



Alde Valley Academy

Aspire and Achieve. Lead with Kindness. Stronger Together.

NEWSLETTER - 30TH JANUARY 2026

ATTENDANCE

This week, the Department for Education (DfE) released attendance data showing that our school's attendance is significantly lower than that of similar schools. This is deeply concerning.

Attendance is not optional. It is a legal requirement and is essential to your child's education, wellbeing and future opportunities.

Every day matters

The DfE is clear: missing school has serious consequences. Poor attendance affects:

- Learning and academic progress
- Confidence, friendships and wellbeing
- Behaviour and engagement
- Future outcomes, including GCSEs and employment

Children who are frequently absent fall behind quickly, and catching up becomes harder over time.

Attendance expectations

In line with DfE guidance, we expect all pupils to have at least 95% attendance.

With immediate effect:

- Repeated illness or regular patterns will not be authorised without compelling justification
- Holidays in term time will not be authorised
- All absences will be monitored and challenged where appropriate

What the school will now do

To ensure children are safe and in school, we are increasing our actions:

- Phone calls on the first day of absence
- Evening follow-up calls for repeated or ongoing absences
- Minibus sweeps where pupils are not in school and we have had no contact
- Attendance meetings for families where concerns remain

Our message is simple – Children must come to school.

Unless a child is genuinely too unwell, they should be in school every day. School is where children learn, grow, build friendships and prepare for their future.

If there are genuine barriers to attendance, please contact us immediately so we can support you. However, continued absence without valid reason will not be accepted.

Thank you for your cooperation and 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/67d2b84702aac0251c8e/The_impact_of_school_absence_on_lifetime_earnings.pdf

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/67c9d7d00e711334-0ed/The_link_between_attendance_and_achievement_in_an_assessment_year_-_March_2025.pdf

PLEASE SUPPORT US WITH ATTENDANCE

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.



OPERATIONAL UPDATE

Gates

Before Christmas, we shared information about changes to our school gate opening times to support site security and safeguarding. We would like to remind families of these arrangements.

The main school entrances are opened only at specific times:

- 8.30am–8.40am in the morning
- 3.00pm–3.10pm and 4.00pm–4.10pm at the end of the day

At all other times, gates remain locked to prevent unsupervised access to the site by members of the public.

We are aware that some students have been gathering at the Leisure Centre gate before school. As a result, this gate will be opened slightly earlier in the morning, and we will continue to monitor the situation to see if any further review is needed.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us keep the school site safe and secure for everyone.

Transport

We are aware that there have been a small number of recent issues with bus services. We work closely with Suffolk County Council and the individual bus operators to resolve these matters as quickly as possible and to minimise any impact on our students.

Parents and carers who drop students off by car are reminded that drop-off should take place at the Leisure Centre gate, not at the front school entrance. This arrangement is in place to help manage traffic flow and maintain a safe environment for all students.

Building Work – 3G Football Pitch

We are working closely with East Suffolk Council and the contractors on site to ensure the safety of our students while construction work takes place on the school field. Clear arrangements have been agreed so that all construction-related vehicle movements stop during school drop-off and collection times. As a result, you should not see any construction traffic operating in the Leisure Centre car park while students are arriving at or leaving school.

Boilers

Our school boilers are nearly 30 years old and can occasionally be temperamental. We are pleased to confirm that they have been working well this week, with both heating and hot water operating as expected. We continue to monitor the system closely and are actively planning for a long-term, sustainable replacement. We recognise that this will be a complex and costly project, but it remains a priority for the future.

MOBILE PHONES

The Department for Education has issued updated guidance on mobile phone use in schools, reinforcing that phones should not be used by pupils during the school day.

The guidance encourages schools to operate as phone-free environments at all times, including during lessons, between lessons, at break and at lunchtime. Ofsted will also consider how mobile phone policies are implemented as part of behaviour inspections.

In a letter to headteachers, Education Secretary Bridget Phillipson made the Government's position clear:

"Schools should make sure those policies are applied consistently across classes, and at all times, and we want parents to back these policies too."

In line with this guidance, mobile phones are not allowed at Alde Valley Academy during the school day. Phones should not be used as calculators or for research, and this approach is designed to reduce distraction, support positive behaviour and help students focus fully on their learning.

Thank you for your continued support in reinforcing this expectation with your child.



YEAR 9 PARENT EVENINGS

We would like to thank all parents and carers who attended the Year 9 Parents' Evening, which was very well supported with around 80% attendance. This strong turnout reflects the value our community places on working together to support students at a crucial stage in their education.

The evening was filled with positive, purposeful conversations between families and staff. Discussions focused on students' progress, strengths and areas for development, as well as future thinking with GCSE options in mind. Year 9 is a particularly important year, as choices made now can shape pathways through Key Stage 4 and beyond.

Attending events such as parents' evenings plays a vital role in supporting children's education. When students see parents and carers engaging with their learning, it reinforces the importance of school, raises aspirations and helps young people feel supported and motivated. Open communication between home and school also allows us to work together to address any concerns early and ensure the best possible outcomes.

Thank you to all families who took the time to attend and engage so thoughtfully. Your continued support makes a real difference to our students' success.

12th February 2026

Year 9 Options Evening (5pm-6pm)

GOODBYE TO MRS BETTS



Today we say goodbye to Mrs Betts after 14 years of dedicated service to Alde Valley Academy. During her time with us, she has been an invaluable safeguarding lead, providing care, guidance and support to countless students and families. Her commitment to keeping our young people safe has made a lasting difference to our school community.

Mrs Betts will be greatly missed and fondly remembered by both students and staff. We thank her sincerely for her outstanding contribution and wish her every success and happiness in her next endeavour.

ONLINE Q&A WITH THE HEADTEACHER

THURSDAY, 5 FEBRUARY · 7:00 – 8:00PM

USE THE LINK BELOW TO ACCESS THE MEETING:

[HTTPS://MEET.GOOGLE.COM/SHK-BPFX-GPW](https://meet.google.com/shk-bpfx-gpw)

KEY INFORMATION FOR PARENTS OF YEAR 11 STUDENTS

We would like to share some important information for parents and carers of Year 11 students as we move towards the GCSE examination period.

GCSE Exam Dates

GCSE examinations will formally begin on Thursday 7th May and will be completed before the Year 11 Prom. Please note that some assessments, including Art/Graphics coursework and French and Spanish speaking exams, will take place before 7th May. Individual exam timetables will be issued to students after half term.

Mock Examinations

Year 11 mock exams will take place between Monday 2nd March and Thursday 12th March. These mocks are an important opportunity for students to practise exam technique and identify areas for further revision. A full timetable will be shared before half term.

Easter Revision Programme

An Easter revision programme will run to support students in their final preparation for exams. Core subjects and Languages will take place between Monday 30th March and Wednesday 1st April, with exact times confirmed nearer the date. In addition, Mr Neill will be running Business Studies and Computer Science revision sessions on Saturday 28th March.

DfE Results App

We will begin setting students up on the DfE Results Service app during the final week of term before Easter. We are aiming to register most students during Parents' Evening on Thursday 26th March, allowing results to be accessed securely and efficiently in the summer.

Thank you for your continued support as we enter this important final phase of Year 11. Further details will be shared as arrangements are confirmed.



EDUCATION RECORD

**Learn more by
clicking this link**

PE NEWS

It has been a fantastic week of sporting success for our students, with strong performances across a range of PE events.

Cross Country

Last Friday, our students showed great determination and resilience at the cross country event. In the Year 7 girls' race, Connie achieved an outstanding first place, with Lyla finishing 13th and Skarlett close behind in 14th. The Year 7 boys ran very well, with Calvin finishing 12th, followed by Seb in 18th, Alfie in 20th and Oakley in 23rd.

In the Year 8 boys' race, Nelio placed 8th, Alex finished 11th, and Zac came 12th. Caiden in Year 9 produced an excellent performance to finish 2nd, while in the Year 10 girls' race, Isla came 6th and Merran 7th.

Our mixed relay teams also performed strongly, finishing 3rd in both events. Well done to all students for their commitment and perseverance.

Football

The football teams also enjoyed a busy week of fixtures. The Year 7 boys secured a brilliant 3–2 cup victory against Ipswich Academy, demonstrating excellent teamwork and determination throughout the match.

The Year 8 boys faced a tough challenge away to St Albans, finishing 1–7, while the Year 11 boys played a competitive cup match away to Hadleigh High, narrowly losing 1–3.

The Year 7/8 girls' football team had an outstanding tournament, finishing as winners. They beat Hartismere Reds 1–0, Thomas Mills 2–1, and Hartismere Blues 3–0, showing great skill and teamwork across all matches.

Well done to all students involved this week for representing the school with pride and giving their best in every event. Your determination, effort, and sportsmanship are to be celebrated!





PE PHOTOS

Previous Page
**Yr7 Boys
Football Team**

Top Left
**Yr7/8 Girls
Football Team**

Top Right
**Yr11 Boys
Football Team**

Middle Right &
Below
**Cross Country
photos**



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