

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Gorleston Students Placed in the top 10% in the country for Achievement**

Local students from Gorleston, Belton, Burgh Castle and the surrounding areas have been recognised nationally for their achievement. It recognises their achievement at Ormiston Venture Academy as one of the best in the country for student progress at GCSE.

SSAT, the Schools, Students and Teachers Network, recently undertook its annual in-depth analysis of official Department for Education data on all state-funded schools in England and identified the students and staff at Ormiston Venture Academy's success.

Last week, the academy received the SSAT Educational Outcomes Award at a ceremony in Cambridge on behalf of the students. It was awarded for being in the top 10% of schools nationally for progress made by pupils between their key stage 2 results at primary school and their GCSE results at age 16.

Simon Gilbert-Barnham, Principal of Venture said:

'It is fantastic to celebrate the achievements of our students and staff. Daily I have the pleasure of seeing everyone at Venture working together to ensure each and every student achieves their best. Last year we were top 20% in the awards and it is fantastic to see the aspirations for our students continue to soar. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our alumni class of 2014 for their exceptional achievement!'

Sue Williamson, Chief Executive of SSAT said:

'Ormiston Venture Academy should be congratulated for their exceptional achievement. They have proved themselves to be leading the field in improving GCSE outcomes for their students. There is so much good practice that this academy can share.

'These results are testament to the commitment and hard work of the students, teachers and leadership team at Ormiston Venture Academy, and show what can be achieved when skilled teachers have high expectations and ambition for every young person. I am proud that this academy is a member of the SSAT network.'

Professor Toby Salt, CEO of OAT said:

'We are delighted to have had SSAT recognition of Ormiston Venture Academies' success for another year. All of our academies are all working exceptionally hard to ensure that students are able to achieve to the best of their ability.

'It is important that these academies continue to progress, but also to continue to share their best practice with others as a network.'

**ENDS**

## NOTES TO EDITOR:

With photo LtoR:

**Simon Gilbert-Barnham, Principal**  
**Sue Williamson, Chief Executive of SSAT**

### 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 specialises in mathematics and digital media.
- Venture has 650 students from year 7 through to year 11.
- Ofsted report May 2013 declared Ormiston Venture Academy **outstanding**:
  - 'Inspired leadership from the Principal has transformed the quality of education provided for students. Her determination to raise their aspirations and achievement has led to rapid and sustained improvements.'
  - 'Standards have risen from well below to above the national average since opening.'

For further information contact PA Andrea Cockrill at [pa@ormistonventureacademy.co.uk](mailto:pa@ormistonventureacademy.co.uk)

### About SSAT:

SSAT, the Schools, Students and Teachers Network, is the name of the company founded from the former Specialist Schools and Academies Trust in May 2012.

SSAT is an independent membership organisation for schools. Our work in helping transform education in England started in 1987. Back then our role was to support and nurture the first City Technology Colleges - the initiative that first proved the value of employers and schools working together to drive up standards. As specialist schools and then the first academies came into being, our brief was extended to supporting them as well. That work, underpinned by our 'by schools, for schools' ethos, laid the foundations for many of our activities today...the innovative leadership and teacher CPD programmes, the commitment to thought leadership and research and, of course, the network of school leaders and innovative teachers which still drives all that we do.