

PRESS RELEASE

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With photos

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5 star food at Ormiston Venture Academy

A five star rating means that school dinner jokes are a thing of the past at Ormiston Venture Academy in Gorleston following a top score Food Hygiene Rating. .

Venture head cook, Pam Reed, and her team were awarded the top score of five following a recent visit.

The award, given by the Food Standards Agency and local authority, rates how hygienically the food is handled, the condition of the structure of the building the food is prepared in and how the kitchen is managed to ensure food is safe.

Venture's head cook Pam Reed, who started as a catering assistant 15 years ago and worked her way up to cook, said: "It's amazing; I'm so proud."

"The guidelines have changed immensely; it used to be just burgers and chips, turkey twizzlers every day. When I took over as cook I fazed them out and brought in more variety, the children can still have fun food but it is healthy fun food."

Pam and her team of eight serve between 180 and 200 meals a day. The children are offered a choice of bacon rolls, cheese on toast, croissants, yoghurt, fresh fruit and milkshakes for breakfast. At break time bacon rolls, croissants, sausage rolls, cheesy jackets, wraps, fresh milkshakes and fresh fruit are available.

The lunch menu changes daily with cook and former restaurateur Richard Baker's curries and chicken and bacon carbonara proving to be very popular with the children. Vegetarian versions of the main courses are always offered along with jacket potatoes, sandwiches, a salad bar and a hearty dessert.

Principal Simon Gilbert-Barnham praised the kitchen staff: "The team have created an exciting menu for our students that is not only of 5 star quality but combines great food, healthy choices and includes global cuisine.... I have never enjoyed school dinners so much. It is fantastic recognition for the work they do to ensure our students and staff have the delicious fuel they need for outstanding learning."

ENDS

NOTES TO EDITOR:

The scheme is run by local authorities in England, Wales and Northern Ireland in partnership with the Food Standards Agency.

Local authorities are responsible for carrying out inspections of food businesses to check that they meet the requirements of food hygiene law. They give businesses food hygiene ratings based on the findings of inspections and then publish this information on the Food Standards Agency's website. The Food Standards Agency is the UK government department responsible for food safety. It gives local authorities advice, training, and other support to help them run the scheme.

At the inspection, the officer will check:

- how hygienically the food is handled – how it is prepared, cooked, re-heated, cooled and stored
- the condition of the structure of the buildings – the cleanliness, layout, lighting, ventilation and other facilities
- how the business manages what it does to make sure food is safe and so that the officer can be confident standards will be maintained in the future

Each of these three elements is essential for making sure that food hygiene standards meet requirements and the food served or sold to you is safe to eat.

The hygiene standards found at the time of inspection are then rated on a scale. At the bottom of the scale is '0' – this means urgent improvement is required. At the top of the scale is '5' – this means the hygiene standards are very good.

About Ormiston Venture Academy:

- Ormiston Venture Academy (Venture) opened in September 2010 in the existing buildings of the predecessor school, Oriel High School.
- Venture is sponsored by the Ormiston Academies Trust and specialises in digital media and mathematics.
- Venture is dedicated to creating a personalised, inclusive environment where every child can feel safe, enjoy and achieve. This is supported by the belief that every child has the potential to succeed when tradition is valued and innovation embraced.
- Venture watchwords are ASPIRE, ACHIEVE, CREATE and INNOVATE.
- Venture provides a student-centred, innovative learning environment with a creative curriculum.
- Venture has 607 students from year 7 through to year 11.
- Ofsted report May 2013 declared Ormiston Venture Academy **outstanding**:

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