



Alde Valley Academy

Aspire and Achieve. Lead with Kindness. Stronger Together.

NEWSLETTER - 15TH MAY 2026

ART IN ACTION WITH KS3

This week, our KS3 students have begun the exciting process of transforming their imaginative 2D animal designs into impressive 3D ceramic sculptures. Working with clay has given students the opportunity to explore new creative techniques, develop their practical skills, and experience the challenge and satisfaction of bringing their original ideas to life in three dimensions.

The classroom has been full of creativity, enthusiasm, and purposeful collaboration as these unique creatures begin to take shape. It has been wonderful to see students growing in confidence as they experiment, problem-solve, and express themselves artistically through their work.

The project also reflects the high value we place on the arts within our school community. We are fortunate to have thriving Art, DT, and Drama departments, alongside a strong and growing music provision, all of which play a vital role in nurturing creativity, confidence, and self-expression across the curriculum. We are currently seeking a full-time permanent Teacher of Music to help further strengthen this important area of school life.

We are incredibly excited to watch these projects develop over the coming weeks and look forward to seeing the finished ceramic pieces proudly displayed around the school.



COMMUNITY LITTER PICK

Last weekend, students proudly took part in the annual Leiston Litter Pick, showing fantastic commitment to supporting and improving the local community.

The event began at the Council Building before volunteers spent the morning helping to tidy the local area, finishing with refreshments and morning tea at the Community Centre. It was wonderful to see so many people coming together to make a positive difference to the environment.

We would like to congratulate all of our students who were involved for their enthusiasm, teamwork, and community spirit. Their willingness to give up their time to support such an important local initiative was greatly appreciated, and we are incredibly proud of the positive example they set.



CALL ME JOHN – THEATRE TRIP

Last Friday, a group of our Year 7 students enjoyed a fantastic trip to see Call Me John performed by Reflex Theatre at the Saxmundham Market Hall.

Before attending the performance, students had taken part in an engaging workshop exploring different generations and the local area, which gave them a deeper connection to the themes of the play and made the experience even more meaningful.

The afternoon was filled with laughter, creativity, and inspiration as students thoroughly enjoyed the performance. Following the show, they had the exciting opportunity to meet and chat with the actors, with many students also taking home signed posters as a special reminder of the day.

We are incredibly proud of how enthusiastically and respectfully our students represented the school throughout the visit, making it a memorable experience for everyone involved.



SAFEGUARDING UPDATE

Government Consultation on Minimum Age for Social Media

The "Growing Up in the Online World" national consultation is a landmark government consultation launched to address the rapid impact of technology on children's mental health, sleep, and safety. The government is consulting on this now because, while the Online Safety Act 2023 tackled illegal content, there are growing concerns about the broader harms of legal but harmful features, such as addictive algorithms, deepfake AI, and the "sleep crisis" caused by late-night device use. If implemented, the proposals could entail a statutory minimum age for social media similar to legislation introduced in Australia which has outlawed social media for under-18s. Additionally, the government are consulting on mandatory overnight digital curfews and stricter bans on AI chatbots for younger children.

Parents and carers are encouraged to share their lived experiences and personal views to ensure future laws reflect the reality of modern parenting. You can take part by completing the dedicated Parent and Carer Survey on the official GOV.UK consultation page before it closes on May 26, 2026.



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/>

PE NEWS

It has been another busy and exciting week in PE, with our superb U13 girls' cricket team representing the school brilliantly in their latest fixtures. The team secured an excellent victory against Thomas Mills in their opening match before facing a strong Hartismere side in their second game. The girls demonstrated fantastic teamwork, determination, and sportsmanship throughout, and we are incredibly proud of their efforts and positive attitude.



Next week's fixtures:

Tuesday – Year 7 & 8 Girls Rounders Tournament at Thomas Mills

Wednesday – Year 9 Boys Softball Tournament at Stradbroke

Wednesday – Year 9 Girls Rounders Tournament at Thomas Mills

Thursday – Year 8 Girls Cricket Tournament at Hartismere

We wish all of our students the very best of luck for their upcoming competitions and hope the weather stays dry so everyone can enjoy a fantastic week of sport!

3G Pitch

We are delighted to share that the new 3G pitch is due to be completed and officially handed over during the half-term break. This means students should be able to enjoy using the fantastic new facility during the final half-term of the academic year.

To help protect the surface and ensure the safety of all users, it is essential that students wear the correct footwear when using the pitch. Please read the information on the following page carefully, as students will not be permitted to use the 3G surface without appropriate footwear.

We are very much looking forward to seeing students make the most of this exciting new addition to our school's sporting facilities.

3G PITCH FOOTWEAR

Recommended Footwear for Synthetic Surfaces

Footwear Types					
	Football Boot (screw-in stud)	Football Boot (moulded stud)	Trainer ('Astro' trainer)	Trainer (flat sole)	Football Boot (blade)
3G Football Turf / Long pile Carpet	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
KEY:	✓ Recommended		✗ Not permitted		

3G Footwear Examples (not-exhaustive)

Football Boots (Screw-in Studs)



Football Boots (Moulded Studs)



Trainers ('Astro' shoes)



Trainers (Flat sole)



Football Boots (Blades)





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*