

PRESS RELEASE

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Venture Students Embark on Once in a Lifetime Sailing Trip

ORMISTON VENTURE ACADEMY

Embargoed until 9/10/11

Students at Ormiston Venture Academy in Gorleston have embarked on a once in a lifetime sailing trip, as one of four schools selected nationally.

In 2015, Ormiston Venture Academy were selected by HSBC and the Tall Ships Youth Trust to put forward 10 students for an incredible sailing trip aboard a tall ship – free of charge. Understanding how unique this opportunity was, the Venture students embraced the chance to board a tall ship and set sail.

The academy were delighted when HSBC chose it as one of only four schools nationally who would go on the final celebratory voyage. HSBC and the Tall Ships Youth Trust wanted to select schools they had worked with before to give one last opportunity to, so Ormiston Venture along with schools from Leeds, London and Merthyr Tydfil had the opportunity to send another 10 students, this time on Challenger Yachts as opposed to a Tall Ship.

The Voyage departed Portsmouth to a glorious sunrise on Tuesday 25th September and would take the students across to France and back again, stopping at several ports before sailing under Tower Bridge on the 3rd October and docking in London for their last night on board.

The students were split across several boats and had to work with new people, developing their team working skills, as the crew on the boat. The students had to operate the yacht themselves and lived in tight quarters throughout.

It was a life-changing opportunity, with students overcoming their fear of heights to climb up 72 foot masts, and also getting to grips with the choppy nature of the English Channel. This was all worthwhile, gaining new skills and new friends and alongside being lucky enough to sail through a pod of dolphins and see them interact with the yacht.

Two of the students had birthdays whilst at sea, blowing candles out and cutting cake is slightly different experience just off the coast of France on a Challenger Yacht to what it would be at home! The students also had a little time to explore ports like Le Havre, Dieppe and even Gravesend. Every one of them came back so proud of themselves and their achievement.

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Jacob Hanton, one of the students who went on the trip commented *"Personally, I believe that this trip has been an amazing opportunity to broaden mine and many other peoples horizons. The best part of this trip has been the opportunity to meet people from different schools, and become good friends with some of them. Having to work with people I have never met before from all over the country pushed me out of my comfort zone. This has improved my leadership and communication skills in the various topics that we had been taught from hoisting the sail, to taking down and storing the sail. If anyone gets a chance to attend a similar trip like this, I would definitely say go for it! It's a great way of meeting new people, and taking on new challenges."*

Alex Holmes, the member of staff accompanying the students on the trip stated *"I'm so happy that I have been able to accompany the students on this once in a lifetime opportunity and couldn't be more proud of them. Both the students and I didn't know exactly what to expect on this trip and what challenges we would come across but we got stuck in, worked together and finished everything we set out to do, as a team. Getting to sail under Tower Bridge in the challengers made was an unforgettable moment, but was one of so many highlights. Probably the best element was seeing our students out of their comfort zone and having to interact with students from all over the country making new friends and building bonds with people. The students have come away with a brand new perspective after this voyage."*

They know that they can take on any challenge they set their minds to and see the amazing benefits of their hard work and effort".

Ormiston Venture Academy and the ten students would once again like to thank HSBC and the Tall Ships Youth Trust for an incredible opportunity and experience.

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For more information about [Ormiston Venture Academy](#) please see:

Our Website: www.ormistonventureacademy.co.uk
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Our Student eMagazine: <https://www.makewav.es/venturestudentmagazine>

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