



Alde Valley Academy

Aspire and Achieve. Lead with Kindness. Stronger Together.

NEWSLETTER - 13TH FEBRUARY 2026

UNIFORM CONSULTATION

WE NEED YOUR VIEW

PROPOSED SCHOOL UNIFORM & SCHOOL DAY CHANGES

We are currently reviewing our school uniform policy and the structure of the school day, following feedback from students, parents and staff, as well as new government guidance coming into effect from September 2026.

Uniform Changes

From September 2026, schools will only be allowed to require three branded items of uniform. We fully support this move to help make uniform more affordable for families and are using this opportunity to review our uniform policy more widely.

We are proposing:

- A change from blazer to a branded V-neck jumper, which is more affordable, comfortable and easier to maintain.
- Limiting compulsory branded items to:
 - Branded V-neck jumper
 - School tie
 - Branded PE shirt

This approach will help to reduce costs while ensuring students continue to look smart and feel comfortable.

School Day Changes

Following our last Ofsted inspection in July 2024, it was highlighted that our current school week is 50 minutes below the Department for Education's recommended 32.5 hours per week. We are therefore proposing to extend the school week by 50 minutes to meet this guidance and ensure students receive their full educational entitlement.

Have Your Say

We welcome feedback from all parents and carers, whether or not you have concerns. Please complete our short online survey using the link below:

[Survey Link](#)

The consultation closes on Monday 2nd March 2026. Thank you for your continued support — your views are extremely important to us.

CONSULTATION – UNIFORM OPTIONS



Black V-Neck Jumper

With this option students would be allowed to wear a plain black V-neck unbranded jumper, meaning parents could buy a less expensive version from a supermarket.

Many students already own a plain black V-neck jumper as part of their current uniform.

Sizes 26–30 = £25.99

Sizes 32–38 = £29.99



Navy V-Neck Jumper

With this option students would be allowed to wear a plain navy V-neck unbranded jumper, meaning parents could buy a less expensive version from a supermarket.

Sizes 26–30 = £25.99

Sizes 32–38 = £29.99



Navy V-Neck Jumper with Stripe

With this option students would NOT be allowed to wear an unbranded jumper.

Sizes 26–30 = £26.50

Sizes 32–38 = £30.50



Blazer (maintain current uniform)

Sizes 26–30 = £36.99

Sizes 32–38 = £42.99

PROPOSED CHANGE TO THE SCHOOL DAY

Following our most recent Ofsted inspection in July 2024, it was highlighted that our current school week provides 31 hours and 40 minutes of education, which is 50 minutes less than the Department for Education's recommended 32.5 hours per week.

Although this guidance is not a legal requirement, we are committed to ensuring that all students receive their full educational entitlement. As a result, we are proposing to extend the school week by 50 minutes, bringing us in line with national recommendations.

We are currently consulting on the most suitable way to implement this change and welcome feedback from parents, carers and students to help shape our final decision. Further details will be shared once the consultation process has concluded.

Possible options:

- Add 10 minutes to the start of the school day and increase registration time.
- Add 10 minutes to the end of the school day and increase registration time.
- Add an extra period one day per week (probably Wednesday) meaning a later finish time of 3.50pm.
- Leave the school day as it currently is.

YEAR 9 OPTIONS EVENING

Year 9 Options Evening – Thank You

Thank you to all parents and carers who attended our Year 9 Options Evening, which proved to be a very successful and well-supported event. It was wonderful to see so many families engaging positively with the important decisions students will be making about their next steps in education.

The evening provided a valuable opportunity for students and parents to speak directly with subject teachers, explore the wide range of courses available, and gain guidance to help inform their option choices. We hope that everyone found the information and discussions helpful.

Parents and students can access the Year 9 Options Booklet via our school website at:

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

Please remember that option choices should be submitted using the MCAS app by Thursday 26th February. We encourage families to take time to discuss the options carefully before making their final selections.

If you have any further questions or require additional support, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

The impact of ATTENDANCE on your grades and future earnings

95-100% attendance

DOUBLES your chances of getting a Grade 5 in English/Maths

x2

10

days off school in Year 11

reduces your chance of a Grade 5 in English and Maths by a **HUGE 50%**.

£772

New government research shows that for every day of school absence, you are knocking £772 off of your future earnings, on average.

Average Yearly Salary at Age 28 in 2024 based on Attendance Bands

99-100% - £32,200 **90-100%** - £29,800

50-100% - £19,500 **Under 10%** - £10,100

Don't believe us? It's all from 2025 government research!

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/67d2b84752aac0251c8ae/The_impact_of_school_absence_on_lifetime_earnings.pdf

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/67c56d74502e711334-02d7The_link_between_attendance_and_achievement_in_an_assessment_year_-_March_2025.pdf

ATTENDANCE THIS WEEK

Target = 94%

Yr7

Yr8

Yr9

Yr10

Yr11

87.6%

81.4%

82.6%

82.3%

79.7%

SCHOOL DAYS ARE PACKED WITH MOMENTS OF...

CURIOSITY, WONDER AND CONNECTION.

MOMENTS MATTER, ATTENDANCE COUNTS.

SEARCH 'ATTENDANCE' ON THE EDUCATION HUB



HM Government



IF YOUR CHILD IS FEELING UNDER THE WEATHER,

IT CAN BE HARD TO KNOW IF YOU SHOULD SEND THEM TO SCHOOL OR NOT.

UNLESS THEY HAVE A TEMPERATURE OF 38 DEGREES OR ABOVE, THEY'RE USUALLY GOOD TO GO.

MOMENTS MATTER, ATTENDANCE COUNTS.

SEARCH NHS SCHOOL ILLNESS GUIDANCE.



HM Government



"THIS MORNING, SHE WAS WORRIED ABOUT SCHOOL... BUT LOOK AT HER NOW!"

MOMENTS MATTER, ATTENDANCE COUNTS.



HM Government

Head to the Education Hub to find out more.



PE NEWS

It has been another busy and successful period for the PE department, with students representing the school with pride across a wide range of sporting activities.

Year 7 Boys Football – Suffolk County Schools Cup

The Year 7 boys football team were narrowly defeated by East Point Academy in the Quarter Final of the Suffolk County Schools Cup. Despite the result, the boys should be extremely proud of their excellent cup run, which showcased their teamwork, resilience and commitment throughout the competition. Well done to all players and staff involved.

U14 Boys Table Tennis Tournament

Last week, our U14 boys table tennis team competed in a local tournament, where they had a fantastic experience and finished 4th overall. The boys demonstrated great sportsmanship, effort and enthusiasm throughout the day. Congratulations on a strong performance.

House Swimming Gala

Well done to all students who took part in our House Swimming Gala on Monday. Nearly 100 students competed, creating a fantastic atmosphere with plenty of excitement and high-quality racing in the pool. It was wonderful to see such strong participation and house spirit on display. House Swimming Gala Results:

- 1st Place – Blyth (L)
- 2nd Place – Deben (D)
- 3rd Place – Orwell (E)
- 4th Place – Waveney (V)
- 5th Place – Alde (A)

Thank you to everyone who participated and supported the event, making it such a memorable afternoon.

Primary School Swimming Gala

A special thank you to our PE prefects who assisted with the Primary School Swimming Gala on Wednesday. The leadership, organisation and enthusiasm shown by our students was excellent and is a real credit to the school.

PE Kit Reminder

Please remember that students must bring full PE kit to every lesson. In addition, girls in Years 7, 8 and 9 will require football boots and shin pads after half term for their outdoor football lessons. Well done to all students for their continued effort, commitment and positive attitude towards PE and school sport.

PE GALLERY



CELEBRATING CREATIVITY: OUR UPCOMING GALLERY EXHIBITION

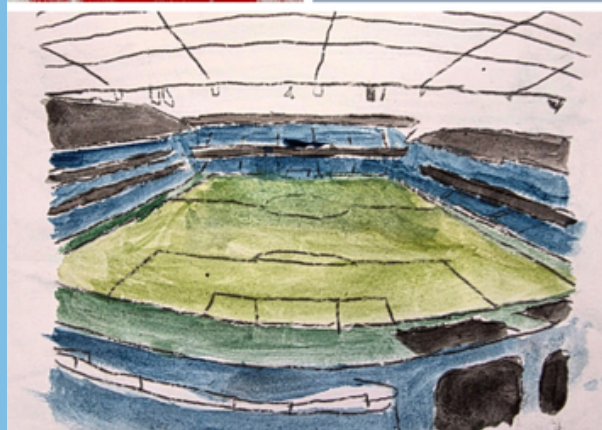
We are thrilled to invite you to our upcoming Art & Design exhibition at the George Farnham Gallery in Saxmundham (17th - 28th February). This two week-long event is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the incredible talent, hard work, and dedication of our students.

At our school, we always aspire to achieve, and seeing our students' work in a professional gallery setting is a testament to their artistic growth. While our original goal was to showcase every single piece created, the gallery space has its physical limits. To ensure the work is displayed safely and effectively, we have had to curate the collection, prioritizing our KS4 students alongside a selection of KS3 work for this particular show.

However, we believe we are stronger together, and the celebration of all our young artists continues! For those whose work isn't at the gallery this week, we intend to host dedicated exhibitions at a variety of school events in the near future. These events will offer a fantastic opportunity for students to not only exhibit but also sell their work to the wider community.

We are incredibly proud of the visually appealing, exciting, and individual work our students produce. We look forward to seeing you at the gallery to support our artists, and we can't wait to welcome you to our upcoming school events to celebrate the rest of our brilliant artistic community.

Thank you for your continued support in making our arts program so dynamic and successful!



Our Town

An exhibition by **Year 7 - 11** students
of The Alde Valley Academy
17 Feb - 28 Feb 2026

The George Farnham Gallery

6a High Street

Saxmundham

Tel: 07703 775261

www.thegeorgefarnhamgallery.uk

KEY INFORMATION FOR PARENTS OF YEAR 11 STUDENTS

We would like to share some important information for parents and carers of Year 11 students as we move towards the GCSE examination period.

GCSE Exam Dates

GCSE examinations will formally begin on Thursday 7th May and will be completed before the Year 11 Prom. Please note that some assessments, including Art/Graphics coursework and French and Spanish speaking exams, will take place before 7th May. Individual exam timetables will be issued to students after half term.

Mock Examinations

Year 11 mock exams will take place between Monday 2nd March and Thursday 12th March. These mocks are an important opportunity for students to practise exam technique and identify areas for further revision. A full timetable will be shared before half term.

Easter Revision Programme

An Easter revision programme will run to support students in their final preparation for exams. Core subjects and Languages will take place between Monday 30th March and Wednesday 1st April, with exact times confirmed nearer the date. In addition, Mr Neill will be running Business Studies and Computer Science revision sessions on Saturday 28th March.

DfE Results App

We will begin setting students up on the DfE Results Service app during the final week of term before Easter. We are aiming to register most students during Parents' Evening on Thursday 26th March, allowing results to be accessed securely and efficiently in the summer.

Thank you for your continued support as we enter this important final phase of Year 11. Further details will be shared as arrangements are confirmed.



EDUCATION RECORD

Learn more by
clicking this link

FES FUTURE FEMALE SOCIETY

HAPPINESS BRUNCHES

Funded by the
BREW Project
(Building
Resilience &
Empowering
Women) via SZC
Public Services
Resilience Fund



A morning of fun, food and collaboration.
Local businesses and support organisations
join us to explore ways to stay happy and
healthy within our community and beyond.

FEATURING:
COMMUNITY SPOKEN WORD WORKSHOP
WITH AMY WRAGG
REFRESHMENTS AND CRAFTING!

**FREE TO
ATTEND**



 **COME FIND US**

**FRIDAY 20TH MARCH 2026
11AM - 1PM**

**The Livewell Hub, Waterloo
Centre, Waterloo Avenue,
Leiston, IP16 4HF**



Follow us: @futurefemalesociety

Contact: stacey@futurefemalesociety.org

www.futurefemalesociety.org

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to our mailing
list



PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION



Can you capture an amazing image of Spring? If so, send the image to us and you might be lucky enough to feature in our photobook, a copy of which will be given to each school for you to read!



- Submit your photos by 24th April 2026
- Winners announced during May 2026
- Entries accepted from any student, member of staff or volunteer of Kingfisher Schools Trust

Send entries to: enquiries@aldevalley.suffolk.sch.uk