



Alde Valley Academy

Aspire and Achieve. Lead with Kindness. Stronger Together.

NEWSLETTER - 27TH FEBRUARY 2026

YEAR 7 CAREERS DISCOVERY DAY

On Friday 27th February, our Year 7 students took part in a Careers Discovery Day, designed to encourage curiosity, reflection and an awareness of future opportunities.

During the morning, students joined a virtual careers event, where they explored a range of possible pathways, learned about different jobs and industries, and began to consider how the skills they are developing now may support their future choices. The sessions encouraged thoughtful discussion, questions and exploration of new ideas.

Following the event, students returned to lessons to take part in an Innovation Challenge, working collaboratively to apply what they had learned, share ideas and solve problems in creative ways. The day gave students opportunities to:

- Explore different career pathways
- Learn about real-world opportunities
- Develop teamwork, creativity and confidence
- Begin thinking about future aspirations

Overall, the event provided a valuable opportunity for students to reflect on their interests and ambitions, and we were pleased to see the positive engagement and effort shown by our Year 7 cohort throughout the day.

ATTENDANCE – EVERY DAY COUNTS

Thank you to all our parents and carers for your continued support, especially families whose children are in Band 1 (95%+ attendance) – your commitment truly makes a difference.

Our current whole-school attendance is well below our 94% target, meaning too many children are missing valuable learning time. Every day in school matters. Regular attendance supports confidence, friendships and academic progress, while even short absences can quickly add up and create learning gaps.

We understand that some absences are unavoidable, but we kindly ask families to prioritise attendance wherever possible. By working together, we can improve attendance and ensure every child has the best chance to succeed.

Thank you 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/67d2b84752aac0251c8ae/The_impact_of_school_absence_on_lifetime_earnings.pdf

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/67c56d74502a711334-02d7The_link_between_attendance_and_achievement_in_an_assessment_year_-_March_2025.pdf

ATTENDANCE THIS WEEK

Target = 94%

Yr7	Yr8	Yr9	Yr10	Yr11
91.6%	88.1%	90%	87.3%	83.2%

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.



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.



Blazer (maintain current uniform)



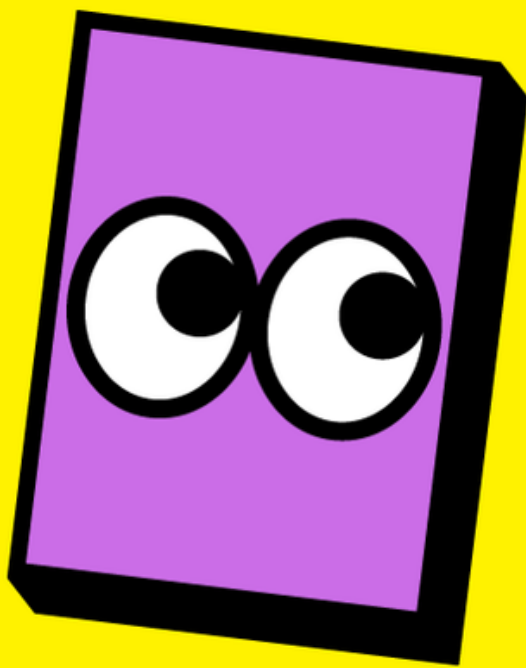
Black V-Neck Jumper



Navy V-Neck Jumper (Stripe)



Navy V-Neck Jumper



WORLD BOOK DAY®

WORLD BOOK DAY AT AVA FRIDAY 6TH MARCH 2026 – LET'S CELEBRATE IN STYLE

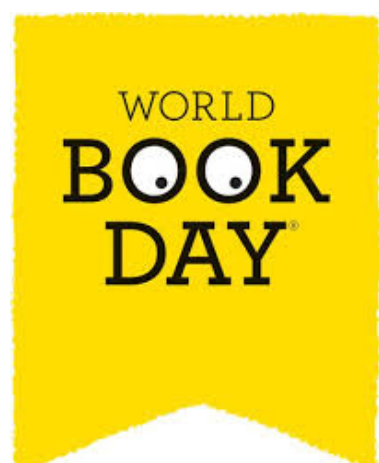
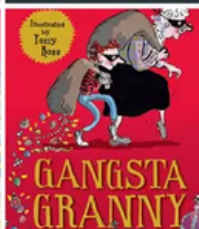
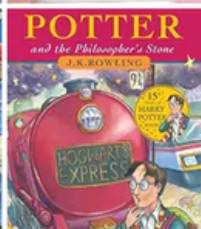
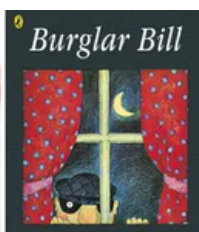
We are excited to be celebrating World Book Day on Friday 6th March, and we're inviting both students and staff to join in the fun by dressing up as their favourite book character!

Whether you come as a wizard, hero, villain, detective, adventurer, or classic literary legend, this is your chance to bring books to life and celebrate the joy of reading. Costumes can be simple or creative – the most important thing is to get involved and have fun!

To make the day even more exciting, there will be a competition for the best costume, with prizes for the most creative and original entries – so start planning and get imaginative!

And for staff, there's an extra incentive to join in... any staff who choose not to dress up will be lined up at lunchtime, giving students the chance to throw watery sponges at them!

This promises to be a brilliant day full of colour, creativity and laughter. We can't wait to see the amazing costumes and characters around school!



A taste of Jamaica

A **Jamaican style** lunch
brought to Alde Valley
Academy

FIRECRACKER CHICKEN

or

Jerk jumbled vegetables & black eyed bean
curry (V)

Both served with...rice and peas
with a side of charred corn on the cob and
carribean slaw

To finish

Ginger sponge

or

Pineapple and coconut sponge

'Dis taste good'

Meal deal £2.65

Wednesday 4th March

WEDNESDAY
4TH MARCH

Taste of
Jamaica Pop
Up Lunch
Event

In the Dining Hall
at lunchtime.

YEAR 9 OPTIONS UPDATE

Thank you to all parents and carers who have completed the Options Preference Survey using the My Child at School app. We appreciate the time you have taken to support your child in making these important choices.

We are now in the process of reviewing all submissions and creating the option blocks, ensuring that we can accommodate as many student preferences as possible. This involves careful planning to balance student choices, staffing and timetabling.

We had originally planned to confirm the final option blocks and invite families to submit their final choices on Thursday 5th March. While this is still our aim, the complexity of the process means this timeline may be tight. If we are unable to meet this deadline, we will contact you early the following week with full details.

Thank you for your patience and continued support. We will be in touch as soon as the option blocks are finalised.

PE NEWS

Orienteering Success

Congratulations to our Orienteering teams, who achieved an excellent 2nd place overall, securing qualification for the County Finals in June — a fantastic achievement!

A special well done to Faith and Ellen, who performed outstandingly to become the overall winning pair. An incredible result and a brilliant example of teamwork, determination and skill.

We wish all our teams the very best of luck in the County Finals!



This Week's Fixtures

Tuesday 3rd March

Year 10 Girls Football (6-a-side, astro) at Hartismere, 4:15pm–7:00pm.

Wednesday 4th March

Years 9–11 Netball at Farlingaye, 4:00pm–6:00pm.

Wednesday 4th March

Year 9 Girls Badminton at Thomas Mills, 4:00pm–6:30pm.

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.

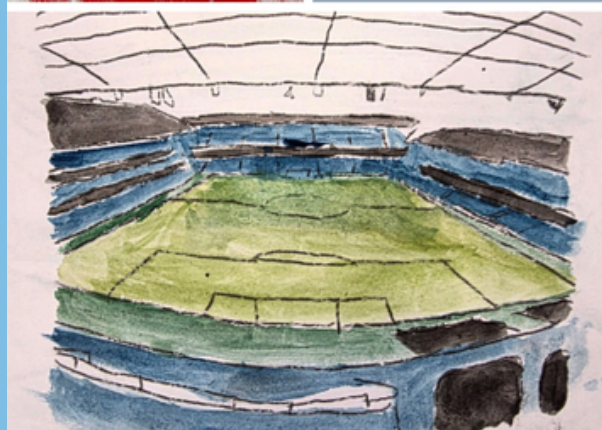
However, we believe we are stronger together, and the celebration of all our young artists continues! For those whose work isn't at the gallery this week, we intend to host dedicated exhibitions at a variety of school events in the near future. These events will offer a fantastic opportunity for students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



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