



Alde Valley Academy

Aspire and Achieve. Lead with Kindness. Stronger Together.

NEWSLETTER - 13TH MARCH 2026

YEAR 11 MOCK EXAMS

Over the past two weeks, our Year 11 students have been completing an important round of mock examinations. These assessments allow students to experience formal exam conditions, practise time management and build confidence ahead of their GCSEs.

Mocks also provide valuable feedback, helping students and teachers identify strengths and areas for improvement so revision can be focused effectively in the weeks ahead.

We would like to commend the Year 11 cohort for the mature and positive way they have approached this period. Their conduct has been excellent, and many students have shown real determination and resilience. As we move closer to the summer GCSE examinations, the habits students develop now will make a real difference. The Easter holidays will be an opportunity to review mock feedback, revisit key topics and maintain a steady revision routine.

Well done to all of Year 11 for the focus and commitment you have shown.

IMPORTANT SAFETY PRACTICE LOCKDOWN DRILL - TUESDAY 17TH MARCH

Earlier today, parents and carers received a letter informing them that on Tuesday 17 March at 12.30pm the school will carry out a planned lockdown drill with students and staff.

Like fire drills, lockdown drills are a routine part of our safety procedures. They allow us to practise what we would do if we ever needed to keep everyone safely inside the building for a short period of time. The aim is to ensure that students and staff understand the procedures and that our systems work effectively.

During the drill, staff will guide students through the process in a calm and supportive way. Students will remain in their classrooms while doors are secured. The drill will last only a short time and lessons will then continue as normal.

Students will be briefed on Monday morning in a special assembly, so they understand that this is simply a practice exercise. Taking part helps ensure that everyone knows what to do and that the school remains a safe environment for all.

For this reason, it is important that students attend school on the day so they can take part in the practice and become familiar with the procedures. Thank you for your support.

IMPORTANT NOTICES

Additional PD Day – Monday 13th April 2026

Please note that the school will be closed to students on Monday 13 April for an additional staff development (PD) day. We apologise for the short notice and appreciate your understanding.

This additional time will allow staff to prepare for the next phase of improvements across the school. Our focus is on strengthening behaviour, raising expectations for all students, and continuing to improve the quality of teaching and learning in every classroom.

As part of this work, we will be introducing clearer routines around behaviour, uniform, attendance and punctuality, including daily line-ups where staff will check uniform and equipment while sharing key messages and celebrating achievements.

If you require supervision for your child on this day through the school's supervised study provision, please email enquiries@aldevalley.suffolk.sch.uk.

Year 11 Photographs – Tuesday 17th March 2026

Year 11 photographs will take place on Tuesday 17 March during Periods 1 and 2. Students will have their individual photographs taken during this time, with the opportunity for friendship group photographs later in the morning.

Students should attend school in their full school uniform and ensure they are looking smart and wearing their uniform correctly for the photographs.

We look forward to capturing this important moment for our Year 11 students.

HEADTEACHER'S ONLINE FORUM

Tuesday 17 March, 7–8pm

Parents and carers are warmly invited to join our next Headteacher's Online Forum on Tuesday 17 March from 7.00pm to 8.00pm.

These forums provide an opportunity for the Headteacher to share key updates about the school, including recent developments, upcoming priorities and important information for the term ahead. They also give parents and carers the chance to ask questions and hear more about the work taking place across the school.

We value the strong partnership we have with our parent community, and these sessions are an important way for us to keep communication open and transparent.

If you would like to take part, please join the session by following the link below.

<https://meet.google.com/vhu-irfw-oyt>

We look forward to welcoming you online and thank you, as always, for your continued support.

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

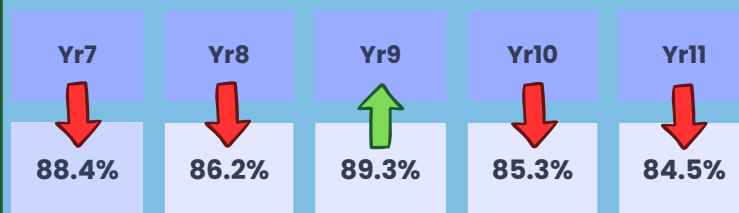
Don't believe us? It's all from 2025 government research!

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/67d2c184702a0c7251cbee/The_impact_of_school_absence_on_lifetime_earnings.pdf

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/67c96d7650f6a2f1334c72e9/The_link_between_attendance_and_achievement_in_an_assessment_year_-_March_2025.pdf

ATTENDANCE THIS WEEK

Target = 94%



SAFEGUARDING UPDATE

Snus Awareness

We have recently had a small number of incidents in school involving snus. Snus is a smokeless tobacco product that comes in small pouches placed under the lip or on the gums, releasing nicotine into the body. Although it is not smoked, it is still addictive and harmful, and some pouches can contain significantly more nicotine than a cigarette.

If you have any concerns, we encourage you to have open conversations with your child about the addictive nature and potential long-term health risks. It may also be helpful to be aware of social media trends that can normalise its use. If you feel you need support, please don't hesitate to seek advice from NHS Better Health, Talk to FRANK, or contact the school.

Please see the BBC News article below for further information:
The rising use of snus

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c9395ywzg73o>

This Week...

Disco in the School Hall at Lunch

Playlist chosen by all-week attenders



PE NEWS

It has been another busy and successful week for sport at the school, with students competing across a range of events and representing the school brilliantly.

On Monday, we hosted a **trampolining competition**, welcoming competitors from Thomas Mills. Our students showed great composure during their routines and performed exceptionally well throughout the event, securing overall victory. A special congratulations goes to Travis (Yr9), who finished 1st overall, and Sophie (Yr9) who achieved an impressive 3rd place overall.

On Wednesday, the **Year 9 netball team** took part in the State Schools Netball Tournament. After a strong set of pool matches, the team finished 3rd in their group and went on to place 10th overall. The tournament provided a fantastic opportunity for the team to compete against other schools from across Suffolk and gain valuable match experience.

Today, our **Year 7 and Year 8 netball teams** competed in the Partnership Netball Tournament. Both teams performed well, with the Year 7 team finishing 2nd and the Year 8 team finishing 3rd.

Well done to all players involved for their excellent teamwork and effort.

Looking Ahead

Next week, the **Year 11 GCSE PE Netball teams** will be playing against St Felix on Monday. Students will leave school at 3:00pm and are expected to return at approximately 5:30pm.



YEAR 11 PARENTS EVENING

THURSDAY 26TH MARCH

We are pleased to invite parents and carers of Year 11 students to attend our Parents' Evening on **Thursday 26 March, from 4:00pm to 7:30pm**. This is a valuable opportunity to meet with teachers, discuss progress, and support students as they continue preparing for their upcoming exams.

The booking system will open on Monday 16 March. Appointments can be booked using the following link:

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

We look forward to welcoming parents and carers and working together to support our Year 11 students in this important stage of their education.

YEAR 9 FINAL OPTIONS

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

The Year 9 Final Options will be available on the My Child at School (MCAS) app from Monday 9th March and will close on Monday 23rd March.

Following the recent preference survey, we have carefully reviewed students' responses and used this feedback to create the option blocks with the lowest possible disappointment factor, ensuring that as many students as possible can study their preferred subjects.

Please note the following important guidance when selecting options:

- Students must choose at least one of the following subjects: French, Geography, History, or Spanish.
- ASDAN should not be selected unless this has already been discussed and agreed with Mrs Wills.
- Students may choose only one of the following: Art (Photography) or Art and Design.

A reminder message will also be emailed to parents on Monday morning, for those who may miss this information in the newsletter.

Thank you for your support in helping students make their final subject choices.

MR REARDEN'S GALLERY

Our recent art projects showcase the incredible talent and imagination of our students across all year groups. Year 7 students explored reduction printing, creating layered prints with striking patterns and textures. Year 8 focused on mastering colour and detail through Van Gogh-inspired coloured pencil drawings, capturing the vibrancy and emotion of his work. Meanwhile, Year 9 experimented with spray-painted stencils, combining bold design and contemporary techniques to produce dynamic, eye-catching pieces.

We invite you to enjoy this gallery of student work and celebrate the creativity flourishing in our classrooms!



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

FUNDED* YOUTH SPORTS PROJECT

catch
22

Suffolk
**POSITIVE
FUTURES**
Supported by Suffolk's Police & Crime Commissioner



LEISTON LEISURE CENTRE

RED HOUSE LANE, LEISTON IP16 4LS

11 TO 15 YEAR OLDS

SPLIT AGE GROUPS

10:00 TO 14:00



**WEDNESDAY
1ST & 8TH APRIL**

FULL HEALTHY LUNCH INCLUDED



REGISTER NOW



**COME AND PLAY FOOTBALL,
DODGEBALL, BASKETBALL &
MORE IN THE EASTER
HOLIDAYS. INDOORS AT
LEISTON LEISURE CENTRE,
WITH SKILL GAMES AND
PLENTY OF MATCHES**

Suffolk
**Holiday
Activity**
Programme

***FREE SCHOOL MEAL CRITERIA APPLIES**



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

