



Alde Valley Academy

Aspire and Achieve. Lead with Kindness. Stronger Together.

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am delighted to introduce myself as the new Executive Headteacher of Alde Valley Academy.

For the past three years, I have had the privilege of serving as Headteacher of Stowmarket High School, part of the Kingfisher Schools Trust. I am incredibly proud of what we have achieved together, and I am excited to be taking on this new role, supporting both Stowmarket High School and Alde Valley Academy.

Over the past few weeks, I have really enjoyed my weekly visits to Alde Valley. They have given me the opportunity to begin getting to know the school, and I have been struck by the warm and welcoming atmosphere, the dedication of the staff, and the enthusiasm and potential of the students. It is clear that there is so much to celebrate, and I am excited about what we can achieve together.

From September, I will be spending regular time in school and am looking forward to getting to know our students, staff, parents, and carers. I believe that the strongest schools are built on positive relationships and a shared commitment to ensuring every child can flourish, both academically and personally. Working in partnership with families is an essential part of that, and I look forward to meeting many of you throughout the year.

It is a real privilege to become part of the Alde Valley community. I am excited to work alongside our talented staff, wonderful students, and supportive families as we continue to build on the school's many strengths and provide the very best opportunities for every young person.

Thank you for the warm welcome I have already received. I look forward to meeting you in September and to beginning this exciting new chapter together.

With best wishes,

Lucie Hernandez
Executive Headteacher



Weekly Newsletter

10th July 2026

As we enter the very last week of the school year, the energy across the school remains incredibly high. We are still riding the wave of success from last week's spectacular Sports Day and our inspiring Creative Showcase Evening—both of which were massive triumphs that truly spotlighted our students' talent, grit, and community spirit.

But don't pack up those backpacks just yet! While the summer holidays are tantalizingly close, there is still lots of learning to be had in the classroom over the coming days. We also have our highly anticipated Enrichment Day to look forward to next week, ensuring we round off the year with energy and enjoyment. Thank you for your continued support as we push through to a strong, focused, and fantastic finish!

Last Day of School Arrangements

- **Date:** Friday 17th July
- **Dismissal Time:** School will close early at **1:00 PM**.
- **Transport Warning:** Please note that the usual school buses will NOT be running at this early dismissal time.

Parents and carers must arrange alternative transport for their children to ensure they can find their own way home safely at 1:00 PM.

Welcome Back: September Start Times

We are looking forward to welcoming everyone back for the new school year! Please note the staggered start dates for our students this September:

- Thursday 3rd September: **Year 7 and Year 11** students only.
- Friday 4th September: **All year groups** return to school.

PE News

Sports Day 2026!

The day was filled with determination, teamwork and plenty of memorable performances. It was brilliant to see so many students giving their best, encouraging one another and demonstrating excellent sportsmanship throughout the competition.

A huge thank you to our staff, student leaders and everyone who helped make the day such a success. Well done to all of our competitors—you did yourselves and the school proud!

Final results were:

1st - Waveney

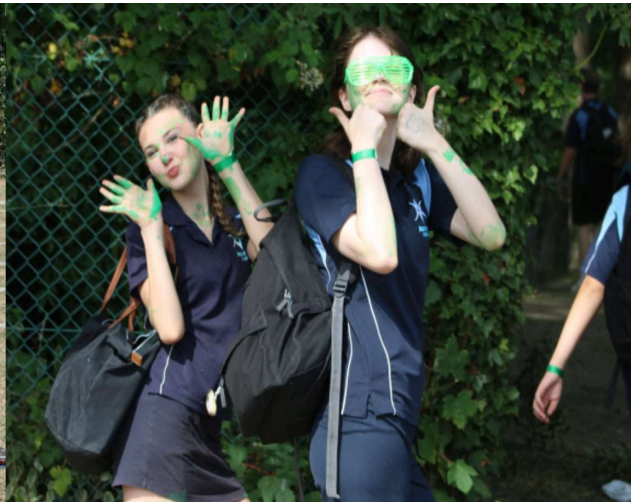
2nd - Blyth

3rd - Orwell

4th - Deben

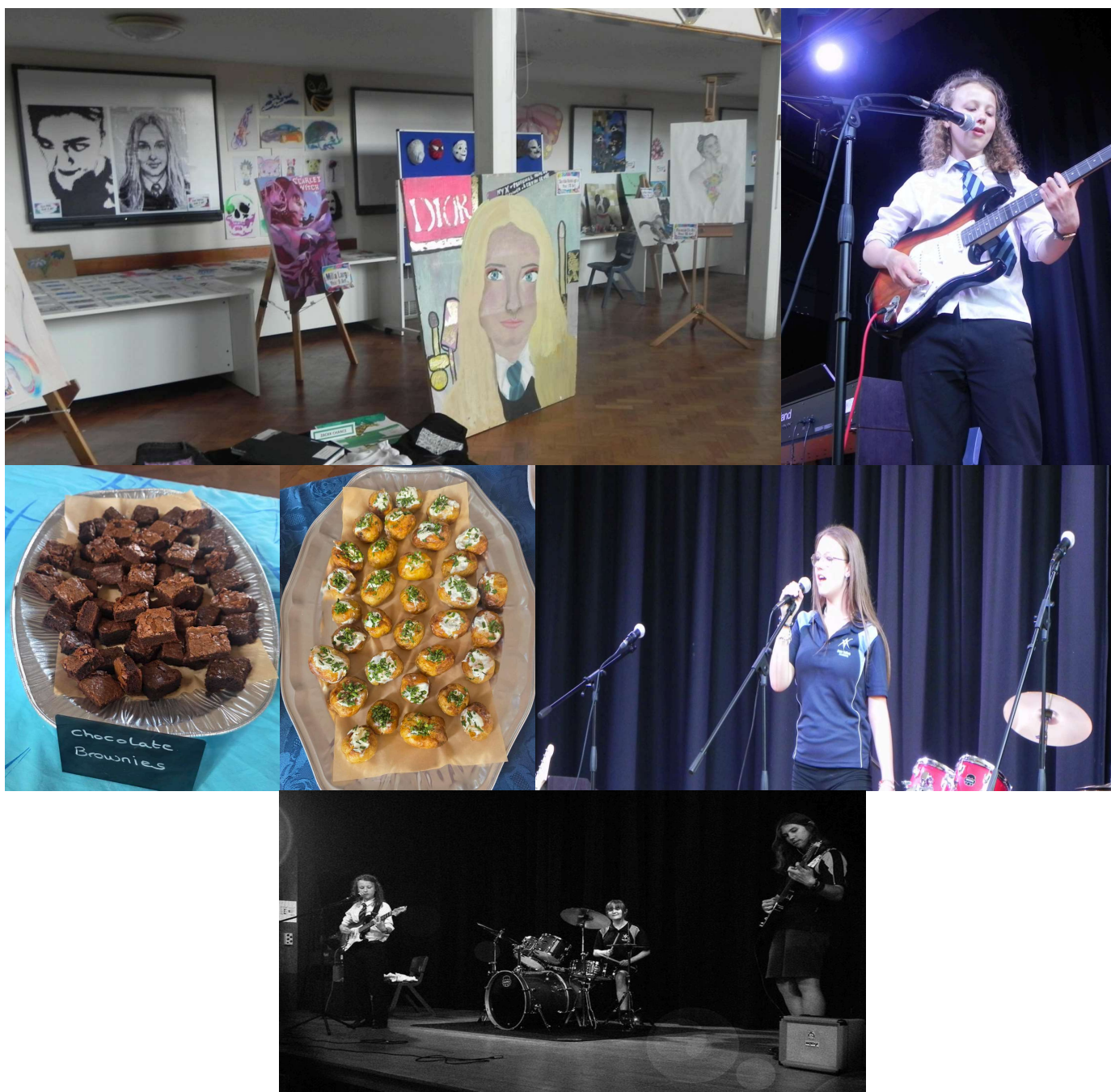
5th - Alde





Creative Showcase Success!

What a spectacular turnout we had for our Creative Showcase Evening! The academy was absolutely buzzing as our local community came together to celebrate the immense artistic, technical, and performance talents of our students. Visitors were treated to stunning fine art displays and brilliant Year 11 GCSE portfolios, alongside beautiful live music and captivating drama highlights from *Matilda*. Our Food Technology pupils topped off the night with exceptional hospitality, serving up an incredible selection of delicious, handmade canapés. A massive thank you to everyone who came out to support our young talent—it was a truly inspiring testament to their hard work and the perfect grand finale to a wonderful creative year!



September Uniform

ALDE VALLEY ACADEMY CORRECT SCHOOL UNIFORM FOR SEPTEMBER

WHITE SHIRT & SCHOOL TIE



Formal white shirt.
The official school tie
must be worn.

BLACK TROUSERS & SKIRT



Tailored **black trousers**
(not leggings/jeans) or black
pleated/tailored skirt.

BLACK V-NECK JUMPER



Formal black V-neck jumper.
(Note: Can be branded with
school logo, or unbranded).

SCHOOL SHOES



NO TRAINERS

Black school shoes.
(NO trainers, canvas,
or athletic shoes).

ALL DETAILED INFO IS ON
THE SCHOOL WEBSITE



<https://www.aldevalley.suffolk.sch.uk>

FUTURE POLICY UPDATE

Discussions around a summer
uniform are ongoing. This will
be updated in September.



Safeguarding Update



Squishy Dumpling Toys, as shown above, have been recalled for posing a significant risk to children's health.

The product presents a serious chemical risk because the outer layer contains an excess concentration of benzene (20mg/kg). If inhaled, benzene can cause irritation to the eyes, nose and throat. Exposure to large amounts may also cause a burning feeling throughout the digestive tract and skin irritation. Additionally, there is a current TikTok trend involving heating the toys up which can cause them to burst. More information is available at the link below, but be advised that the link contains images of burn injuries.

<https://suffolklearning.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/07/2026-07-02-SAFETY-ALERT-Squishy-Dumpling-Toys-SCC.pdf>

Year 10 Geography Field Trip

Whether it was on the pier conducting questionnaires, on the beach measuring the wooden groynes or in the town enjoying some chips at lunchtime, the students were impeccable in their conduct & behaviour & the whole day was a massive success! It was great to receive so many positive comments about our pupils from members of the public as well! We gathered plenty of really useful data around the sea defences in place to use in lessons & it goes without saying the odd ice cream may have been consumed as well, I mean, it would have been rude not too!

Great job Year 10 Geographers!

Mr Spink & Dr Green

Fiesta Friday

This week's Fiesta Friday attendance reward drive brought some serious muscle to lunchtime! As a reward for excellent attendance, students earned the ultimate bragging-rights opportunity: the chance to challenge their teachers to an epic arm-wrestling showdown.

The courtyard was buzzing as some truly formidable student competitors stepped up to the table, pushing our brave staff members to their absolute limits (and delivering a few legendary upsets!).

It was an incredible display of grit, laughter, and school spirit, with great fun had by all. Huge congratulations to our attendance champions—keep showing up, because you never know what wild challenge next Friday will bring!



Summer Activity

PGL believes every child should have access to enriching outdoor experiences – no matter their background or circumstance – and with the school holidays just around the corner, there's no better time to make that happen. That's why this summer, they are thrilled to be partnering with the East Suffolk Council to deliver Holiday Activities & Food (HAF) activity days for 11-16 year olds at PGL Bawdsey Manor throughout July and August.

These action-packed days give children the opportunity to build confidence, try exciting new activities and create unforgettable memories they'll carry with them long after summer ends. See flyer below for more details!

9am – 3:45pm | 27th July – 30th July | 3rd August – 26th August

HAF FUNDED

PGL
MADE BY ADVENTURE

SUMMER ACTIVITY DAYS
at **Bawdsey Manor, Woodbridge, IP12 3BH**

This Summer, we're helping more young people discover that **"I can do this"** feeling.

Through the HAF programme, we're running **funded and PAYG activity days** for **8-16s** at **PGL**.

What's included?
3-4 exciting **outdoor activities**
1 **educational session**
Nutritious **lunch**

Find out more **pgl.co.uk/funding**