

Venture VOICE

Stay Safe



Ormiston
venture academy

[OAT]
AN OAT ACADEMY

Edition 47: Summer 2026



SCAN ME



the
Principals Award
SPECIALIST

GCSE Results 2026

Venture Academy excels

Summer School

Best way to spend some Summer days...

Venture Prom '26

An illustration of glamour

Venture Star Awards

Award season begins

Royal Norfolk Show

An inspirational rural trip

Athletic Champions

A stunning Venture Win!!

OAT Annual Cup

At UEA Sports Park

Camp Adventure

Whitlingham Broad Campsite visit

**So much more
going on @Venture!**

Aspire
Create
Achieve
Innovate

GCSE
success

HAUTBOIS
ACTIVITY CENTRE



Venture Star
Awards



Rise & Shine with Venture Breakfast!

We're thrilled to launch Venture Breakfast—a brand-new FREE breakfast offer available to every student in our academy, in partnership with the national Magic Breakfast scheme.

Whether you're an early riser or just need a few extra minutes of calm before class, Venture Breakfast is here to help you start your day the right way—with great food, good company, and a welcoming atmosphere.

What's on the Menu?

Enjoy a healthy, nutritious breakfast with a variety of tasty options:

Bakery items: Bagels, Toast, Crumpets

Cereals: A rotating mix of popular favourites

Hot choices: Baked Beans (on their own or on toast) and warming Porridge

Students are encouraged to prepare their own breakfast, helping to build independence and confidence—supported by our friendly staff and Venture Ambassadors.



Why Breakfast Matters

Research shows that a good breakfast doesn't just fill your stomach—it fuels your mind: Schools offering breakfast see 26 fewer half-days of absence per class each year.

Students receiving a Magic Breakfast make, on average, two months' additional academic progress.

A University of Leeds study found that breakfast eaters achieve two GCSE grades higher, on average, than those who skip it.

A Morning Community Like No Other

We've transformed our café into a relaxed community hub—a space to enjoy:

- Music
- Morning news
- Chats with friends
- Calm areas and creative activities like colouring

Whether you're in the mood to socialise, relax, or just enjoy a peaceful start, Venture Breakfast has something for you.

When?

Every weekday morning,
7:30am – 8:15am

Where?

School café

Cost?

100% FREE! No booking needed—just drop in, grab a bagel, and you're good to go!

You can even save it for breaktime!

Keep an look-out for this flyer around the Academy with more details, this is a winning start to anyone's day...

Start your morning with energy, focus, and a full stomach—Venture Breakfast is open and ready to welcome you.

**See you,
nice & early!**

FREE VENTURE BREAKFAST

Come and join our Venture Breakfast - a completely FREE breakfast offer for every student in our academy, in partnership with the national Magic Breakfast scheme.

WHAT'S ON THE MENU?



Bakery Items
Bagels, Toast, Crumpets



Cereals
A rotating mix of popular cereals



Hot Choices
Baked Beans (on their own or on toast) & Porridge

WHEN & WHERE?

Every weekday morning from 7:30am - 8:15am

Venture Café

This is a 100% FREE provision - no booking needed and you can save it for breaktime!

WHY BREAKFAST MATTERS

Schools offering a breakfast provision see 26 fewer half-days of absence per class (of 30 students per year)

Research shows students receiving a Magic Breakfast make on average two months' additional academic progress



What's going on at Venture Academy for 2026

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A Year of Opportunity

A new academic year always feels special. It is a chance to start fresh, set new goals and look ahead to what we can achieve together.

Over the summer, I found myself reflecting on a phrase called sliding doors.

People often use it to describe the big decisions in life that can change everything. But I think the choices that shape our future are usually much smaller than that.

Every day, we make choices that move us forward.

Do we work hard when a task feels challenging? Do we go out of our way to help someone who needs it? Do we join a club, try a new activity or take on a new challenge?

These decisions may seem small at the time, but they can open doors to new opportunities, new friendships and new successes.

At Venture, our commitment is to help create as many of those opportunities as possible.

Last year we visited some of the highest-performing schools in the country, taking ideas that can make the experience of our students even better.

We learned a great deal, but we are not interested in copying what others do. We want to build on those ideas and make them even better for Venture.

That is why this year is about raising the bar. We are rightly proud of our academy, but we believe our students deserve the very best. We will continue to aim higher, work harder and create opportunities for every student to succeed.

To our new Year 7 students, welcome to Venture. To our amazing year 11 who have left with such amazing outcomes we wish you all the very best.

To the rest of our community, welcome back.

Whatever year group you are in, remember that every day is a new opportunity.

Make great choices, take chances when they come, and keep opening those doors for your future.

Regards,
Simon Gilbert-Barnham
Principal

Colour Run No.3!

What a Vibrant Success!

Venture proudly hosted its third Colour Run, an exciting and colourful event that has become a much-loved tradition within our school community.

Participants completed half-mile laps around the school field while being showered from head to toe with brightly coloured powder at various points around the course.

The Colour Run was first introduced by the UVS in 2022 to raise funds for those affected by the war in Ukraine. Following the tremendous success and enthusiasm shown by students, a second event was organised in 2024. On that occasion, students voted to split the proceeds between the James Paget University Hospital Charity and Cancer Research UK.

As 2026 arrived, it was time for the third Colour Run. In keeping with the student-led spirit of the event, students once again voted to decide which charities would benefit from the fundraising.

From a shortlist of ten worthy causes, including several local charities supported throughout the year at Venture, the James Paget University Hospital Charity and Cancer Research UK received the most votes. Following a recent Baraza vote, students chose to divide this year's proceeds equally between the two organisations.



Director of Personal Development
"It is fantastic to see so many students participating in this event. It is incredibly popular and, because it takes time to experience it twice during their school year, it supports two exceptional charities that make a difference."

Thanks to the enthusiasm and generosity of students, families and staff, the event was a huge success. Together, the Venture community raised an incredible £[insert amount], which will be shared between the James Paget University Hospital Charity and Cancer Research UK. We would like to thank everyone who took part, donated and supported the event. We are already looking forward to the next Colour Run in 2028!

Students were
"I'd never done this before. It was so fun and I loved the colors. This was my second year and I was covered in powder!"
Year 9 student



As the event got underway, students were covered in vibrant clouds of coloured cornstarch at each colour station around the course. To add to the fun, volunteers armed with water pistols and water balloons helped keep participants cool while providing plenty of laughter along the way.

Dressed in light-coloured T-shirts, runners quickly became walking rainbows as they made their way around the course, cheered on enthusiastically by friends and staff from the sidelines.



nt, Spencer Doggett, said:
students taking part once again. The Colour Run is always incred-
s place every other year, every student has the opportunity
ir time at Venture. It also allows us to raise valuable funds for
ean a great deal to our school community."

equally positive about the event. Year 7 student Jack said:
anything like that before, but it was really fun."

Lilly, taking part for the second time, commented:
second Colour Run. I raised nearly £20. I got absolutely
wder, but I enjoyed it just as much as the first one."



On behalf of the local governors at Venture...

...I am pleased to report how thrilled we are to see the achievements of the academy this year.

Special congratulations need to go to the last year 11 cohort of students, of course, who worked so hard to reach and exceed their goals. We wish them well as they continue to exceed expectations in their life ahead.

They were ably supported by all staff at the academy who, whatever their role, were totally committed to making sure that the opportunities for students here were the best that they could possibly be, whether inside or outside the classroom.

Their determined optimism was a joy to see and this newsletter will record some of the experiences that continue to be offered in all areas.

Grateful thanks go to parents, carers and the wider community who all played their part in making sure that students in all years received the loving and unfailing support that they deserve. They are vital partners in the work of the academy.

A special feature of Venture is the determination never to be complacent about past successes but to aim higher in all respects year on year.

This is what governors admire and respect most. There are always more ambitious goals inside and outside the curriculum and a steely determination to achieve more each year.

This is what makes Venture an exciting place for staff and students, so we know that the new year 7 cohort will be aware of that. We welcome you to the academy and know that you will rise to the challenge.

All good wishes to all students and staff for a splendid year ahead.

We will monitor progress with interest and support everyone in any way we can. We look forward to another amazing year!

Lesley King

Chair of the Local Governing Body,
Ormiston Venture Academy.



Venture College Clash So much Going On!

GO Karts

The gap to Achieve was officially been closed after an exciting day of pedal go-kart racing.

Across 9 thrilling races, every college managed to secure at least one victory, with plenty of overtakes, dramatic last-minute crashes, and lots of fun throughout the event.

Aspire looked unstoppable early on, claiming the first two wins of the day, but the competition soon caught up and kept the leaderboard tight.

In the end, three colleges shared the top spot with two wins each, while Achieve finished in last place for the first time this term — meaning the race for the overall standings is now wide open, with the other colleges firmly within striking distance.

hula Hooping

Friday Challenge of the new term took place, with plenty of students showing off their skills with a hula hoop.

Participants earned one point for each successful spin of the hoop and were given three attempts each.

Well done to Innovate, who dominated the field, with Achieve securing second place and Create finishing in third. Innovates strong performance saw them jump from third to second in the overall standings so far, now chasing down Achieve at the top. Aspire remained in third place overall.



Achieve extended their lead at the top of the College Clash table, with Ping Pong taking centre stage as the Fun Friday Challenge.

With one point awarded for every participant and five for each doubles win, Innovate initially surged ahead, but strong fightbacks from Create and Achieve saw them caught and eventually overtaken.

In the end, Create and Innovate shared second place with six points each after a determined effort. Aspire managed a couple of match wins but will need a standout performance soon to stop the others from pulling further ahead.



CORn Hole

The Corn Hole College Clash was fiercely contested on Friday, with students given just 60 seconds to score as many points as possible using their 4 bean bags.

Players earned 1 point for landing on the board and 3 points for getting a bag through the hole.

Some impressive scores were achieved throughout the competition.

Congratulations to Achieve for remaining top of the table, with Create and Innovate close behind!



Ormiston Schools Unite to Celebrate & Support Young Carers

Young carers from across Norfolk came together at Venture Academy for a memorable day of fun, friendship and support, celebrating the invaluable contribution they make to their families and communities.

Organised by Venture's Young Carers Lead, Owen Cooper, the annual event welcomed more than 100 young carers from Flegg High Ormiston Academy, Ormiston Venture Academy and local primary schools, including Ormiston Herman Academy, Wroughton Academy, Moorlands Primary Academy, Stradbroke Primary Academy and Woodlands Primary Academy.

Throughout the day, pupils enjoyed animal encounters, inflatables, team games, crafts and wellbeing activities. Just as importantly, the event provided a safe and welcoming environment where young carers could relax, make friends and spend time with others who understand the responsibilities they may have outside school.

Secondary-aged young carers played an important role, welcoming and supporting younger pupils throughout the day. Their maturity and encouragement helped younger children overcome their initial nerves and enjoy the activities.

Owen Cooper said:

"Young carers often take on significant responsibilities at home and can sometimes feel isolated from their peers. This event is about recognising everything they do, giving them opportunities to enjoy themselves, build friendships and feel valued. Seeing older young carers support younger pupils was particularly special."

The event was supported by organisations including Caring Together, The Benjamin Foundation, Family Hub Norfolk and the Youth Advisory Board, alongside generous contributions from local businesses and activity providers..

Jo Robson, Regional Enrichment and Social Action Co-ordinator for Ormiston Academies Trust East, said:

"It was inspiring to see so many young carers enjoying the opportunity to simply be children. What stood out most was watching the older students nurturing and supporting younger pupils. They were exceptional role models."

Several Ormiston academies across the East Region already provide dedicated support for young carers, and the success of the event has prompted discussions about creating similar opportunities across more schools.

The day received overwhelmingly positive feedback from pupils, staff and partners, with many describing it as a highlight of the year.

As one Year 2 young carer from Ormiston Herman Academy simply put it:

"That was great – can I come again next year?"

The event demonstrated how schools, community partners and young people can work together to ensure young carers feel recognised, supported and celebrated.



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

October 2026

Friday 23rd October – Students Break for Half Term 2.35pm

November 2026

Monday 2nd November – Students Return to the Academy 8.25am

Wednesday 4th November – Academic Review Day 3pm – 8pm

December 2026

Wednesday 2nd December – SEND Parental Drop in 2pm – 3.30pm

Wednesday 9th December – Year 11 Parents Evening 3pm – 8pm

Friday 18th December – Students Break for Christmas 2.20pm

January 2027

Tuesday 5th January 2027 – Students Return to the Academy 8.25am

Author Dr Ashley Hickson Lovence visited Venture Academy and left students buzzing with inspiration as he encouraged them to write more creatively and confidently.

After reading the opening of his acclaimed novel *Wild East*, Ashley explored the ideas behind his writing, showing students how powerful vocabulary choices and fresh perspectives can transform their own creative work.

He spoke openly about his journey—from education in London and later East Anglia, to becoming a teacher, lecturer, football referee and published author. His story highlighted how resilience, creativity and the courage to see the world differently can lead young people towards exciting and fulfilling careers. Ashley's path to achieving a PhD in Creative and Critical Writing demonstrated the opportunities available to students who follow their passions with commitment and belief.

Several students were awarded signed copies of his book, which won East Anglian Book of the Year, while others received signed notebooks to continue developing their writing beyond the workshop.

Author Visit



Into University Business Focus

Year 9 students recently visited Mills & Reeve for an 'Into Uni' Business in Focus workshop, where they took part in an exciting challenge to organise a large-scale music concert.

to secure investment. During the day, students also had the opportunity to speak with solicitors and HR professionals about careers and the world of work.

After presenting their final business plans and concert ideas, students reflected on how much their confidence, teamwork, leadership, communication, and initiative skills had developed throughout the experience.

With celebrity donors such as Stormzy and The Weekend linked to their events, the concerts were certainly set to be a huge success!

Students were split into two teams, each led by a Chief Executive Officer, with roles including Finance Director, Artistic Director, and Press Manager.

Working collaboratively, the teams developed concert concepts, created taglines and logos, designed branded merchandise, sourced funding, and pitched their ideas to trustees in order



A Triumph of Character



The Year 10 Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award expedition proved to be a memorable adventure as our group set off for Southwold with Mr Webb and Miss Tomczak, ready to tackle the expedition section of their award with determination and teamwork.



Day One:

Southwold to Dunwich

Using only their maps, route cards and teamwork, students navigated a full loop from Southwold to Dunwich, stopping for lunch along the way. The warm weather added an extra challenge, but the group showed impressive resilience as they kept to their planned route and supported one another throughout the journey.



Campcraft and Cooking

After completing the first day's trek, students set up their tents and prepared their own evening meals—an essential part of demonstrating independence for the Bronze Award. From pitching tents to cooking safely, they proved they were more than capable of managing camp life.

Day Two: Dunwich to Kessingland

The second day saw the group head towards Kessingland, once again navigating with a compass and map. Their confidence had grown overnight, and they worked together brilliantly to complete the final leg of their expedition.

Congratulations to Our Year 10 Team:

Harry, Macey, Will, Jack, Dulcie, Shanley, Neha and William. Each student showed maturity, teamwork and resilience—qualities at the heart of the Duke of Edinburgh Award. Their success is something they should be incredibly proud of.

Create

The Showcase Evening

Parents, carers and guests enjoyed an impressive range of student artwork, photography and textiles, alongside musical performances and food prepared by our Catering students.

This year, Year 10 GCSE Catering students also prepared and served canapés for the Venture Star Award Evening, impressing guests with their professionalism, creativity and quality of presentation.

We are incredibly proud of everyone involved and grateful to our staff and wider school community or making the evening such a success.

A special thank you goes to Carol Clayton, our Peri Music Teacher, for her continued support over the years.

We wish her all the very best for her retirement, and also thank Mrs Cornwell-Roper for her valued support.



Norfolk Deputy Lieutenant visits Venture



This was one of the most exciting days for our school's Eco Garden team (even considering the weather) as we welcomed Norfolk Deputy Lieutenant Sara Foster for a special visit.

Mrs Foster represents His Majesty King Charles III across Norfolk, acting as a key link between the Royal Household and our county, and has held this role for 10 years. Her visit was a huge honour and the perfect chance for our eco gardeners to show exactly what they have built from scratch.

Led by teacher Matt, the project began with absolutely nothing but bare ground. Over months of hard work, the team has transformed this space into a thriving, eco-friendly garden built almost entirely from recycled, donated, or repurposed materials. These include old planks from local building sites, pallets from around the school, and donated soil and horse manure from a local farmer, which formed the foundations of the garden. Even the raised beds sit on recycled concrete, and the new benches—built and painted by students—are now the perfect place to sit and enjoy the space.

The team also created a standing area using wood chips and converted a recycled shipping container into a shed, which proved sturdier than a wooden structure and less vulnerable to rain damage. The students said it was very hard work, but they are extremely proud of what they have created.

The garden is packed with life and learning. It contains a wide variety of plants, including fruit trees, rhubarb, wildflowers, and herbs such as mint, dill, and sage. Vegetables range from potatoes, onions, and cucumbers to strawberries, runner beans, and courgettes. Year 7 and 8 students created this amazing eco garden, with support from a few Year 9 and 10 students. Through the project, they have planted trees and learned how to grow food in ways that protect nature.

The team also built their own tool racks for storage, which are always kept neat and organised. Every part of the garden follows one simple rule: everything has a purpose, and nothing goes to waste.

For the team, the project has been about far more than just gardening. When asked what it was like to be part of it, students said they loved being outside, working together, and learning new skills.

Of course, it hasn't always been easy. Along the way, they faced challenges such as plants dying, heavy materials needing to be moved, tricky areas to plant in, and even battles with pesky muntjacs trying to eat their crops.

However, solving problems together has been one of the most rewarding parts of the project, and every challenge has made the final result even more satisfying.

During her tour, Mrs Foster walked every path, asked questions, and listened as students explained their plans for the future, including long-term goals to make the garden even more sustainable and welcoming for wildlife and students alike.



"It's great not being stuck in a classroom," one student told me.

"We've made new friends, helped our mental health, and feel so proud seeing things grow."

She spoke to Luke, Dion, Ruby, and Jasmine from the team, heard how they fund everything on a tight budget, and praised the creativity and effort behind every feature.

"What you have achieved here is incredible,"

Mrs Foster said. ***"You haven't just made a garden; you have created a place that teaches, brings people together, and looks after our environment. To start with nothing and build this is something everyone in the county can be proud of. You are leading the way."***

Matt also added, ***"This is student leadership at its best. Every idea, every dig, and every plant was chosen by the students and brought to life through their hard work. To have such a distinguished visitor recognise their achievements is amazing, and it shows just what young people can do when they care about something."***

Written by a UVS student
from Media cooperative.



Eco-Garden Flourishes



The Eco-Garden at Venture continues to go from strength to strength, as students reach Week 6 of the project with incredible progress to celebrate.

A total of 36 dedicated eco gardeners have been working hard to develop the space, and their efforts are clearly paying off.

The garden is now really starting to take shape, with plants thriving and greenery beginning to fill the space. It has been fantastic to see how much the garden has developed in just a few weeks, transforming into a vibrant and productive environment.

This initiative forms part of the Papillon Project, which supports schools in creating sustainable gardens and encourages students to learn more about food, nature, and the environment. Through the project, students are gaining hands-on experience in planting, maintaining, and nurturing crops, while also developing teamwork and responsibility.

The enthusiasm and commitment shown by all 36 students has been outstanding. Their teamwork and care for the garden is helping to create something truly special for the school community.

With the plants continuing to grow and the space improving week by week, the future of the Eco-Garden at Venture looks incredibly bright.



Venture on Tour!

The Class of 2026 enjoyed a truly unforgettable evening at this year's Prom, held at the beautiful Park Hill Hotel. With warm summer sunshine setting the perfect scene, 145 students arrived in spectacular style, ready to celebrate the end of their secondary school journey.

The arrival alone was a highlight, with a fleet of incredible cars pulling up to the hotel entrance.

Students stepped out of mirrored Bentleys, Porsches, Maseratis, stock cars, and many other impressive vehicles, creating a redcarpet moment that set the tone for the evening.

Families and staff gathered to watch, cheering as each student made their grand entrance.

The night included the traditional Prom Awards, with huge congratulations to:

- Prom King: Dylan
- Prom Queen: MiaBella
- Best Dressed: Nithana & Harry



All four students were celebrated for their confidence, style and the way they embraced the spirit of the evening.

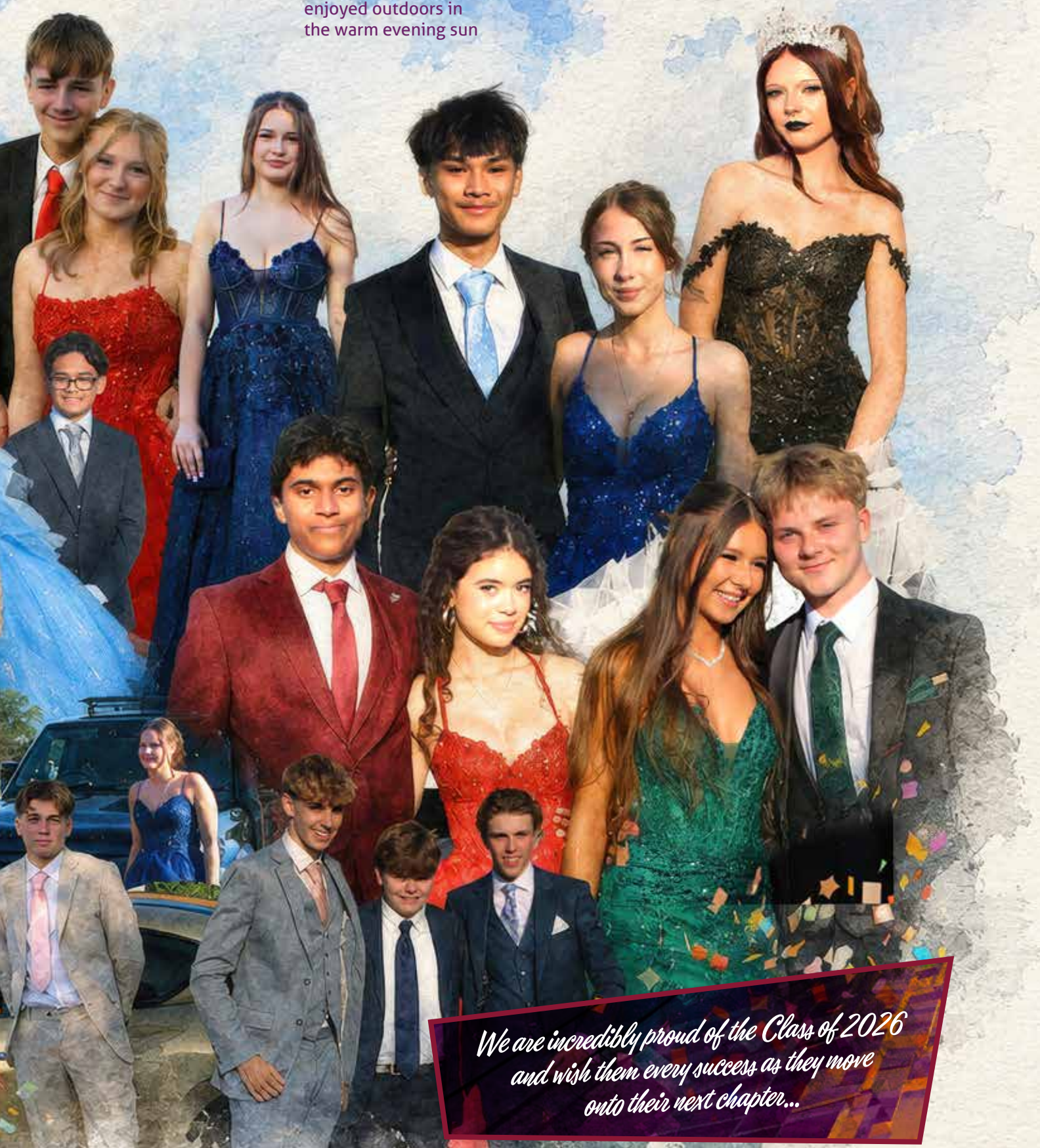


Inside the venue, students enjoyed a fantastic range of entertainment and treats:

- Music and dancing that kept the energy high all evening
- A colourful sweetie bar
- Delicious cakes from Elise Bakes
- A quirky and fun Camper Van photo booth
- A freshly cooked BBQ enjoyed outdoors in the warm evening sun

The combination of great food, laughter and music created a relaxed, joyful atmosphere that students will remember for years.

The 2026 Prom was a wonderful celebration of friendship, achievement and the exciting future ahead. Our students represented the academy with maturity, kindness and enthusiasm throughout the evening.



Achieve **Harley**

Harley is a talented and creative student, predicted to achieve outstanding grades, with particular passions for Spanish and music.

Her musical journey began at nine, when she achieved a Distinction in Grade 1 piano, before taking up guitar in Year 8. Since then, she has developed into a multi-instrumentalist, playing electric and bass guitar, drums and ukulele, as well as singing. She regularly performs with fellow student Naledi and is involved with Play, Produce, Promote in Great Yarmouth, giving her opportunities to perform, record and even feature twice on the BBC.

Harley has performed at numerous academy and local events, including the Christmas Fayre, Summer Fete and Summer on the Mag. Looking ahead, she hopes to perform at larger venues and eventually record and produce her own music. audiences as Anne of Cleves in Venture's production of Six the Musical.



Principal AWARD – Jasmine

Jasmine is an amazing, kind lady. Always willing to help anybody. Excellent effort in all lessons who really is a credit to have in the Academy. She is a great ambassador for the Eco garden. She even had a smile on her face after having an accident this year and returned to the academy for business as usual, despite her leg injury. Jasmine embodies the Venture Way and Venture Spirit in every way.



Create **Ava**

Ava is an avid sports enthusiast who has been a member of the Venture netball, athletics and cross country teams since she joined in year 7.

Ava also represents Great Yarmouth Athletics Club at meetings competing in the 300m (with a superb PB of 46 seconds) and the 800m. Ava also won Gold at the recent Wellesley athletics competition helping Venture to first place overall.

Ava is also a strong member of the UVS this year contributing in many areas of student life. She has also organised and led a guild in the last round in April. Ava is looking to continue her studies at East Norfolk Sixth Form and even with her current shin splints predicament is hoping to continue her athletics as well.

She is a valued, kind member of her PL group and demonstrates the Venture Virtues every day as an excellent role model.

© 2026 Philip Williams



Principal AWARD – Jenson

Jenson has successfully achieved a place as a member of the youth parliament and attended his inauguration at County hall recently.

Jenson began working on this back in September and applied for the role before attending face-to-face interviews and submitting a video blog for students across Norfolk to vote for. Elections went superbly for him and he has now taken his place on the board discussing important issues surrounding young people in the county.

Jenson has always shown a strong interest in politics and current affairs and has always led discussions on votes for schools in class laying out well thought out ideas and viewpoints. He is a keen debater and uses his reasoning skills to great effect in class.



Innovate Luigi

Luigi is a talented and dedicated student with a passion for both music and sport. For the past two years, he has been taking drum lessons with Zack.

Teen Spirit by Nirvana. With musical talent running in his family, it's no surprise that Luigi enjoys developing his skills on the drums.

Away from music, Luigi is also a committed footballer who plays for Kirkley and Pakefield Royals Under 15s. Last season, his team finished third in their league and were proud runners-up in the Division One Plate Final.

Well done, Luigi, on your achievements both on the stage and on the football pitch!

Principal AWARD – Luxsheyan

Luxsheyan has shown 100% attendance, outstanding achievement across multiple subjects, and a consistently positive attitude. Always smiling and ready to give his best, Luxsheyan's commitment and enthusiasm make him a standout student and a brilliant role model for his peers.



Aspire Piper

Piper proudly represented her dance school at Dance Yorkshire 2026 in Bradford, taking part in an ambitious attempt to break the world record for the largest group of backing dancers.

Performing alongside hundreds of others, Piper helped make history as the group successfully set a new world record for the most dancers performing in sync as backing dancers for Sigala, reaching an impressive total of 1,200 participants. This remarkable achievement is set to be recognised in the newspaper next week, celebrating the dedication and talent of everyone involved.

Principal AWARD – Rosie

Rosie has excellent attendance, was proudly selected as her PL captain, and consistently demonstrates what it means to be an outstanding student. She is polite, helpful, and always the first to offer assistance whenever it's needed. Rosie treats her PL peers with genuine kindness, is a loyal and supportive friend, and brings a warm, positive energy that makes her a joy to be around.



Achieve College

Achieve has three major subjects areas; English, Humanities (History, Geography and RE) and Modern Foreign Languages.

These faculty areas therefore have a tutor group in these areas of the academy.

Providing a World Class education to all is the mantra at Venture, as well as providing opportunities for our students to be subject specialists in all their subjects. Students study a curriculum that prepares pupils to be experts in every area of study.

In English, students have the chance to study Shakespeare, analyse poetry, write creatively; being exposed to both modern and pre 1900s texts. Trips to the theatre (to see 'Macbeth' this year) and the Globe Theatre are popular annual events.

World Book Day

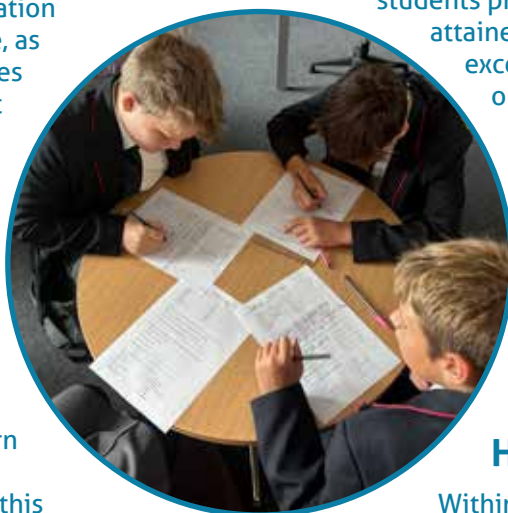


Always providing plenty of smiles, with staff regularly dressing up as their favourite literary characters; this year the English faculty were the entire cast of A Christmas Carol, with Mr Doggett playing Scrooge.

Other events, such as the 'poetry slam' help provide friendly competition between the colleges and the annual spellathon, is run by Venture students for local primary school pupils.

Our Modern Foreign Languages incorporate French and Spanish; both increasingly popular choices for our linguists at GCSE level.

Key topics include the theme of identity and culture, school, the local area, future plans and the international global dimension. Beyond the classroom, MFL offers inter-school debating competitions and you may spot students proudly adorning 'master linguist' badges, attained in either subject for excellence in examinations or extended learning.



Trips to Disneyland Paris, Belgium and Madrid took place in 2025-26. It has been great to welcome Ms Mills and Mrs Bennett to Venture's MFL faculty this year.



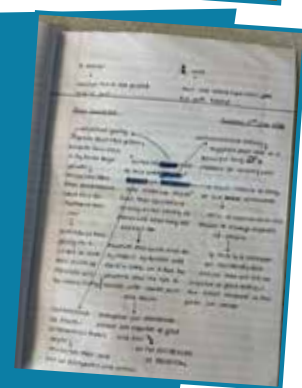
Humanities

Within the Humanities faculty, History students are taught about the development of Britain following the Battle of Hastings through to colonialism under the reign of Queen Victoria, while international topics are explored such as Apartheid in South Africa and the Vietnam War.



Geography

In Geography, students learn about the eco-system and the impact climate change has on rivers and flooding as well as other hazards and the causes and consequences of population growth all over the planet. Local fieldwork on our coast, as well as trips to Poland and the First World War trenches are always well received.



Religious Education

Finally, Religious Education remains popular, taught across History and Geography lessons in Year 7-9. Students learn about Christian practises, Hinduism, Judaism and Islam.

Year 9 study a unit on morality and Year 10 learn about ethics. This is taught as part of a well-rounded Humanities offer. For the first time in 2026-27, RE will also be taught at GCSE level.

Aspire College

Discover Your Future Through Maths & Computer Science

In Aspire college, learning goes far beyond the classroom. Our Maths and Computer Science faculties provide students with exciting opportunities to develop valuable skills, explore future careers, and experience learning in engaging and memorable ways.

Whether you enjoy solving complex problems, designing innovative technology, or analysing the world around you, these subjects offer something for everyone.

Mathematics: Building Confidence and Unlocking Potential

Mathematics is at the heart of everyday life. From budgeting and engineering to science and business, strong mathematical skills open doors to countless opportunities. In Aspire, we are passionate about helping every student achieve their personal best and develop a love for learning.

For students who have a particular interest and aptitude for mathematics, we offer Further Maths GCSE, providing an additional challenge and helping students prepare for A Level study and beyond. This qualification develops advanced problem-solving techniques and gives students the confidence to tackle more complex mathematical concepts.

Commitment

Our commitment to mathematics starts early through our Key Stage 3 Maths Clubs. These clubs give younger students the opportunity to explore puzzles, investigations and mathematical challenges in a fun and supportive environment. They are a great way to build confidence, make new friends, and develop skills that extend beyond the classroom.

Educational visits also play an important role in bringing mathematics to life. One of the highlights for students is our trip to Thorpe Park, where mathematics

can be seen in action through the design and operation of roller coasters.

Students explore concepts such as speed, acceleration, angles, forces and data analysis, gaining a deeper



understanding of how mathematical principles are used by engineers to create safe and exciting rides. The visit demonstrates how mathematics extends far beyond the classroom and is essential in solving real-world challenges.

Computer Science: Creating the Technology of Tomorrow

Computer Science is one of the fastest-growing and most exciting fields in the modern world. In Aspire, students develop computational thinking skills while learning how technology shapes our everyday lives.

Our Computer Science curriculum is enhanced by a range of exciting enrichment opportunities. Students can participate in STEM Racing, where they work as part of a team to design, manufacture and race miniature Formula One-style cars.

This project combines coding, engineering, design and teamwork, helping students develop practical skills that are highly valued by employers. All students in Year 8 have recently had the opportunity to engage by designing and building a model F1 car during the academy enrichment week.

Students also have access to Games Design Workshops, where they explore the creative side of computing by learning how games are developed and brought to life. These workshops encourage innovation, problem solving and creative thinking.

In addition, our partnership with Bright Sparx provides students with access to specialist workshops and industry-focused experiences.

These sessions help students understand the wide range of careers available within the technology sector and develop the skills needed for future success.



Create College

The Create College brings together Art, Catering, Music, Performing Arts, Photography and Textiles, led by a dedicated team of staff who encourage students to develop their creativity, confidence and practical skills.



At Key Stage 3, students experience a broad range of visual arts, performance and technology-based subjects. At Key Stage 4, popular GCSE and BTEC courses allow students to specialise, with many progressing to further study, apprenticeships and careers within the creative industries.

Former students have achieved some fantastic successes, including Callum Cooke, who progressed to study Fine Art at Oxford University, and Daisy Abbots-Freeman, who continued her dance studies at Colchester College.

Beyond the Classroom

Extra-curricular opportunities are a major part of Create College. Students can take part in musical and talent show rehearsals, choir and orchestra through Venture Vivace, photography, dance and instrumental tuition.

Creative Guilds provide even more opportunities, with activities including film special-effects make-up, dressmaking, crochet, cartoon drawing,

A showcase of Outstanding

circus skills, band skills, photography and textiles experimentation.

Celebrating Creativity

Our popular showcase events give students the opportunity to share their talents with families and the wider community. From Art and Photography exhibitions and Textiles displays to live music, performances and food prepared by Catering students, these events celebrate the incredible creativity found across Venture.

Students also represent the academy at carol services, lantern parades, concerts and Ormiston Academies Trust events, gaining valuable experience performing beyond school.

Visits from artists, designers, animators, photographers, chefs, singers and dancers, alongside trips to exhibitions and theatres, provide further inspiration and an insight into the many careers available within the creative industries.

Create College is about giving students the skills, experiences and confidence to turn their creativity into future opportunities.



"How amazing the young people are in the best college in the academy, and lots of that was down to the talented and devoted staff we have".

Mrs Vincent,
College Leader



A Year of Discovery, Challenge, Achievement, and Care

It has been another exciting and successful year for Innovate College, with students embracing hands-on learning and developing new skills across Science and Physical Education.

Alongside academic achievement, our focus on pastoral support and wellbeing continues to ensure students feel safe, valued and confident both inside and outside the classroom.

Science: Curiosity in Action

Science students have enjoyed a challenging programme combining practical investigation with scientific knowledge and enquiry skills.

Year 7 explored streamlining and forces through practical experiments, while Year 8 investigated acids, alkalis and chemical reactions. Students in Years 9–11 benefited from specialist teaching across Biology, Chemistry and Physics, helping prepare them for GCSE study.

Weekly enrichment clubs and College Clash competitions have taken learning beyond the classroom. Students designed scientific tools and solutions while developing skills in problem-solving, innovation, teamwork and engineering.

Through these experiences, the department continues to nurture curious and ambitious learners with the confidence and critical-thinking skills needed for future STEM opportunities.

Physical Education: Health, Fitness & Leadership

PE continues to develop confident, resilient and healthy young people through teamwork, leadership and participation in sport.

Years 7–9 experience a broad range of team and individual activities, developing physical ability, tactical awareness and an understanding of healthy lifestyles.

In Years 10 and 11, students can choose from three specialist pathways: OCR Cambridge National Sport Studies, UK Sport Leadership Awards, or Health and Fitness, which can lead to a recognised gym instructor qualification.

Activities including orienteering, football, rugby, netball and athletics provide further opportunities to develop resilience, leadership, communication and teamwork.

Highlights of the Year

- Extra-curricular sports clubs and teams have continued to thrive.
- Venture finished 1st in the Wellesley Athletics Tournament.
- The Venture Games brought the whole school together for a full day of sport, finishing with an unforgettable colour run.
- Ormiston Venture Academy won the OAT Sports Cup once again, competing against four other Ormiston secondary schools at the University of East Anglia. Students excelled in athletics, dodgeball and tug of war.

Looking Ahead

We are incredibly proud of everything our Innovate College students have achieved. Through practical learning, personal development and new opportunities, they continue to build the knowledge, confidence and skills needed for their futures.



Celebrating Excellence & Achievement

Glamour, celebration and outstanding achievement were at the heart of Venture Academy's annual Venture Stars Awards.

The prestigious red-carpet event brought together students, families, staff and members of the local community to celebrate the exceptional accomplishments of some of the academy's highest-achieving students.

More than 60 students were nominated for a Venture Star Award, one of the highest honours a student can receive at Venture. Nominations recognised excellence across both curriculum and enrichment areas, celebrating students who have demonstrated exceptional effort, commitment, achievement and a consistently positive attitude throughout the academic year.

Competition was fierce, with just one student from each year group nominated in each of the 16 award categories. These students have stood out amongst their peers and embody the very best of the Venture Way through their dedication, resilience and determination to succeed.

Alongside the Venture Star Awards, judges also selected a Special Commendation Award winner in each category. These awards recognised students whose achievements and contributions deserved particular praise and acknowledgment.

The evening's most prestigious accolade was the OAT Outstanding Achievement Award, presented to the student who had received the greatest number of nominations and demonstrated excellence across multiple areas of academy life. This year's award was proudly presented to Zara in Year 7, whose achievements both in and beyond the classroom have made a significant impact during her first year at Venture.

The academy was delighted to welcome support from a number of local businesses and organisations who sponsored the awards, including:

EE Green, Top Body Gym, LG Perfect, Haven Wild Duck, Norwich City Community Sports Foundation, Norfolk County Council Library Service, The Vault and Folkes Plant & Aggregates.

Representatives from several sponsoring organisations attended the event and presented awards to students, further strengthening the links between the academy and the local community.

Guests also heard from former Venture student Mollie Speed, who returned to the academy as a special guest speaker. Mollie shared her personal journey to success, encouraging students to embrace lifelong learning, remain resilient in the face of challenges and view setbacks as opportunities for growth. Her inspiring message highlighted that success can take many different forms and that determination and perseverance are key ingredients in achieving personal goals.

Vice Principal Dave Richards thanked the sponsors, presenters and guests for helping to create such a memorable evening. He also expressed his appreciation to Mollie for returning to inspire the next generation of Venture students.

Mr Richards said: "The Venture Stars Awards are a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the incredible young people we have at our academy. Every nominee should be immensely proud of their achievements. They represent the very best of the Venture Way and continue to make our school community proud each and every day."

The Venture Stars Awards once again showcased the talent, dedication and ambition of Venture students, recognising their achievements while inspiring others to strive for excellence in the years ahead.

As another successful academic year draws to a close, the academy looks forward to seeing these young people continue to shine both within school and beyond.





Special Commendations went to:

First Class Computer Science: Layton

Ultimate Sports Personality of the Year: Zoe

Innovative Scientist of the Year: Aradhya

English Laureate: Dylan

Outstanding Historian: Wesley

Outstanding Geographer: Jack

Masterchef: Jess

Master Mathematician: John-J

Outstanding Linguist: Alice

Outstanding Performance: Lilly

Venture Craftsperson: Zara

Outstanding Visual: Katie

Extended Learning: Daniel

Venture Spirit: Jasmine

Achievement Beyond School: Hallie

OAT Outstanding Achievement: Zara



A Fantastic Week at Summer School '26

This year's Summer School was a huge success, with 141 students signing up and around 130 students attending across the four days.

Students enjoyed a fantastic range of activities, including football, basketball, badminton, tennis, trampolining, dodgeball and capture the flag, alongside creative activities such as cooking, arts and crafts and Story Seekers.

We were also delighted to welcome East Coast Community Maths, who delivered fun and engaging maths games, Kingfisher Boxing for a full day of sessions, and Great Yarmouth College, who provided an exciting scavenger hunt, escape room and team-building activities.

Kart Racing

A special mention must go to our Summer School Ambassadors from Years 7–10, who volunteered their time to support staff and fellow students throughout the week.

They were fantastic role models and a real asset to the programme.

The week finished with celebration assemblies, where students received certificates in front of their families. This was followed by a BBQ, drinks, go-karting and inflatable games — the perfect way to celebrate!

A huge thank you goes to all the teachers, TAs and College Leaders who gave up their time to make the week possible, as well as our external partners and, of course, our amazing students.

Team Building



Scavenger Hunt



It was a brilliant week filled with fun, learning, teamwork and new experiences, and the positive feedback from students and families has been fantastic.

We are already looking forward to next year!

Ormiston Venture Academy is celebrating the achievements of its Year 11 students as they receive their GCSE results and prepare for the exciting next chapters in their lives.

Standout GCSE Success

It celebrates the hard work, determination and personal growth of young people who have overcome challenges and embraced opportunities. Supported by families staff and the wider school community, students can be proud of their achievements as they look ahead to sixth form, college, apprenticeships or employment.

*Simon Gilbert-Barnham,
Senior Principal at Venture Academy, said:*

"It is one of my favourite days of the year because it gives us the opportunity to celebrate the incredible young people who make Venture such a special place."

"These results represent far more than grades. They tell the story of determination, resilience, character and growth. Every student receiving their results today should be immensely proud of what they have achieved and the journey they have been on."

"I am incredibly grateful to our dedicated staff, supportive families and wider community who have worked alongside our students every step of the way. Together, we have helped create opportunities, raise aspirations and ensure our young people leave Venture ready for the future."



There are success stories behind all of our students with some of the many examples including:

Isabelle achieved an outstanding set of GCSE results, including grade 9s in English Language and Combined Science and grade 8s across several other subjects. Alongside her studies, she made a valuable contribution to the Union of Venture Students, helping strengthen the student voice across the academy.



Isabelle will now progress to East Norfolk Sixth Form to study A-levels in Biology, Chemistry, Maths and Further Maths.

Jake achieved an exceptional set of GCSE results, including grade 9s in Maths, Statistics and Further Maths. A gifted mathematician, he regularly supported classmates by sharing his knowledge and offering advice during lessons



Jake will now continue at East Norfolk Sixth Form, studying A-levels in Maths, Further Maths, Computer Science and Chemistry.

Litvin achieved an excellent set of GCSE results, including grade 9s in French, Geography and Combined Science, alongside a Distinction* in Performing Arts. Her success reflects the hard work and commitment she showed throughout her studies.



She will now continue at East Norfolk Sixth Form, studying A-levels in Biology, Chemistry and Maths, with Psychology or History being considered as a fourth subject.

Students Explore Adaptations at Jimmy's Farm

As part of our academy's Enrichment Week, a group Year 9 students enjoyed a fantastic learning experience during their visit to Jimmy's Farm in Suffolk

The trip offered a memorable blend of hands-on learning, outdoor exploration and encounters with some truly fascinating animals.

Students took part in an engaging workshop focused on animal adaptations, exploring how different species have evolved to survive in their environments.

They learned about physical and behavioural traits, asked thoughtful questions and were able to see real examples of adaptations in action around the farm.



closeup

One of the highlights of the day was the chance to feed some of the animals.

The meerkats were especially popular, with students observing their alert behaviour and social interactions. Feeding the goats brought plenty of laughter too, giving students a fun and interactive way to connect with the animals they had been learning about.

The visit provided an excellent opportunity for students to deepen their understanding of biology outside the classroom, while also enjoying time together in a new environment. Their enthusiasm, curiosity and excellent behaviour made the day a real success.

Our Year 9 students represented the academy brilliantly, and we look forward to offering more enriching experiences like this in the future.



KS3 Enjoy a Spectacular Day in London for the 2026 Summer Theatre Trip

The annual Summer Theatre Trip returned in style for 2026, giving our KS3 students an exciting opportunity to travel into London and experience one of the West End's most iconic musicals: The Lion King. It was a day filled with adventure, culture and unforgettable memories.

Two coaches set off early in the morning, filled with excited students ready for a day of theatre magic. Despite the intense heat—an astonishing 41.5°C—students behaved exceptionally well throughout the journey and the day, showing maturity, patience and great spirit.

The first stop was Primrose Hill Park, located near London Zoo. With plenty of shade and open space, it was the perfect spot for lunch and a chance to stretch their legs after the long journey. Students enjoyed the relaxed atmosphere, and many took in the spectacular views across London from the top of the hill—a unique moment that added something special to the day.

After lunch, the group travelled across London to the historic Lyceum Theatre. We were fortunate to have premium seats in the stalls, giving students an incredible upclose view of the performance.

From the vibrant costumes to the powerful music and breathtaking staging, the show was a truly immersive experience that captivated everyone from start to finish.

A huge thank you to all staff who supported the trip and helped ensure the day ran smoothly. We also extend our gratitude to Marett's Chariots, whose drivers consistently go above and beyond to make the journey safe, comfortable and enjoyable for our students.

This year's Summer Theatre Trip was a fantastic success, offering students a cultural experience they will remember for years to come. We look forward to continuing this wonderful tradition in 2027.



Venture on Tour!

Venture Students Enjoy a Memorable Visit to the Royal Norfolk Show



Over two fantastic days, 120 of our Year 8 students had the opportunity to visit the Royal Norfolk Show, the UK's largest two-day agricultural event.

Despite temperatures reaching an impressive 30°C, our students embraced the experience with enthusiasm, curiosity and exemplary behaviour, making us incredibly proud.

The visit provided students with an invaluable opportunity to learn beyond the classroom, exploring a wide range of exhibits focused on agriculture, environmental issues and sustainability. They discovered how modern farming is adapting to meet the challenges of climate change, protect the environment and produce food in a sustainable way for future generations.

As a school based in Norfolk, the visit also helped students gain a greater appreciation of the vital role agriculture plays within our county.

They learned about the importance of farming in ensuring the UK's food security, while also recognising the significant contribution the agricultural industry makes to the local economy by supporting hundreds of jobs and a diverse range of careers. From livestock management and crop production to agricultural engineering, environmental science and food technology, students were able to explore the many exciting career opportunities available within the sector.

Throughout both days, our students represented the school exceptionally well. They engaged positively with exhibitors, asked thoughtful questions and demonstrated maturity and resilience despite the challenging heat. Their excellent conduct was commented on by members of the public and event organisers alike.

We would like to thank all of the staff who supported the visit and the parents and carers who helped prepare students for the trip. Experiences such as these enrich our curriculum, broaden students' horizons and inspire them to think about the important role agriculture, sustainability and environmental stewardship will play in their futures.

We are delighted that so many of our Year 8 students were able to experience this unique event and look forward to providing many more enriching educational opportunities in the future.

Venture on Tour!

Sleep workshop

A group of students from our school visited East Norfolk Sixth Form College to take part in a sleep workshop designed to help improve their wellbeing and daily routines.

During the trip, they learned about the importance of good sleep habits and how these can impact focus, mood, and overall health.

One of the most exciting parts of the day was using virtual reality (VR) headsets, where students could play calming, interactive games specifically created to help relax the mind and make it easier to fall asleep.

The college also introduced them to an "Emersion room," a peaceful space designed for meditation and mindfulness, where students practised breathing techniques and quiet reflection.

Overall, the experience was both fun and informative, giving students practical tools they can use to improve their sleep and manage stress.



Team building visit to:



Senior Union of Venture Students (UVS) recently attended East Norfolk Sixth Form college for an afternoon focused on leadership and team-building activities.

They began by discussing questions about leadership, such as what makes a good leader, and worked in groups to share our ideas.

Each group nominated a spokesperson who presented their thoughts to the rest of the students, helping everyone build confidence and communication skills.

They then completed three different tower-building challenges where a different leader from each group collected the instructions and explained the task to their team, the leader was different for each of the challenges.

The first challenge was to build a tower using all the materials provided while using the least amount of surface area on the table.

The second challenge involved creating a box that could hold itself together for 10 seconds without breaking while again using all the equipment given.

Finally, the last activity tested their creativity and teamwork as they competed to build the tallest tower possible.

Throughout the afternoon, the students developed important leadership, communication, and problem-solving skills while working together as a team.



PL Groups Bring Fun at Summer Fete

The sun was shining, the stalls were ready and the school was buzzing with excitement as our Personalised Learning (PL) groups came together to organise and run a fantastic school fete.

A total of 32 PL groups designed and facilitated their own stalls, giving students the opportunity to play games, compete against their friends, enjoy some tasty treats and buy a variety of items. There was something for everyone, and the brilliant sunshine helped to create a fantastic atmosphere throughout the event.

Students showed plenty of enthusiasm and creativity as they took part in a range of activities. There were wet sponges thrown at stocks, targets to aim for, cakes and cookies to buy, refreshing drinks and, of course, the amazingly popular tombola, which proved to be a huge hit!

The fete also included a fantastic raffle, with some incredible prizes up for grabs. Haven Holiday Village once again generously donated a holiday break, alongside the exciting prize of a Nintendo Switch Lite. These prizes certainly added to the excitement as students eagerly waited to see if they were one of the lucky winners.

Behind all the fun, students were developing valuable skills for the future. Working together to plan, organise and run their stalls gave them the chance to practise communication, teamwork, problem-solving, organisation and money-handling skills.

The money raised from the fete will contribute towards future Guild activities, helping to support even more opportunities and experiences for students across the school.

A huge well done to all 32 PL groups for their hard work, creativity and teamwork. The fete was a fantastic example of learning beyond the classroom—and a brilliant way to enjoy some super sunshine along the way!

*Mr McNally commented:
"It was a wonderful atmosphere where students demonstrated employability skills and readiness for work, collaborating to ensure success."*

Reading: A Key to Success

We believe that reading is a gateway to imagination, knowledge and opportunity. Through reading, we can explore new worlds, discover different perspectives and develop skills that support us in every area of our lives.

Why Reading Matters

It is undeniable that being able to read confidently is an essential life skill; the importance of reading for pleasure should not be underestimated.

Many studies have shown how reading for pleasure is vital for academic success. It also:

- Improves vocabulary and communication skills
- Develops imagination and creativity
- Builds empathy by helping us understand different perspectives
- Supports academic success across all subjects
- Reduces stress and provides enjoyment and relaxation
- Encourages independence and lifelong learning.

"Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body" – Joseph Addison.

How is this promoted at Venture?

At Venture, we believe that reading should be enjoyable, accessible and part of everyday life.

We provide a range of opportunities to encourage students to discover books they love and develop lifelong reading habits:

- Our Learning Resources Centre is a welcoming space with a wide range of genres available for all students
- Our Read Aloud programme embarks upon an adventure into literature during Personalised Learning Time
- Up to date book displays showcasing new books, themed recommendations and student favourite

At Venture Academy, we are committed to creating a culture where every student can enjoy reading and experience the many benefits it brings.

- Promoting reading events such as World Book Day, author visits and reading challenges available to all students

How families can support reading at home

Reading at home with family is one of the most powerful ways to support a child's learning. Sharing books together develops language, builds confidence and helps children see reading as an enjoyable and valuable part of everyday life.

Here are a few things you can do at home to help support students with reading:

- Encourage reading daily – studies show that even 10-15 minutes a day can have such a positive impact on a student's learning.
- Model reading by letting children see adults reading for enjoyment
- Take an interest in what your child is reading – encourage children reading aloud to a family member to feel a part of the story
- Visit your local library together. Here is the link for any additional information: [Gorleston Library - Norfolk County Council](#)

Our termly book recommendation feature is designed to help students discover exciting new stories, explore different genres and find books that match their interests.

Have a look at this term's recommended reads and try something new:

Roald Dahl Day being 13th September: 'Matilda', 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' and 'James and the Giant Peach'.

October is Black History Month: Reads to consider reading for pleasure are: 'The Time Thief' by Patience Agbabi, 'Brown Girl Dreaming' by Jacqueline Woodson, 'Buffalo Soldier' by Tanya Landman, 'Journey Back to Freedom' by Catherine Johnson.

With Christmas only round the corner, a book can be a perfect present: 'The Hunger Games Series' – by Suzanne Collins, 'The Maze Runner Series' by James Dashner, 'Enola Holmes' by Nancy Springer, 'Percy Jackson and the Olympians' by Rick Riordan, 'The Magic Faraway Tree' by Enid Blyton,

Struggling to find something your child likes?

Search out the following websites for inspiration!

[Bookfinder](#) | [BookTrust](#) | [Childrens Books](#)

[School reading list](#) - recommended books for children and teens

UEA - Pathways into Futures

Year 10 students recently embarked on an inspiring journey to explore potential pathways for their futures through a programme delivered in partnership with UEA Outreach Officers and Student Ambassadors.

The programme included two engaging workshops at Venture, alongside a visit to the UEA campus. Students explored common myths surrounding university life and gained valuable insight into the subjects, skills and enrichment opportunities that can help strengthen future applications and interviews.

During the campus visit, students toured key areas of university life including student accommodation, lecture theatres, the library, social spaces, the river, the Sainsbury Centre and even the launderette.

A thought-provoking lecture encouraged students to consider the importance of asking the right questions, while discussions around university life, societies and career pathways gave students a real insight into higher education.

Hearing from a student studying Actuarial Science provided a valuable lived experience and encouraged students to reflect on their own aspirations.

The final workshop helped students connect subjects, employability skills and careers together, enabling them to begin mapping out possible future pathways.



Students and staff set off bright and early for our annual trip to Thorpe Park.

The coaches departed school at 6:00am, with excitement levels already running high despite the early start.

After a stop along the way for food, drinks and a comfort break, we arrived at the park at approximately 10:00am. Unfortunately, entry into the park involved a much longer queue than anyone had expected, but spirits remained high and everyone was eager to begin their day of thrills and adventure.

The weather certainly played its part, with temperatures soaring throughout the day. Students and staff made the most of the sunshine while enjoying the attractions, keeping hydrated and taking regular breaks between rides.

Several members of staff embraced the full Thorpe Park experience, each playing an important role in ensuring pupils had a memorable and enjoyable day. Mr Coker and Ms Ayuba demonstrated remarkable bravery by accompanying pupils on every ride the park had to offer.

Mrs Bircham and Mr Madsen provided a reliable base throughout the day, offering pupils a familiar point of contact and support whenever needed. Meanwhile, Mr Clark and Mr May spent much of the day accompanying pupils around the park, sharing in a range of attractions and experiences alongside them.

A particularly memorable moment came when Riley, Frankie, Jayden and Dylan were each given complimentary Platinum Passes by a generous member of the public. This unexpected act of kindness allowed them to enjoy many of the attractions with significantly reduced waiting times and undoubtedly made their day even more special.

After a full day of excitement, we departed Thorpe Park at around 5:00pm and began the journey home. Along the way, students enjoyed a well-earned dinner stop, with popular choices including KFC, Chopstix, Starbucks, Subway and TacoBell.

Following a long but enjoyable day, the coaches arrived back at school at approximately 9:30pm, where tired but happy students were reunited with their families.

The trip was a fantastic success, providing students with the opportunity to enjoy thrilling rides, spend time with friends and create lasting memories. We would like to thank all of the staff who gave up their time to support the visit and all of the students for their excellent behaviour throughout the day.

We look forward to many more successful trips in the future.



Outdoor Adventure

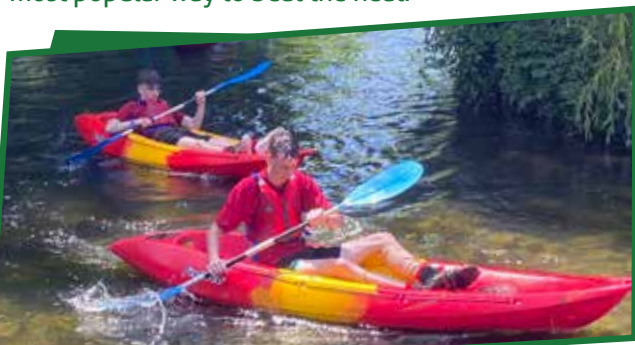
Students enjoyed an unforgettable twoday Outdoor Adventure Activities Trip, visiting the fantastic Hautbois Activity Centre for our annual end of year experience.

Over 120 students took part across the two days, embracing every challenge with enthusiasm, resilience and plenty of team spirit.

Kayaking on the River

One of the highlights of the trip was kayaking, where students learned new skills, practised paddling techniques and navigated the river with growing confidence.

The heat was intense—Friday reached a scorching 35°C—but students handled it brilliantly. Many even took the opportunity to cool off by (intentionally!) falling out of their kayaks into the river, which quickly became the most popular way to beat the heat.



Courage on the Abseiling Wall

Students also took on the abseiling challenge, showing real bravery as they stepped over the edge and descended the climbing wall.

For many, this was a chance to conquer fears, support one another and discover what they're capable of.

The encouragement between students made the experience even more rewarding.



The Geography Department recently took 80 Year 10 students to Gorleston-on-Sea to complete an important part of their GCSE Geography fieldwork.

Across two days, students explored both urban and coastal environments, applying the knowledge and skills they have developed in the classroom to real-world geographical investigations.

In the urban environment, students investigated the changing nature of Gorleston by completing an Environmental Quality Survey. Working collaboratively in groups, they collected data and considered how different parts of the town vary in terms of environmental quality.

This gave students the opportunity to put their understanding of urban environments into practice while developing their fieldwork and data-collection skills.

GEOGRA



Learning in Extreme Heat

Despite the roasting temperatures, students stayed hydrated, supported each other and kept a positive attitude throughout. Staff were incredibly impressed with their behaviour, maturity and teamwork.



A Boost for Future Sports Studies Students

The trip wasn't just fun—it was educational too.

For those who have chosen Sports Studies as their Year 10 PE option, the activities provided valuable practical knowledge and realworld experience that will support their learning next year.

Our Year 9 students represented the school brilliantly, showing resilience, courage and a willingness to try new things.

It was a fantastic two days, and every student should feel proud of what they achieved and represent the academy superbly.



Students also investigated the impact of coastal management on the beaches at Gorleston and nearby Hopton. They measured beach width at a number of locations and looked for physical evidence of erosion. This allowed them to consider how different coastal management strategies influence the coastline and to evaluate the effectiveness of these approaches using their own primary data.

Fieldwork is a valuable part of GCSE Geography, providing students with the opportunity to experience geographical

processes first-hand. It also encourages students to work independently, solve problems, communicate effectively and collaborate with their peers.

The data and observations collected during the fieldwork will now be used by students as part of their GCSE Geography studies, helping them to develop their understanding of the links between geographical theory and the world around them.

Mr Sutton, Head of Geography commented: "The behaviour and attitude of the students throughout the two days were particularly impressive. I was impressed with the maturity shown by the students across both days of field work and the quality of work students have produced."

PHYSICS FIELD TRIP

Taking GCSE Geography into the Real World



Industry Expert Inspires performance

Students at Venture were given a fascinating insight into the world of performing arts when former student and theatre professional Peter Lewis visited the academy to share his wealth of experience and expertise.

Peter, who trained at the prestigious East 15 Acting School, spent the afternoon speaking with Year 8 students about pathways into the performing arts industry, including securing places and scholarships at leading drama schools, dance colleges and universities.

Drawing on over 20 years of experience, Peter captivated students with stories from his career, including performing at the renowned Royal Opera House. He also hosted an informal question-and-answer session in the academy's amphitheatre, where students were eager to learn more about life in the industry.



Throughout his career, Peter has worked both on stage and behind the scenes. As a playwright, performer and arts development professional, he has helped secure funding for a wide range of performing arts projects while continuing to pursue his passion for theatre through local productions in the Midlands.

Students asked thoughtful questions about gaining work experience, building performance portfolios and finding opportunities to showcase their talents.

Peter offered practical advice on preparing for auditions and interviews, encouraging students to be confident, resilient and willing to embrace new opportunities.

School Athletes Shine

A group of the school's most talented athletes proudly represented the school at the Norfolk Schools County Championships held at the University of East Anglia (UEA).

The prestigious event brings together the very best school athletes from across Norfolk, with students earning selection through outstanding performances in their respective year groups and events.

Representing the school this year were Keyain, Angelina, Evie, Lily, Maria, Zoe, Suki, Eben, George, Luke, Zach, Riley and Aadhidev.

Competing against some of the strongest young athletes in the county, all students performed exceptionally well and represented the school with determination, sportsmanship and pride. The standard of competition was extremely high, making the achievements of our athletes even more impressive.

Several students delivered standout performances throughout the day. Aadhidev produced an excellent display in the discus, finishing as County Runner-Up and securing selection for the Norfolk Schools Athletics Squad. Evie also achieved a superb second-place finish in the shot put, earning her place in the Norfolk Schools Athletics Squad alongside Aadhidev.

On the track, Zoe impressed in the 100 metres, finishing second in her heat to qualify for the final before placing fourth overall in the county. Zach also demonstrated his speed and talent, running an impressive 12.2-second 100 metres to secure a place in the final.



The shot-put competition proved particularly successful for the school, with Zoe claiming second place and Suki securing third place in the county rankings.

The championships provided a fantastic opportunity for students to compete at the highest level of school athletics within Norfolk. Their commitment, resilience and determination were evident throughout the day, and staff were incredibly proud of the way every athlete conducted themselves both on and off the field.

Congratulations to all of the students who represented the school.

Their achievements are a testament to their hard work, dedication and passion for athletics, and we look forward to following the continued success of those selected to represent Norfolk Schools in future competitions.

OLYMPIC Day

Students enjoyed a fantastic day of sport as they took part in their very own Olympic-style PE Day.

With the sun shining and temperatures rising, students showed brilliant enthusiasm, teamwork and determination throughout the day.

Working in teams, students competed across six different sporting events: volleyball, badminton, trampolining, archery, dodgeball and lacrosse. The wide range of activities gave everyone the opportunity to try different sports, develop new skills and earn points for their team.

A huge well done to all of our students for making the day such a success and thank you to the staff who helped organise and run the different events.

There was a real sense of excitement and friendly competition throughout the day. Whether aiming for the target in archery, taking to the trampoline, battling it out on the badminton court or working together in volleyball, lacrosse and dodgeball, students threw themselves into every challenge.

Despite the very hot weather, students were fantastic. They showed great resilience, supported and encouraged their teammates and approached each event with a positive attitude. Most importantly, there were plenty of smiles, laughter and encouragement throughout the day.

The event was a brilliant opportunity for students to demonstrate that PE is about much more than winning. Teamwork, perseverance, communication, respect and having the confidence to give something a go were all on display.



*Well done!
- an Olympic effort all round!*

Athletics Teams Crowned Great Yarmouth Schools Champions

Athletics squads from Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 recently travelled to Wellesley to compete in the Great Yarmouth Schools Athletics Championships, and what a memorable day it proved to be.



Representing the academy with pride, determination and outstanding sportsmanship, our students delivered an exceptional performance throughout the competition. With more than 100 students competing across a wide range of track and field events, every athlete played an important role in what was a truly fantastic team effort.

From the first event to the last, students gave their very best, demonstrating resilience, commitment and a positive attitude throughout the day. Whether competing on the track, in the jumps, or in the throwing events, our athletes rose to the challenge and showcased the strength and depth of talent across the academy.



Their hard work and dedication paid off in spectacular fashion as the academy was crowned Great Yarmouth Schools Athletics Champions. Competing against five other schools, our students accumulated an impressive total of points across all events to secure a well-deserved overall victory.

While there were countless outstanding individual performances, it would be impossible to single out everyone who excelled. An incredible number of medals were won across the various age groups and disciplines, highlighting the remarkable standard of performance throughout the team.

Most importantly, every student who took part contributed to the success of the squad. Regardless of individual results, each athlete represented the academy with distinction, supporting one another and embodying the values of teamwork, perseverance and respect.

Ciera Flatt, Teacher of PE commented, "We are immensely proud of all the students involved. Becoming champions is a testament to the effort, dedication and determination shown by everyone throughout the competition".

Congratulations to all our athletes on this fantastic achievement. A well-deserved victory and a day that will be remembered with great pride. Well done, team!"





The Annual OAT Cup at the UEA Sports Park athletics track delivered everything a great secondary school sporting event should: energy, teamwork, determination, and a spectacular finish that will be remembered for years.

These combined scores meant one thing: we won the OAT Sports Cup trophy overall. A phenomenal achievement for every athlete involved.

In front of the main stadium, Will and Ava proudly stepped forward to collect the trophy on behalf of the entire team. Their smiles said it all—months of hard work had paid off.

With six OAT academies attending and 40 students from each school, the atmosphere was electric as athletes from Years 7–10 stepped forward to represent their academies with pride.

The day featured a full programme of track and field events, with one athlete from each academy competing headtohead. Alongside the individual events, the competition also included dodgeball and tug of war, where all 10 students per year group battled together, showcasing teamwork and resilience.

Our academy delivered an outstanding set of results across all year groups:

- **Year 7 – 2nd place**
- **Year 8 – 2nd place**
- **Year 9 – 3rd place**
- **Year 10 – 1st place, winning their year group outright**

The day was filled with exceptional moments, including:

- **Luke leading the Year 8 tug of war team with incredible strength and strategy**
- **Chloe and Halle sprinting to victory in their races**
- **Alfie, Keiyan and Emilija dominating their field events**
- **Relay teams across all year groups showing flawless teamwork and baton exchanges**

To top off an unforgettable day, we returned to school with an outstanding medal haul of 50 gold medals, 19 silver medals, and 19 bronze medals.

This victory means that our athletes have now won both the Wellesley Sports Competition and the OAT Sports Cup this year—an incredible achievement that reflects their hard work, commitment, and sporting excellence. We couldn't be prouder of every student who represented the school. Congratulations to all involved on a truly remarkable achievement.

Now, the challenge is set—we'll be looking to defend our title and do it all again next year!

Venture on Tour!

Students enjoy a memorable camping adventure

Stay Safe
Team Venture!!!

Ofsted
Outstanding

Edition 47: Summer 2026

Twenty-three students enjoyed an unforgettable two-night camping trip at Whitlingham Broad Campsite and Activity Centre, combining outdoor adventure with valuable opportunities for personal growth and teamwork.

From the moment they arrived, students embraced the challenge of setting up camp, working together to pitch their own tents and organise their living spaces.



Their cooperation, resilience and positive attitudes were evident throughout the trip, setting the tone for a highly successful weekend.

A key focus of the experience was developing independence. Students took responsibility for preparing and cooking their own meals, learning practical life skills while supporting one another. One of the highlights of the trip was a fantastic evening barbecue, where everyone came together to enjoy good food, plenty of laughter and the beautiful summer weather.



Blessed with sunshine throughout their stay, students made the most of the stunning surroundings at Whitlingham Broad. Alongside time to relax and socialise with friends, they took part in a range of exciting activities, including paddle boarding and kayaking. While a few students ended up taking an unexpected dip and getting thoroughly soaked, spirits remained high and the incidents only added to the fun and memories of the weekend.

The camping trip provided a wonderful opportunity for students to step outside their comfort zones, build confidence and strengthen friendships. Staff were extremely proud of the maturity, enthusiasm and teamwork demonstrated by all those involved.



A fantastic time was had by everyone, and the trip will undoubtedly be remembered as

one of the highlights of the school year. Experiences such as these play an important role in developing well-rounded young people and creating memories that will last long after their time at school.

