



Alde Valley Academy

Aspire and Achieve. Lead with Kindness. Stronger Together.

NEWSLETTER - 6TH FEBRUARY 2026

PARENT FEEDBACK

SUCCESSFUL ONLINE PARENT Q&A SESSION

Last night, Alde Valley Academy held an online Parent Q&A session, bringing together our school community for an open and constructive discussion on a range of important topics. It was an incredibly positive event, with parents showing overwhelming support for the school and a genuine interest in contributing to the ongoing development of our students' experience.

During the session, we discussed a variety of subjects, including:

- Improvements to our homework booklets, with some parents kindly offering support to make them even more accessible for our SEN students.
- Feedback about homework monitoring and ensuring all teachers are consistently checking students' work.
- Upgrades to school facilities, including attention to our toilets and locker availability.
- Upcoming consultation on school uniform.
- Initiatives to improve student outcomes, behaviour, and reporting to parents.
- Practical concerns, such as students getting muddy while playing football on the school field.

The conversation was thoughtful and constructive, reflecting the shared commitment of parents and staff to make Alde Valley Academy an even better place for our students to learn and grow.

We are committed to increasing engagement with parents and improving communication even further. Sessions like this are invaluable in helping us understand the priorities of our community and collaborate on solutions that benefit every student.

Thank you to all who participated and contributed. We look forward to hosting more opportunities to connect, listen, and work together to continue enhancing the Alde Valley Academy experience.

I always welcome hearing from our parents—whether it's a concern, some feedback, or ideas for how we can make Alde Valley Academy even better. If you'd like to share your thoughts with me directly, please follow this link:

[Parent Feedback Form 2025-2026](#)

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/67c56d74502e711334-02d7The_link_between_attendance_and_achievement_in_an_assessment_year_-_March_2025.pdf

ATTENDANCE THIS WEEK

Target = 94%

Yr7

Yr8

Yr9

Yr10

Yr11

87.6%

81.4%

82.6%

82.3%

79.7%

SCHOOL DAYS ARE PACKED WITH MOMENTS OF...

CURIOSITY, WONDER AND CONNECTION.

MOMENTS MATTER, ATTENDANCE COUNTS.

SEARCH 'ATTENDANCE' ON THE EDUCATION HUB

HM Government

NHS

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 NHS

"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.

NHS

UPDATE ON 3G FOOTBALL PITCH CONSTRUCTION – SAFETY MEASURES

We recently met with the contractors responsible for the construction of the new 3G football pitch on the school field to review site operations and, in particular, to reinforce our expectations regarding student and community safety.

During this meeting, we made it explicitly clear that construction vehicles must not enter, exit, or move around the leisure centre car park during student arrival and departure times. These periods are particularly busy, and the presence of heavy vehicles presents an unacceptable risk to pedestrians, including students, parents, carers, and other members of the local community.

We acknowledge that a small number of parents contacted the school on Monday with concerns that this procedure was not being consistently followed. We appreciate parents bringing this to our attention. At our follow-up meeting on Tuesday, we clarified our expectations in full, and the contractors have now implemented stricter site management controls to ensure that these safety measures are adhered to at all times for the remainder of the construction period.

The safety and wellbeing of our students, staff, families, and wider community is our highest priority, and we will continue to monitor the situation closely. We thank parents and carers for their ongoing support and cooperation.

YEAR 9 OPTIONS EVENING

Thursday 12th February 2026 – 5pm–6pm

We would like to remind parents and carers that the Year 9 Options Evening will take place on Thursday 12th February at 5:00pm. This is a very important event in supporting students as they begin to make informed decisions about their GCSE and BTEC subject choices.

The evening will begin with a presentation from the Headteacher, outlining the options process, key dates, and important guidance to help students select subjects that best suit their interests, strengths, and future aspirations.

Following this, parents and students will have the opportunity to meet with Heads of Department and subject staff to discuss the courses on offer, explore the content and assessment of each subject, and ask any questions they may have. This will allow families to make well-informed decisions and ensure students feel confident in their choices.

We strongly encourage all Year 9 students and their parents/carers to attend, as the information and advice provided will play a crucial role in shaping students' next steps and future pathways.

We look forward to welcoming you to this important event.

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.

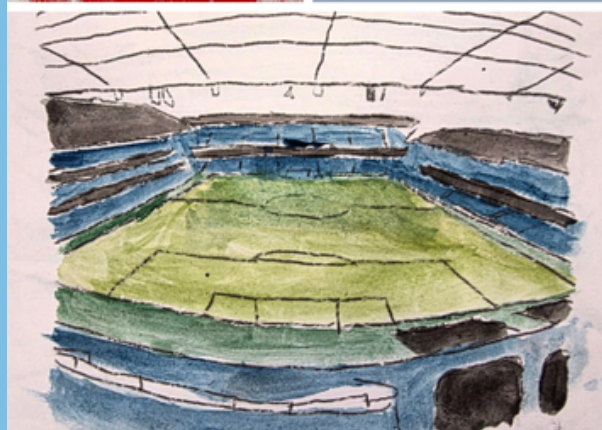
However, we believe we are stronger together, and the celebration of all our young artists continues! For those whose work isn't at the gallery this week, we intend to host dedicated exhibitions at a variety of school events in the near future. These events will offer a fantastic opportunity for students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



PE NEWS

It has been a fantastic period for school sport, with students showing great effort, commitment, and teamwork across a wide range of competitions.

Athletics

Our Year 8 girls' and boys' teams both performed brilliantly at the Sports Hall Athletics competition, finishing an impressive 3rd place. The teams demonstrated outstanding determination throughout and thoroughly enjoyed the events.

Swimming

In the school swimming gala, our team secured 4th place overall against strong competition. Special congratulations go to the Year 10 boys and Year 11 girls, who both delivered excellent performances, winning their freestyle relays and finishing second in the medley relay. The netball teams have also been back in action this week in partnership tournaments, achieving excellent results:

- Year 7 – 4th place
- Year 8 – 2nd place
- Year 11 – 3rd place

We would also like to thank parents and carers for their continued support throughout the swimming term. Swimming is a vital life skill and a key part of our PE curriculum, and we are delighted that the majority of our students are now able to swim confidently.

The House Swimming Gala will take place on Monday 9th February, 1:45pm – 3:45pm. Please ensure that students remember to bring their full swimming kit on the day.

Cross Country

A special mention goes to Connie, who proudly represented Suffolk at the Anglian Cross Country Championships on Saturday. Competing against 80 runners, Connie achieved an excellent 17th place. The Minor Girls team won their heat, and Suffolk were crowned overall winners of the event – a fantastic achievement.

PE Curriculum Changes After Half Term

After half term, PE activities will change. The Year 7, 8 and 9 girls' groups will be starting football. To ensure safety and enjoyment, please provide:

- Football boots
- Shin pads
- Long socks

If possible, please borrow equipment from friends or family, as trainers can be very slippery on the pitch. Students should also bring a plastic bag to carry muddy boots after lessons.

Thank you for your continued support in helping our students stay active, safe, and engaged in PE.

PE GALLERY



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

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