



NEWSLETTER - 1ST MAY 2026

YEAR 11 GCSE EXAMS THE FINAL COUNTDOWN!

The countdown is on for our Year 11 students, with GCSE examinations beginning next Tuesday and the first core subject, English Literature, taking place on 11th May. This is a significant milestone, and we are incredibly proud of the maturity, resilience and determination students have shown in reaching this point.

Current predicted outcomes are looking very positive, reflecting the hard work and commitment students have demonstrated throughout the year. However, it is vital that this momentum continues. These final weeks can make a real difference, and thorough preparation remains essential. We strongly encourage students to maintain a consistent revision routine, including independent study in the evenings, at weekends and over the half-term break.

In the lead-up to study leave, students will continue to benefit from structured revision sessions, targeted support and guidance from staff. These lessons are invaluable in helping students consolidate knowledge, address any remaining gaps and build confidence. Maintaining strong routines, high attendance and a focused mindset will be key to success.

Study leave will begin following the English Language examination on Friday 5th June, alongside a Leavers' Assembly and BBQ to celebrate students' time at school. This will be a well-deserved opportunity to reflect on their journey and achievements.

We are also looking forward to the Year 11 Prom on Thursday 25th June, which promises to be a memorable evening and a fitting celebration of the end of their school journey.

Although study leave offers greater independence, examinations will continue for a further two weeks. It is essential that students attend all exams punctually and fully prepared. They are also welcome to remain in school to revise in a calm, supportive environment if they wish.

We recognise that this can be a demanding time, and support remains available for any student who may need it. We encourage students to seek guidance whenever required.

These final weeks are an important opportunity for students to demonstrate everything they have worked towards. With continued effort, strong preparation and support from both school and home, we are confident they will approach this period with confidence and determination. We wish all of our Year 11 students the very best of luck as they begin their exams.

SAFEGUARDING UPDATE

Keeping your child safe on Snapchat

Keeping your child safe on Snapchat starts with understanding how the platform works and setting clear expectations at home. For teens, accounts are private by default, meaning only approved friends can contact them, and location sharing is off unless they choose to enable it.

Parents can support safe use by exploring Snapchat's Family Center, where you can see who your child is connected with and help them manage privacy settings—without reading their messages. Encourage your child to only add people they know in real life and to think carefully before sharing photos, videos, or personal details.

Remind them that not everyone online is who they say they are. Show them how to block or report users who make them uncomfortable, and explain the importance of speaking up if something doesn't feel right.

Most importantly, keep communication open. Regular, calm conversations about their online experiences will help your child feel confident coming to you with concerns. With the right balance of technology and trust, Snapchat can be a fun and safe way for young people to connect.

<https://parents.snapchat.com/safeguards-for-teens>

YEAR 7 PARENTS EVENING

THURSDAY 21ST MAY – 4PM–7.30PM

We are delighted to invite you to our Year 7 Parents' Evening. As your child nears the end of their first year with us, this is a fantastic opportunity to discuss how they have settled into secondary school life, celebrate their achievements, and identify key areas for growth heading into Year 8.

To ensure the evening runs smoothly, we will be using our online booking system to manage appointments. Please find the essential details below:

Event Date: **Thursday, 21st May**

Event Time: **16:00 – 19:30**

Bookings Open: **Monday, 11th May at 16:00**

<https://aldevalley.schoolcloud.co.uk/>

SPOTLIGHT ON YEAR 9 ART

This week, our Year 9 students have begun an exciting new project in Art, creating construction masks using modroc (plaster bandage).

Working collaboratively, students are designing and building 3D pieces inspired by their Street Art research. It has been fantastic to see their creativity and teamwork already taking shape.

We look forward to seeing how these unique pieces develop over the coming lessons!



PE NEWS

It has been a fantastic start to the summer term for our students, with strong performances and valuable opportunities across a range of activities.

Rounders

In the first rounders tournaments of the season, both our Year 9 and Year 10 teams demonstrated great skill and determination. The Year 9 team played a series of closely contested matches, finishing in an impressive 3rd place overall. Meanwhile, our Year 10 team went one step further, securing an excellent 2nd place finish. A brilliant start to the summer season for both teams.

Primary Rounders

We have also continued to strengthen our links with local primary schools. As part of our Primary School Liaison programme, Mrs Whatling and Mr Kelsall delivered an engaging rounders session at Kelsale Primary School. It was great to see younger students developing their skills and enthusiasm for the sport, helping to build strong foundations for the future.

Fixtures

Looking ahead, we have another busy week of fixtures. Our Year 7 and 8 athletics team will be competing on Wednesday at St Felix School, and we wish them the very best of luck.

On Thursday, the Year 10 rounders team will take part in another tournament at Debenham High School as they continue their excellent run of form.

Rounders Practice

Please note that, due to the bank holiday, rounders practice will take place on Tuesday 5th May from 3:00–4:00pm. Sessions will return to their usual Monday slot for the remainder of the term.

We look forward to sharing more sporting successes in the coming weeks.

FRIDAY FIESTA – SPINKY BINGO

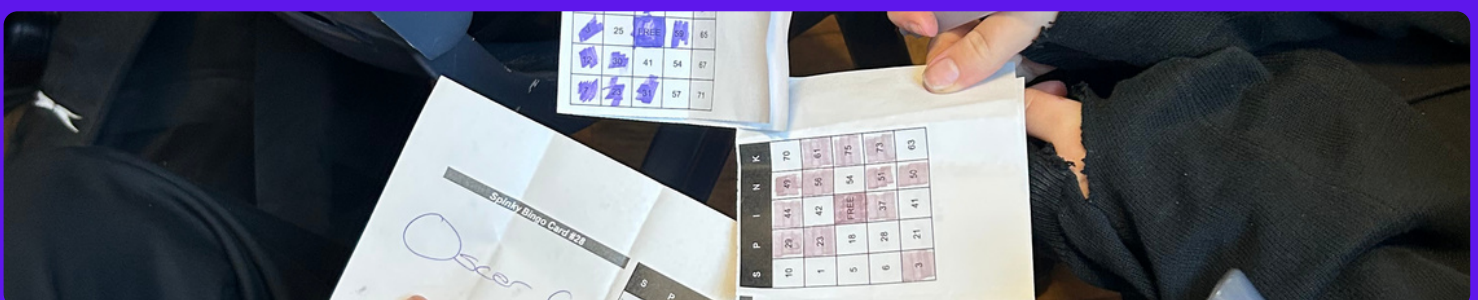
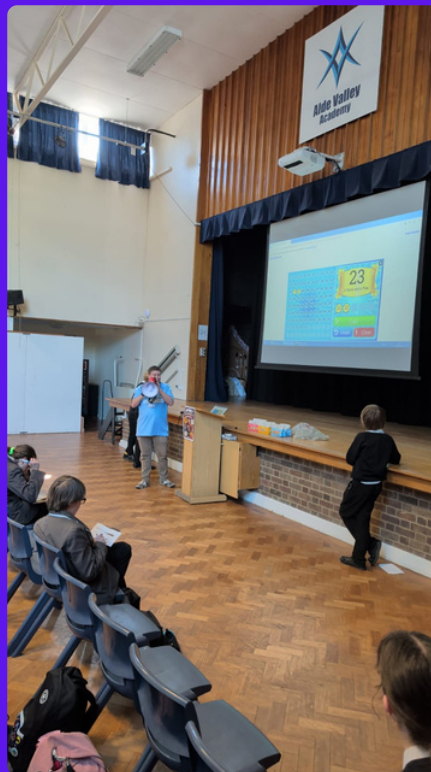
What a fantastic way to end the week! Today saw the return of the ever-popular “Spinky Bingo”, hosted by the one and only Mr Spink, as part of our Friday Fiesta celebrations for students who achieved full attendance this week.

The atmosphere was electric, with excitement building from the very first number call. Students filled the room with energy, enthusiasm and plenty of competitive spirit, all hoping to be the next to shout “Bingo!” Mr Spink, as always, brought his trademark humour and flair, keeping everyone thoroughly entertained throughout.

Friday Fiesta continues to be a brilliant way to recognise and reward the commitment shown by students who attend every day. Events like Spinky Bingo not only celebrate attendance but also create a real sense of community and fun to round off the week.

A huge well done to all students who qualified this week—your consistency and dedication are paying off. And of course, a big thank you to Mr Spink for delivering another unforgettable session.

We can't wait to see what next week's Friday Fiesta brings!



ATTENDANCE REWARDS



We were delighted to celebrate the first Summer Term Attendance Prize Draw today, recognising the fantastic commitment shown by our students.

Every student who achieved 100% attendance over the past three weeks was automatically entered into a prize draw, with the chance to win one of four exciting rewards. Students could choose from a Nintendo Switch Lite, Beats Pill portable speaker, home projector, or a Galaxy tablet—making this a highly anticipated event across the school.

The draw took place during Period 4 via a live broadcast, building real excitement as students tuned in to see who the lucky winner would be. Congratulations to our winner—an excellent reward for outstanding attendance and commitment.

This is just the beginning. The next three-week attendance block starts on Monday, giving every student another opportunity to be entered into the draw. The next winner will be announced on Friday 22nd May.

We encourage all students to aim for full attendance—every day in school counts, and you could be next to win!



How does it work?

- Attend every day in a block and you will be entered into the raffle,
- The raffle will be drawn live on that Friday.
- If you attended every day in the block, you have a chance of winning!
- If your name is drawn in the raffle, you can choose one of our fabulous prizes!



LEISTON BOOK FESTIVAL

Sat 19 Sept 2026

Creative writing competition

1ST PLACE - £75

2ND PLACE - £50

3RD PLACE - £25

Entries from
April 13th
to May 22nd

Years 7-10 (Each year judged separately)

Up to 300 words (1 entry per person)

Write about a landscape;
countryside, seaside, city etc.

The entry can be fiction or
non-fiction.

See Ms Smith in En4 if interested.

Sizewell *Creative*