



Alde Valley Academy

Aspire and Achieve. Lead with Kindness. Stronger Together.

NEWSLETTER - 24TH OCTOBER 2025

HARVEST FESTIVAL

HARVEST FESTIVAL GENEROSITY

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed to our Harvest Festival collection this year. Once again, our school community has shown just how much can be achieved when we come together for a good cause. From tins and packets to toiletries and treats, the generous donations poured in – a wonderful reflection of our shared spirit of kindness and compassion.

Over the next few days, all items will be delivered to the Leiston and Saxmundham Food Banks, where they will help support local families and individuals in need. Your contributions will make a real difference and bring comfort to many within our wider community.

This project beautifully demonstrates our school value of “Stronger Together” – when each of us plays a small part, together we create something powerful. Thank you to everyone for showing what it truly means to be part of a caring, connected community.





BOOKBUZZ

For the fourth consecutive year, the English Department are gifting each Year 7 student with a new reading book!

Carefully curated, this year's sixteen choices cover a variety of genres including history, animals and fantasy. There are also non-fiction titles to choose from.

All of the books will be available to borrow from the school library for free (as with all the books).

To find out more about this year's titles, and for a list of other book recommendations, please visit www.bookbuzz.org.uk.

CREATIVE READING CLUB

AVA are delighted to welcome local author and Leiston Book Festival organiser, Robert Ashton, into school fortnightly to work with a group of students on their creative writing skills and pieces. This is an opportunity open to all and any interested students should see Ms Smith.

LOCAL LITERARY EVENTS

Meet author Steven Quincy Jones

Sunday 16th November- Dial Lane Bookshop, Ipswich-3pm

Each month, Dial Lane selects one book for their Children's Book Club and arranges a meet-up to discuss the book- often with the author!

Aldeburgh Poetry Festival

Friday 6th- Sunday 9th November

A multitude of different workshops and talks, including one from an ex-student!

Online Q and A with Phillip Pullman, author of *The Northern Lights*

Sunday 25th October- Online Event- 3pm

Tickets available at:

<https://www.waterstones.com/events/>

IF YOUR CHILD LOVED DAVID WALLIAMS, TRY



Nathanael Lessore's *King of Nothing*. It is ridiculously funny and captures contemporary teenage humour brilliantly- perfect for those who need to progress from David Walliams.

Available in the school library now

READING INTERVENTIONS

If your child is currently enrolled in either the Thinking Reading or the Reading Plus programme, keep an eye out for an invitation regarding our information evening!

FESTIVE POEM COMPETITION

Feeling creative? Students can win up to £250 for creating their own festive poem!

Poems can be acrostic, rhyming or non-rhyming, but must be no longer than 12 lines. Submissions to reading@aldevalley.suffolk.sch.uk by the 1st December

READING SUPERSTARS



Our Reading Superstars this half-term are Ted, Y10 and Finley Y10. Ted has recently graduated from the Thinking Reading Programme. Whilst Finley has made an excellent start to the Reading Plus programme, approaching the scheme with dedication and maturity.

YR10 DESIGN TECHNOLOGY



This term, our Year 10 GCSE Design & Technology students have been busy developing their practical skills through a hands-on metalworking project. Each student designed and produced a unique bottle opener, applying techniques such as cutting, filing, shaping, and polishing metal. The project not only helped them gain confidence in using workshop tools safely but also encouraged creativity and precision in product design. The results have been fantastic – a great start to their GCSE coursework journey!

PE NEWS

Our school football teams have been busy on the pitch this term, showcasing great sportsmanship and skill.

- **Year 11 Boys Football:** The Year 11 team put up a strong fight but narrowly lost 0-1 against Thomas Mills. Their determination and teamwork were outstanding throughout the match.
- **Year 8 Boys Football:** In a friendly fixture against Thomas Mills, the Year 8 team enjoyed a successful day, winning their matches and demonstrating excellent collaboration and enthusiasm.

Looking ahead, the **Year 7 boys football** team have an upcoming match on Thursday 6th November at Thomas Mills. We wish them the best of luck and look forward to hearing about their performance!

Thank you to all students for their hard work and sportsmanship, and to parents for your continued support.

HOUSE SYSTEM – RELAUNCHED



We are delighted to announce the official launch of our new House System, an initiative designed to strengthen our community and embody our core school values: Lead with Kindness, Stronger Together, and Aspire and Achieve. Our school body is now proudly divided into five houses: Alde, Blyth, Deben, Orwell, and Waveney. Following half term, every student will be issued a distinctive house badge as a symbol of their affiliation.

The system provides a structured framework for recognising positive contributions, with students earning credits that contribute directly to their house's total points. This framework is specifically designed to encourage students to Aspire and Achieve both academically and in their wider conduct.

The spirit of Stronger Together will be evident as students collaborate to secure the prestigious title of Overall House Winner at the close of the academic year. Furthermore, to continually promote our value to Lead with Kindness, prizes will be awarded each half term to the top 10 students in every year group based on their net points total (positive credits minus any negative marks) – see the photos below.

Finally, every subject department will be hosting dedicated house competitions throughout the year, offering diverse opportunities for engagement and success.

We encourage all students to participate actively and look forward to sharing updates on these competitions soon.



ARCHITECTURE WORKSHOP: LEISTON MARKET SQUARE

On Thursday, a group of 18 enthusiastic Year 7, 8 and 9 pupils took part in an inspiring architecture workshop in collaboration with East Suffolk Council and If_Do Architects, a London-based design studio. The day offered a unique opportunity for students to step into the shoes of architects and explore how the spaces and buildings around us shape our daily lives.

The morning was supposed to have begun with a guided walk through the town, however the terrible weather stopped that and students engaged in Plan B, a workshop to explore the local built environment. Together, they observed local architecture, identifying motifs, materials, and patterns within Leiston. Pupils were encouraged to think critically about how design influences community and character — linking beautifully with our school value of “Stronger Together”, as they saw how thoughtful design can bring people and places closer.

Later in the day, pupils took part in creative hands-on sessions, learning about the role of architects and developing their own design ideas. In the afternoon, they channelled their imagination into building their own mini post boxes, using cardboard, timber dowels, and mixed media to express their vision of community and connection through design.

The workshop was a fantastic success, sparking curiosity and creativity while helping students understand how architecture combines art, engineering, and social impact. A huge thank you to East Suffolk Council, If_Do Architects, and everyone who supported the event — a brilliant example of how we are truly stronger together. Watch this space as the plans for the Leiston Market Square evolve.



CONGRATULATIONS DR GREEN



A massive round of applause and heartfelt congratulations are due to Dr. Green who successfully completed the Oxford Half Marathon!

More importantly, Dr. Green has made a tremendous impact by raising a staggering £840 for her two chosen charities. This incredible total is a testament to her dedication and the generosity of our community.

We're incredibly proud of Dr. Green's athletic achievement and her commitment to supporting such worthy causes. Well done, Dr. Green!



Have a lovely half-term.