with others show her to be kind, supportive, and caring toward both students and her PL tutor.

She communicates confidently with peers and staff alike and is an excellent listener. Poppy demonstrates the Venture Virtues every day through her conduct around the Academy, and this has contributed greatly to the progress she has made in her learning. Her attitude to learning grades are exemplary, clearly reflecting the positive impression she has made on her teachers.



Innovate Lilly – Year 7

Lilly has been developing her artwork with real dedication and commitment, and this year she took an exciting step by entering her first competition. She submitted a piece to the "YouCreate" art competition run by the University for the Creative Arts (UCA) in Canterbury, responding to the theme "dreams."

From over 600 entries, Lilly's work was selected, and she was invited to a private exhibition at UCA on 3rd July, where her piece was displayed alongside those of other talented young artists. She also received a special mention from the University Director and had the opportunity to speak with tutors about different artistic approaches and what is expected of prospective undergraduate students.

(And it's fair to say she also enjoyed the posh food!)

More recently, Lilly entered the Arts For The Future International Student Art Contest, where she achieved third place. Her work stood out for its creativity, technical skill, and unique perspective, and we are thrilled to recognise and celebrate this impressive achievement.

Principal AWARD – Frank Year 7

Frank truly embodies the Venture Way—always wearing a huge smile and showing remarkable resilience. He performs exceptionally well academically and represents Venture with excellence in sports fixtures.



Aspire Emily – Year 8

Emily was proud to be part of the BBC Children in Need Choir, made up of young people who have been supported by Children in Need funded projects and charities, including Nelson's Journey.

This opportunity was very important to her and allowed her to give something back while helping raise awareness for others.

Emily did an amazing job and showed many positive virtues, including kindness, confidence, and determination. Her involvement reflects her ambition to support others, and she hopes to become more involved with Nelson's Journey in the future by volunteering and joining their Youth Panel.

Her willingness to take part and help others is truly inspiring and highlights the positive impact of Children in Need.

Principal AWARD Evie – Year 10

Evie consistently demonstrates a strong work ethic and maintains high levels of engagement across all lessons. She approaches her learning with dedication and focus, setting an excellent example to others.

Beyond the classroom, Evie plays an integral role in the school football team, where she exemplifies commitment, teamwork, and a positive attitude, making a valuable contribution to the wider school community.



Year 7 Claim Character-Building Win in County Cup Opener

The Year 7 football team travelled to Stalham High School for the first round of the County Cup, and despite a nervy start, they battled hard to earn a memorable victory.

With the squad quickly assembled through advice from teachers and captain Ralph's leadership, the team showed impressive spirit and teamwork throughout.

Venture started brightly, with Michael causing constant problems for the Stalham defence with his skill and creativity. However, against the run of play, Stalham struck first on the counterattack.

Undeterred, Venture continued to press. After missing an early penalty, the breakthrough came when Rudy unleashed a powerful long-range effort that the keeper could only parry, allowing Jensen to react quickest and fire home from a tight angle. In midfield, Mason P, Noah, and Lincoln worked tirelessly to close down and win back possession, while Mason C marshalled the defence superbly, helping the team build play from the back.

Despite their efforts, a spectacular Stalham free kick — a true "worldie" — found the top corner, leaving Ralph helpless and Venture trailing 2–1 at half time.

After the break, tactical changes saw Martins introduced, whose pace and power immediately caused problems for the opposition. A spell of pressure led to a series of corners, and William forced the ball over the line to make it 2–2. William then showed his defensive strength, making several vital clearances, while Jude bravely headed away dangerous crosses.



The game remained on a knife-edge as Ralph's safe hands denied Stalham more than once. Then, after a handball in the box, Venture were awarded a second penalty — this time Martins stepped up confidently and slotted it home to give the team a 3–2 lead.

In the closing minutes, Mason C, Will, and Jude stood firm at the back, and despite a tense finish, Venture held on for a hard-fought and character-boosting win.

Squad: Ralph, Mason C, Jude, William, Mason P, Jensen, Martins, Michael, Lincoln, Noah and Rudy.

Year 7 Girls Impress at Norwich Rugby Club Tournament

The Year 7 girls' rugby team made a fantastic debut at their first ever tournament, held at Norwich Rugby Club.

The squad—Alana, Asha, Texas-Rose, Suki, Zoe, Lola, Jazzlynn and Katie—showed courage, resilience and huge potential as they took on schools from across the region.

Throughout the day, the team competed in two touch rugby games and two full-contact matches, facing opponents from Aylsham High School, Hethersett Academy, Springwood High School, Old Buckenham High School and King Edward School. Despite being new to competitive rugby, the girls rose to the challenge brilliantly, winning all but one of their matches and securing an impressive 2nd place overall.

Speed was a standout factor for Venture, with Zoe proving unstoppable—quite literally. Her pace and agility saw her race past defenders again and again, earning her the title of the team's top try scorer.



In defence, Jazzlynn shone as the tackler of the day, consistently shutting down attacks with confidence and power beyond her years. Her determination helped keep the team strong under pressure and set the tone for Venture's physicality across the tournament.

The whole squad demonstrated excellent teamwork, bravery and enthusiasm, especially considering this was their first competitive outing. Coaches and spectators alike were incredibly proud of how they represented the academy. With such a strong start to their rugby journey, the future looks very promising for this talented Year 7 team.

Year 8 Netball – A Fantastic Tournament!

The Year 8 Netball team have had a brilliant start to the term, with over 14 students regularly attending Netball Club on Tuesdays – it's been fantastic to see such commitment and enthusiasm. (New players are always welcome!)



Year 7 Netball Tournament

Our Year 7 Netball team won their second tournament of the year, a fantastic achievement and a testament to their hard work and commitment this term.

The team have focused on developing their skills and understanding of the game, which was evident in a series of strong performances.

They played some excellent matches, including an impressive 6–0 victory against Flegg, securing the Venture–Flegg Trophy and bringing it home for Christmas.

A huge well done to the entire team for their determination and teamwork.

Squad: Summer, Zoey, Hallie, Sienna, Layla, Suki & Amelia

Thanks to the strong turnout, we were able to enter two teams into the recent tournament.

- The A Team were outstanding, winning all of their games and finishing the tournament in 1st place! They showed excellent skill, teamwork, and fitness throughout.
- The B Team also impressed, winning 4 matches and securing a 4th place finish – a great result with lots of promising play and effort from everyone involved.

Star Players: Elizabeth (A Team) and Poppy (B Team) – both showed exceptional determination and skill on the court.

- **A Team:** Ella, Lily, Tallulah, Jorja, Skyla, Elizabeth, Daniele
- **B Team:** Izzy, Emily, Poppy, Maria, Lyla, Ava, Harmony, Matilda

Well done to all the players – we're incredibly proud of your achievements!



Venture Triumph in County Cup Thriller!

The Year 8 Venture football team celebrated an exciting 5–4 victory over Kings Lynn Academy in the County Cup, in what was a thrilling and hard-fought match from start to finish.

The game was end-to-end, with only a single goal ever separating the two teams. Venture showed great teamwork and determination throughout, playing some lovely, neat football and keeping their composure under pressure.

Kyle was the standout performer, scoring an outstanding hat-trick — including an incredible solo goal that had the crowd cheering. Georgio and Harry also found the back of the net, adding to Venture's impressive attacking display.

It was also a special day for Harrison and Halle, who both made their debuts for the team and played brilliantly, showing confidence and skill on the pitch.

After an intense 60 minutes, Venture held on to secure the 5–4 win and progress to the next round. Congratulations to Kyle, who was deservedly named Man of the Match for his fantastic performance and leadership.

Squad: Cooper, Tyson, Parker, Cole, George, Elliott, Harry, Finlay, Louis, Halle, Kyle, Zach, Georgio, and Harrison.



Year 9 Football Squad Off to a Winning Start!

The Year 9 football team kicked off their season in style with a convincing 7–2 victory at home against Hellesdon.

The match began evenly, with Wes, Billy, and Sacha looking sharp in attack. Kyle and Keegan provided plenty of pace and creativity on the wings, while Chadley and Dawson controlled the midfield with composure. At the back, Bailey dealt confidently with any long balls, and Luigi and Toby put in solid tackles to keep Hellesdon at bay.

Goalkeeper Joey was impressive throughout, even venturing out of his area to hit the bar with a long-range free kick! When Dawson was forced off through injury, Phoenix came on and showed maturity beyond his years, keeping things calm in midfield.

At half-time, Flegg held a narrow 2–0 lead, but the team really found their rhythm in the second half. Fin made a strong debut, putting in some tough tackles, while a few tactical changes brought more goals as the opposition pushed forward. The game opened up, resulting in an exciting 7–2 final score.

Scorers: Wes, Billy, Keegan, Bailey, Chadley, and Dawson.

Squad: Joey, Fin, Phoenix, Bailey, Luigi, Toby, Dawson, Chadley, Billy, Keegan, Kyle, Wes, Sacha, Sully.

A brilliant team effort and a fantastic start to the season — Next up: Flegg or Victory in the next round!



Venture Triumph in Dramatic County Cup Clash Against Victory

Venture's squad progressed to the next round of the County Cup after a nail-biting finish that had supporters on the edge of their seats.

What looked like a comfortable 3–1 lead with just five minutes to go turned into a tense finale as Ormiston Victory Academy showed real determination, scoring twice in the dying moments to level the game at 3–3 and send the tie to a penalty shootout.

Venture had started strongly, with Luca opening the scoring inside ten minutes. His superb sliced half-volley from 25 yards curled into the far corner—an outstanding goal showcasing brilliant technique. Despite challenging, muddy conditions, the team battled with real grit. Bailey was immense in defence, while Joey produced a stunning double save that drew gasps of disbelief from the sidelines.

Riley was convinced he had added another from centre-back, but with no confirmation from the officials, play continued. JJ controlled the midfield admirably, and both the wingers and strikers caused constant problems for the opposition.

Shay and Jack added two excellent individual goals as Venture looked set to put the tie to bed—until Victory's dramatic late comeback. With daylight fading, the match came down to penalties. Will, Luca and Bailey calmly converted their spot-kicks, with Bailey firing home the decisive winner. At the other end, Joey's psychological tactics proved effective, helping force Victory into three missed attempts.

Venture now progress to the next round as their exciting County Cup journey continues.

Squad: Joey, Luigi, Will, Riley, Bailey, Dawson, Billy, Ollie, JJ, Luca, Shay and Jack



Football Tournament

The Year 7 girls represented Ormiston Venture Academy with pride, passion and outstanding talent at the recent NCFC OAT Football Tournament. **The squad—Layla, Suki, Darcey, Maisie, Amelia, Zoe, Isla and Hallie**—displayed exceptional teamwork and determination throughout the day, producing some of their strongest football yet.

Competing against teams from across the Trust, including Victory Academy, Flegg High Ormiston Academy, Broadlands High Ormiston Academy, and City of Norwich School, the girls rose to every challenge. They dominated the group stage, winning all of their matches through impressive skill, communication and resilience. Their success secured them a well-earned place in the final. After a tense and hard-fought match, the result was decided on penalties, where they were narrowly beaten. Despite the heartbreak, the team left the pitch with their heads held high, proud of how far they had come.

A standout moment of the tournament came when Amelia was named Player of the Tournament, an honour chosen by the NCFC Scholars. She was recognised for her technical ability, determination and leadership throughout the day, and was awarded a signed NCFC shirt, much to the delight of her teammates.

Special thanks go to Kelsey and Ella in Year 10, who stepped in to coach the squad. They were fantastic role models—motivating, supporting and guiding the Year 7 players with maturity and enthusiasm. The whole academy is incredibly proud of the team's achievements, sportsmanship and the way they represented Venture. Their performance sets an exciting foundation for what promises to be a brilliant season ahead.



Football was the real winner in the annual Staff vs Year 11 football match, played on a cold and rainy afternoon in September.

Facing a strong Year 11 side, the staff team called upon one or two former students — including Lewis, Alfie and Harvey — to bolster an admittedly ageing squad.

Henrique opened the scoring, with Mr Webb and Mr Malcolm also finding the net. Harvey added another to cap off an excellent individual performance, before a stunning 30-yard lob from Mr McNally sealed victory for the staff team. Year 11 put in a spirited display, with Dylan and Reuben standing out, while Cohen caused constant problems down the right and added a well-deserved goal.

Despite the miserable conditions, fans and spectators showed great dedication, braving the weather to cheer on both sides in an entertaining match.

Year 9 Show Style & Determination at Flegg

The Year 9 football team, missing a few regular players, travelled to Flegg for a tough league match.

Despite the challenge, they produced a strong and skilful performance that impressed throughout.

The team started brightly, with Chadley controlling the midfield and spraying passes around with confidence. Phoenix had his best game yet for the team, constantly causing problems for the opposition defence, while Keegan's pace down the left kept the pressure on.

At the back, Luigi handled a speedy striker superbly, and Toby and Bailey read the game well, showing composure as they calmly passed the ball out from defence. In goal, Alfie was safe and assured, often starting attacks with his accurate distribution.

In midfield, Kyle worked tirelessly alongside the quality of Billy and Sacha, creating numerous half-chances for Venture. Up front, Wes kept the defenders busy with his pace and strength, while substitutions Finn, Milo, and Reece injected fresh energy — with Reece nearly scoring with an audacious backheel effort!

The breakthrough came in the second half, when Sacha scored two well-taken goals, the second following a flowing team move that highlighted the side's growing confidence and teamwork. Billy was exceptional throughout, and Bailey led by example as captain, keeping things organised and composed at the back.

It was a spirited and skilful performance from the whole squad — plenty of positives to take forward as the team look ahead to their next match!

Norfolk County Rugby Festival

This term, our boys proudly represented the school at the Norfolk County Rugby Festival, hosted at North Walsham Rugby Club.

The team started with real momentum in the group stages, securing a commanding 25–0 victory over Sheringham. They then faced their toughest and most physical challenge of the tournament against KES, going

down 0–15 despite showing plenty of fight. Bouncing back in style, the boys produced another outstanding performance to defeat Icen School 20–0, ensuring safe progression through to the next stage.

In the waterfall-style mini group for the second-placed schools, Venture battled hard. They opened with a hard-fought 10–10 draw against Sprowston, followed by a narrow 0–5 loss to Aylesham High, just missing out on securing County Plate silver medals.

Throughout the festival, the squad demonstrated effort, grit, and determination, impressing spectators and opponents alike with the quality of rugby they produced.

Squad Members: Liam, Keegan, Logan, Syon, Reece, Keyain, Bailey, Alfie, Wesley, George, Aadhidev, Ethan, Fletcher, and Luke.



Venture Take on Northgate in the County Cup

Venture's Year 9 rugby squad put on a spirited performance in their recent State Schools County Cup clash against Northgate High School, falling just short with a final score of 17–24.

The boys came out flying, securing two well-worked tries within the opening 15 minutes. Their attacking rugby was a joy to watch, with strong running, clever passing, and real determination.

Northgate, however, gradually clawed their way back into the game, and despite Venture's tireless effort in defence and attack, the team began to tire in the second half. In the end, the match was decided by just one converted try.

While the result didn't go their way, the team can hold their heads high for their commitment and teamwork throughout.

Players Liam, Jasper, Logan, Keyain, Syon, Harry, Alfie, Reece, Keegan, George, Ethan, Aadhidev, and Luke all played their part in a fiercely contested game.

The boys now turn their attention to the State Schools Plate, eager to build on this performance and push for success.



Year 10 Battle to Victory in County Cup Opener

The Year 10 football team kicked off their County Cup campaign in style with a hard-fought win against Hellesdon High in what proved to be a challenging away fixture.

With several key players missing through injury — including top scorer Jack — and JJ unavailable, the rest of the squad knew they would need to step up. And they did exactly that.

In midfield, Dawson faced a tough opponent who is part of the Ipswich Academy set up but stood strong, after Shay taking a dead leg, Luca was superb after stepping into a deeper role, breaking up play and distributing the ball intelligently. Billy worked tirelessly to create openings, threading clever through balls and showing excellent close control.

Out wide, Frankie and Ollie provided energy and creativity, constantly stretching the defence. Wes made dangerous runs in behind, keeping the Hellesdon back line under pressure. At the other end, Riley and Bailey kept things solid at centre-back, with Luigi and Will offering support from full-back. Joey, ever reliable, played the role of sweeper keeper perfectly — quick off his line to snuff out attacks.

The breakthrough came when Luca delivered a perfectly weighted long free kick over the wall to Frankie, who calmly slotted past the keeper to give Venture the lead.

The game grew increasingly physical, with two Hellesdon players shown yellow cards — one for cynically bringing down Wes when he was clean through on goal.

Venture, however, kept their composure. Shay found space down the left and delivered a precise cross for Will, who had pushed forward from full-back, to double the lead. He might even have had a brace — only to fire one over the bar from close range!

Late substitutions Kaedyn and Keegan added pace and energy to the attack, helping to stretch the game and see out the result.

It was a deserved and determined 2–0 victory, showcasing the team's resilience and unity.

The performance will give the squad real confidence as they head into the next round of the County Cup.

Squad: Year 9 - Bailey, Dawson, Billy, Wesley, Luigi and Joey.

Year 10 - Keegan, Kaedyn, Riley S, Frankie, Ollie, Riley H, William, Shay, Luca and Jack.

Venture's Horse Riding Taster Day – Great Yarmouth Racecourse



A group of students had the fantastic opportunity to take part in a horse riding taster day at Great Yarmouth Racecourse, where they were introduced to the world of horse racing and equine care.

The day was run by the British Racing School, who provided hands-on activities and valuable insight into careers in the racing industry, including grooming, riding, and trotting horses. Despite the miserable weather, our students showed great enthusiasm and came well prepared – making the most of every opportunity!

They also learned about further taster days and apprenticeship opportunities available at the British Racing School in Newmarket.

A huge well done to all involved: Ashton, Esme, Aaliah, Florence, Emilia, Kelsey, and Evie – your positive attitude and willingness to get stuck in made the day a great success!

