

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**PR VENTURE 28**

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**WITH PHOTO**

**For immediate release**

### **Local men who lost their lives remembered**

**Students and staff at Ormiston Venture Academy are focusing on the local lives lost to commemorate World War I.**

The names of all local soldiers who died have been gathered and each student and member of staff has been given one name to research, contemplate and remember. Assemblies are being held each morning to commemorate those who gave their lives.

As part of the research it was discovered that one of Venture's year 11 pupils is a distant relative of Valentine Joe Stradwick, the youngest British soldier to die in World War I.

Assistant principal Dave Richards has been coordinating the project.

"The Every Man Remembered advert sparked the idea and as we lost so many people in this area it seemed very appropriate for our students to learn about, and commemorate, each one.

"We focused on those who died abroad due to the volume of people whose lives were taken during the war."

For three Year 11 students the project has been very thought provoking.

Maggie-Laci Elton-Petts, 15, of Burgh Castle said: "When people from school went on the battlefields trip some found relatives graves, it was very emotional.

"People as young as us were made to go to war. The women were left behind."

Lily Ruskin, 16, of Gorleston added: "People our age were forced to learn how to fight, it must have been terrifying.

"I think it's really important to keep their memories alive."

Venture head boy Mackenzie Lodge, 15 of Belton, is researching John Ernest Bantham who was killed in action on the Somme 11 July 1916. He was 21. Mackenzie already knows that he was the son of John Bantham, flour carter, and Priscilla Bantham and that they lived at 80, Granville Road, Great Yarmouth.

Mackenzie sees his role as one of paying respect and thanks to John Bantham.

“It’s a mark of respect because for all the people who don’t have a grave you are remembering them and without them we would not have the freedom we have now. These are local people. It shows we are doing stuff for the community, showing they are part of us.”

The period of remembrance will end with 500 wooden crosses, each with a soldier’s name on, being placed on the lawn at the front of Venture.

As well as the research students will be leaving messages at <http://www.everymanremembered.org/>

**ENDS**

**NOTE TO EDITOR**

**The attached photo features Maggi-Laci Elton-Petts and Mackenzie Lodge with the names of local men who gave their lives during World War I.**

**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 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 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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