



Alde Valley Academy

Aspire and Achieve. Lead with Kindness. Stronger Together.



NEWSLETTER - 19TH DECEMBER 2025



HAPPY CHRISTMAS

FESTIVE FAREWELL

As the festive holiday approaches, our students are preparing to leave school for a well-deserved break. While many are looking forward to celebrations, we are mindful that not everyone shares the same joy during this time, and some may face challenges that make the holidays difficult. We encourage our students to be thoughtful and considerate of others as they enjoy their time away from school.

Staff bid farewell to students with a sweet treat, wishing them a safe, happy, and restorative holiday. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank our students for their dedication, our staff for their hard work, and our parents and carers for their ongoing support and partnership.

This term has been full of achievements, laughter, and community spirit, and we are incredibly proud of all that has been accomplished together. We wish everyone a joyful, peaceful, and festive holiday and look forward to welcoming you all back in the new year for another exciting term of learning and growth.



UNIFORM FOR JANUARY

Wearing a school uniform helps everyone feel that they belong. It reminds students that they are part of one school community and that we are stronger when we work together.

Uniform takes away pressure about fashion and clothing choices, so students can focus on learning and doing their best. When everyone is dressed the same, it reduces distractions, prevents unkind judgement about appearance, and helps create a calm and respectful school environment.

When uniform is worn correctly, lessons can start smoothly and teachers do not need to spend time addressing uniform issues. This helps everyone build positive relationships and focus on learning.

We kindly ask for parents' support in making sure all students attend school wearing the correct uniform every day.

Examples of incorrect uniform include:

- Blazers not worn to school
- Ties not worn or worn incorrectly
- Shirts not tucked in
- Leggings
- Trainers instead of school shoes
- Hoodies (hoodies are not allowed at any time)
- Excessive jewellery
 - Only one stud earring in each ear
 - One ring on each hand
- False nails or false eyelashes



Thank you for helping us ensure all students look smart, feel equal, and are ready to learn.



<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](https://twitter.com/BorderBus)

STUDENT REPORTS

Understanding Our Reporting Approach This Year

This year, we have introduced a new Attitude to Learning and Homework report for all year groups. These reports were sent home with students this week, so please check their bags if you haven't received one. We would like to take this opportunity to explain how this report fits into our wider reporting cycle and how it can help support your child at home.

The Attitude to Learning and Homework report is additional to our two formal progress reports and does not replace them. These progress reports will be shared with parents and carers in March 2026 and July 2026. They will include:

- For KS4 (Years 10 & 11): subject-specific information on progress against targets.
- For KS3 (Years 7, 8 & 9): progress measured against prior attainment.

All of this will be clearly explained on the reports.

Year 11 students have already received a report showing their Minimum Expected Grade (MEG), mock exam grade, and predicted grade, alongside their Attitude to Learning information. They will receive a similar report in March 2026, following the final set of mock exams. Year 10 students will receive their mock exam results in July 2026.

At this point in the academic year, we are still gathering evidence from class-based assessments. As such, it is too early to make fully accurate judgments about students' attainment. Our priority is to provide robust and meaningful data that accurately reflects a student's progress over time.

The Attitude to Learning and Homework report is designed to provide an early snapshot of how students are approaching their studies. Learning behaviours such as effort, engagement, and homework completion are strong indicators of future success. This report is intended to support early, constructive conversations at home about routines, organisation, and study habits.

If you have any immediate concerns about progress in a specific subject, we encourage you to contact the subject teacher directly for more detailed feedback. For concerns about overall attitude to learning or homework, please contact your child's Form Tutor in the first instance.

Thank you for your continued support in helping our students achieve their best.
With best wishes,

Key Dates

March 2026 – Yr7-10 Progress Reports sent home*

End of March 2026 – Yr11 Progress Reports sent home following mock exams*

July 2026 – Yr7-10 Progress Reports sent home*

*All these reports will include attitude to learning and homework.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Alde Valley Academy celebrated the festive season with a wonderful Christmas Concert, showcasing musical performances from students across all year groups. Families, friends and staff came together to enjoy an evening that highlighted both talent and community spirit.

Students from all year group contributed to the programme, presenting a range of vocal and instrumental pieces. From lively Christmas favourites to more contemporary selections, students performed with confidence and enthusiasm, reflecting the hard work put into rehearsals throughout the term.

The programme concluded with a surprise performance from the Alde Valley Academy staff band, which added a light-hearted festive touch to the evening and was enjoyed by the audience without detracting from the students' achievements.

The concert was a fitting end to the term and a celebration of creativity and teamwork. Guests also enjoyed festive refreshments and delicious mince pies, made in school by Mrs Laker and students, which added to the warm and welcoming atmosphere of the evening. Special thanks go to Miss Grundy, Miss Cook and Mrs Gleeson for all their hard work in organising the concert, as well as the staff, students and families who supported the event and helped make it such a memorable evening.



CHRISTMAS LUNCH

The school was filled with festive cheer as students and staff celebrated Christmas Jumper Day, wearing their brightest and most creative festive outfits. The celebrations continued with a special Christmas lunch, complete with crackers, laughter, and a wonderful sense of togetherness.

Adding to the fun, our Headteacher, Mr Hetherington, stepped in to help serve lunch — with a slightly creative approach that resulted in a few sprouts finding their way onto the floor!

Staff also enjoyed sharing the lunchtime experience with students, creating a relaxed and joyful atmosphere throughout the hall.

Festive music played during the lunch service, and at one point Year 9 students delighted everyone with a spontaneous singalong of Let It Go from Frozen, adding to the cheerful mood.

It was a truly enjoyable day that captured the warmth and community spirit of the season, and a lovely way for everyone to come together before the holidays.



YEAR 8 CLOCKS

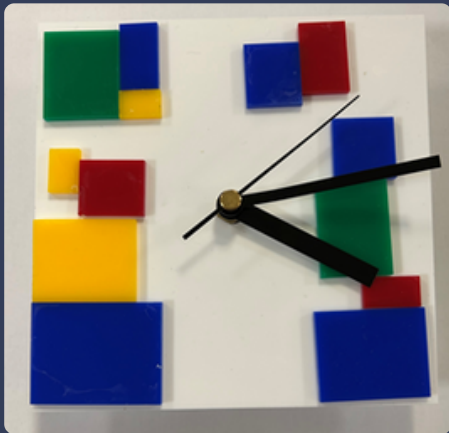
DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

This term, our Year 8 students have been diving into the fascinating world of plastics and polymers, learning about their unique properties and how they can be shaped into creative designs.

Pupils have explored a variety of techniques, from injection moulding to hands-on use of the vacuum former, strip heater, and laser cutter. Using these skills, they have been designing and producing their own shapes, culminating in the creation of clocks inspired by famous art movements and artists.

The project has not only helped students develop practical skills in handling modern materials but also encouraged creativity, problem-solving, and an understanding of how design and technology intersect with art.

It's been exciting to see the students apply their learning in such imaginative ways, producing functional pieces that showcase both their technical ability and artistic flair.



CARE HOME VISIT

In the spirit of the season, a group of our Year 11 Health and Social Care students recently visited Chantry House Care Home to bring festive cheer to the residents. The students spent the morning engaging with the elderly through a variety of activities, including singing Christmas carols, playing games, and sharing handmade cards and decorations.

Some students also took the opportunity to deliver presents, brightening the day of the residents and bringing smiles to everyone they met. The visit was not only heartwarming but also offered a real-life learning experience, allowing students to put their classroom knowledge into practice. They demonstrated key skills and personal qualities essential in health and social care, including empathy, communication, teamwork, and compassion—traits that are vital for anyone considering a career in nursing or caring professions.

Students Tayla and Matilda couldn't hide their delight when they presented resident David with a gift of biscuits—he screamed with joy, and they both said the moment made their day.

Residents expressed heartfelt appreciation for the company and festive spirit, highlighting how meaningful social interaction and personal connection can be in care settings. This visit perfectly exemplifies how our students are making a positive impact in the local community while learning invaluable lessons about kindness, compassion, and the importance of human connection in care.

We are incredibly proud of our Year 11 students for their dedication, thoughtfulness, and festive spirit, and for embodying the values that will make them excellent future healthcare professionals.



KEY DATES – SPRING 2026

5th January 2026

6th January 2026

29th January 2026

12th February 2026

2nd March 2026

26th March 2026

End of March 2026

Staff Professional Development Day (No Students)

Students return to school

Year 9 Parents Evening (4pm–7.30pm)

Year 9 Options Evening (6pm–7pm)

Year 11 Mock Exams (whole week)

Year 11 Parents Evening (4pm–7.30pm)

Reports sent home for all students