



Alde Valley Academy

Aspire and Achieve. Lead with Kindness. Stronger Together.

NEWSLETTER - 9TH JANUARY 2026

HAPPY NEW YEAR

A GREAT START TO 2026

We are delighted to celebrate a fantastic start to 2026 here at Alde Valley Academy! Our students and staff have returned with energy, enthusiasm, and a real commitment to living our school values: Aspire and Achieve, Lead with Kindness, and Stronger Together.

The new year has brought an extra buzz of excitement with building work commencing on our new 3G football pitch. This fantastic project will provide even more opportunities for our students to develop teamwork, resilience, and a love of sport—values that perfectly reflect our ethos of aspiring to be the best we can and achieving our goals together.

We are also seeing a noticeable improvement in standards of uniform across the school. This matters because how we present ourselves is a reflection of our pride in learning and respect for our community. Wearing the correct uniform helps students feel confident, united, and ready to focus on their studies and personal development.

As the term progresses, we look forward to building on this positive momentum, supporting each other, and celebrating the many achievements (both big and small) that make Alde Valley Academy such a special place to learn.

Here's to a term full of aspiration, achievement, kindness, and collaboration!

Mr Hetherington
Headteacher

KEY DATES – SPRING 2026

29 th January 2026	Year 9 Parents Evening (4pm–7.30pm)
12 th February 2026	Year 9 Options Evening (6pm–7pm)
2 nd March 2026	Year 11 Mock Exams (whole week)
26 th March 2026	Year 11 Parents Evening (4pm–7.30pm)
End of March 2026	Reports sent home for all students

BREAKING GROUND FOR OUR NEW 3G FOOTBALL PITCH



We are excited to share that construction has officially begun on our new 3G football pitch, marking a major milestone for our school.

This project has been made possible through our partnership with East Suffolk Council and the generous funding support of Sizewell C, and is scheduled for completion by the end of March 2026. We are extremely grateful for their investment in facilities that will benefit both our students and the wider community.

The new all-weather pitch will greatly enhance PE lessons, school sport, and extracurricular opportunities, providing students with access to a high-quality playing surface year-round. Just as importantly, it will be a valuable facility for the local community, particularly local football clubs that many of our students and parents are involved with.

We look forward to sharing updates as the project progresses and to welcoming everyone onto this fantastic new facility in the near future.



NEW HOMEWORK BOOKLETS FOR YEAR 7, 8 & 9

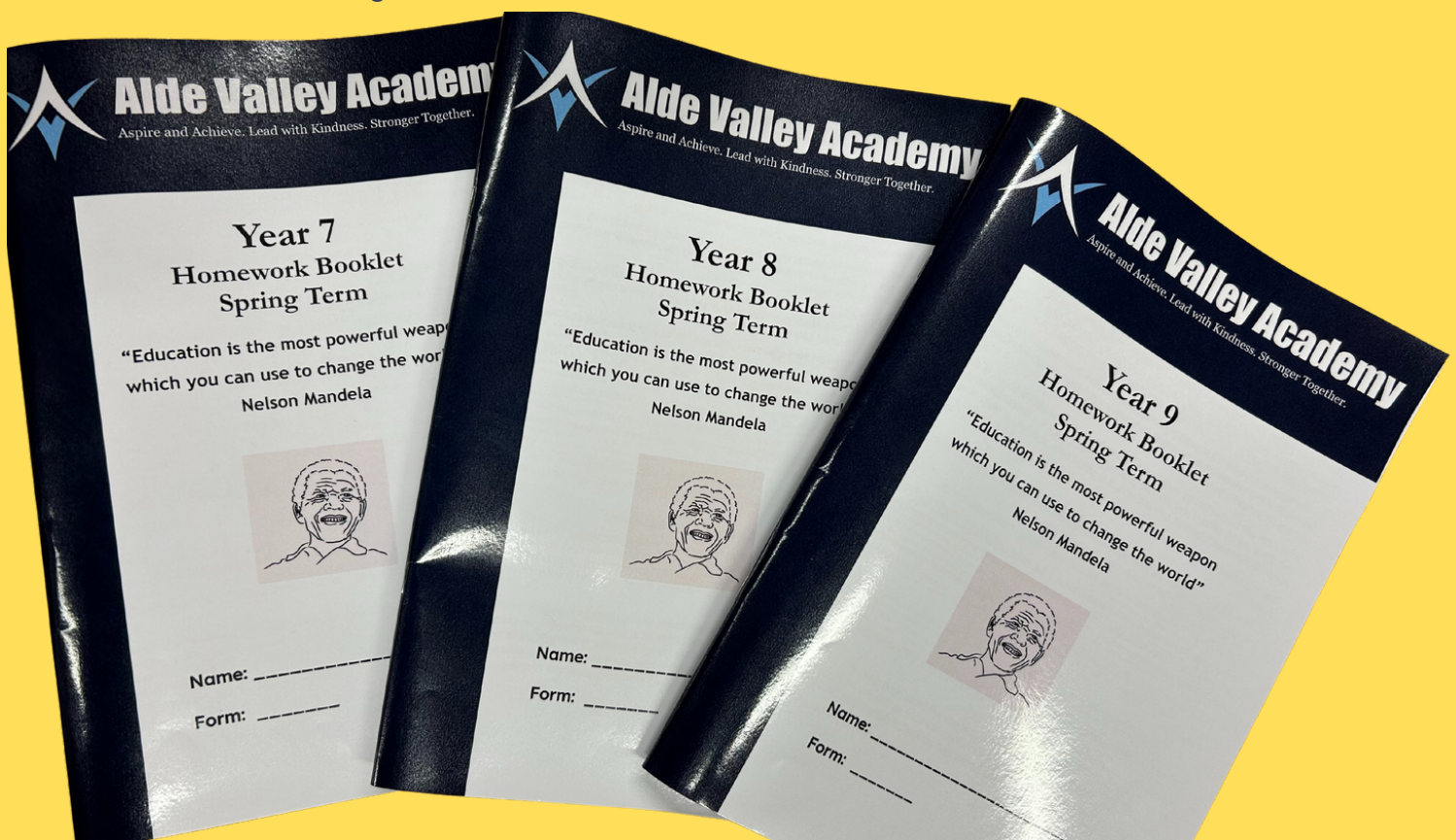
This week, students have been given their new homework knowledge organisers, and parents can now view PDF copies online via the Alde Valley Academy website. These updated organisers include page numbers and clearly structured content, making them even easier to navigate and use. The improvements reflect the valuable feedback we received from both students and parents, ensuring that the organisers are more helpful and user-friendly than ever.

Homework is a vital part of learning, reinforcing classroom teaching, building independence, and preparing students for future success, particularly as they approach their GCSE exams. At Alde Valley Academy, our homework tasks are designed using proven revision techniques—including self-quizzing, dual coding, writing to learn, and brain dumps—to help students retain knowledge and develop strong, independent study habits.

The knowledge organisers summarise key subject content in one place, supporting both home and classroom learning. We encourage all students to take good care of their organisers, keeping them organised and accessible throughout the term.

Parents can view and download the PDF copies on the Homework Knowledge Organisers section of the school website under Curriculum > Homework.

Together, we can help our students develop the skills and confidence they need to aspire, achieve, and excel in their learning!



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

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR HIGH UNIFORM STANDARDS

We would like to thank parents and carers for your continued support in upholding our high standards of school uniform. Your cooperation plays a vital role in helping us maintain a strong sense of identity, pride, and belonging across our school community.

Wearing school uniform helps students feel part of one community and reinforces the message that we are stronger together. It removes pressure around fashion choices, reduces distractions, and supports a calm, respectful environment where students can focus on learning and doing their best.

When uniform is worn correctly, lessons begin smoothly and teachers can focus on teaching rather than addressing uniform issues. This helps build positive relationships and ensures students are ready to learn from the moment they arrive.

We will continue to reinforce uniform expectations throughout the term so that all students look smart and reflect the high standards of our school. We kindly ask for your ongoing support in ensuring students attend school in the correct uniform every day.

Please note that incorrect uniform includes:

- Blazers not worn to school
- Ties not worn or worn incorrectly
- Shirts not tucked in
- Leggings or trainers
- Hoodies (not permitted at any time)
- Excessive jewellery (one stud earring per ear and one ring per hand only)
- False nails or false eyelashes



Thank you for working with us to ensure all students look smart, feel equal, and are fully prepared for learning each day.



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

IMPORTANT UPDATE: SCHOOL BUS SERVICES WITH BORDER BUS

We are working closely with Border Bus to ensure that students arrive at school on time, allowing them to enjoy Breakfast Club and be punctual for registration at 8.40am.

To help improve punctuality, minor timetable changes will be implemented on routes 521, 522, 522A, and 522B starting in January. Please see the attached timetable for full details.

Important travel notice:

We have been advised that Rendham Road in Saxmundham will be closed from 5th January for approximately six weeks. Students who normally catch the bus at Rendham Road will need to wait at the alternative stop on Brook Farm Road (opposite Heron Road) during this period.

Please note:

Students must have their physical bus pass for every journey. A photo of the pass on a phone will not be accepted.

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation as we work with Border Bus to ensure safe and timely journeys for all students.

Buses to Alde Valley Academy

With effect from 5th January 2026

	521	522	522A	522B
Darsham, The Street, Church	07:48	--	--	--
Peasenhall, Weavers Tea Room	--	--	07:52	--
Yoxford, High St, Oakwood Park		--	07:58	--
Kelsale		--	08:04	--
Saxmundham, High Street		--	--	--
Saxmundham, Brook Farm Road	--	08:05		--
Saxmundham, Rendham Road	--		08:10	08:10
Saxmundham, Waitrose	--	08:13	08:13	
Benhall Green	08:07	--	--	--
Sternfield	08:11	--	--	--
Friston	08:14	--	--	--
Knodishall	08:18	--	--	--
Leiston, Alde Valley Academy	08:30	08:30	08:30	08:30

HELP US TO HELP YOU

Please be at the bus stop approx 5 minutes before the departure time

Please have your pass ready to show the driver

Please stick your hand out when you see the bus approaching

Please ring the bell when you approach your stop



www.Border-Bus.co.uk
@BorderBus