

PRESS RELEASE

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ORMISTON VENTURE ACADEMY

Author Anthony McGowan visits Ormiston Venture Academy

On Wednesday 31st January, Anthony McGowan, critically acclaimed author and journalist, visited Ormiston Venture Academy in Gorleston.

Anthony gave a presentation to Year 9 students with tales from his published books, retold important passages from his own life and experiences, and took some exceptionally well-thought-out questions from students.

McGowan stayed on to work with a specially selected group of students after his presentation to help unlock their inner creativity and promote writing. He focused on specific techniques and strategies based around writing novels.

Two students, Rye Johnson and Bethany Hirst, received a signed copy of one of Anthony's published books – Rye for asking the most pertinent 'Question of the Day' and Bethany for writing the 'Most Remarkable Beginning of a Story'.

This visit was organised in conjunction with the 'Take Your Place' programme, a scheme organised by the Network for East Anglian Collaborative Outreach (NEACO), which aims to support more young people from under-represented backgrounds to progress into higher education.

Andrew Underwood, the event organiser and NEACO Higher Education Champion, said:

"There is clear evidence to show that young people who develop a love for reading are more likely to progress on to higher education. This project is a great example of what can happen when schools and universities work together to showcase different opportunities on offer to young people when they reach higher education."

Ian McNally, Assistant Principal of Ormiston Venture Academy, said:

"This is such an important opportunity for these students - the joy and understanding of language was really emphasised by Mr McGowan. Whichever pathway these students choose to follow, the value of being able to understand language, visualise scenarios and read between the lines will be key skills to master."

For further press information, please contact [Andrea Cockrill](#) on:

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