Alde Valley Academy

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Inspiring our community, shaping brighter futures.

OCTOBER 2026

ALDE VALLEY ACADEMY COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

THU 22 OCTOBER

A HUGE WELL DONE THIS HALF TERM

A huge well done to all our students for everything they have achieved this half term. As the mornings and evenings become darker, the change of season can be challenging. Attendance has been improving, and we are really proud of our students for turning up and being here every day.

It has certainly been a very busy few weeks, and this edition celebrates it all. Thank you to our families for your continued support. We wish everyone a restful and happy half-term break.

SUFFOLK SCHOOLS CROSS COUNTRY

Several students qualified for the next round at the Suffolk Schools Cross Country event. Well done to everyone who represented the academy!

STUDENT	POSITION
Connie	18th
Joshua	43rd
Rafferty	7th
May	11th
Charlie	31st
Daisy	44th
Harmony	48th

Congratulations to our qualifiers and all who took part!

TEAM AVA





SOUTHWOLD RUGBY CLUB VISIT

A coach from Southwold Rugby Club worked with students in Years 7, 8 and 9. Thank you for helping develop our students' rugby skills.

To continue rugby outside school, please contact Mr Kelsall.

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ATTENDANCE AND FRIDAY FIESTAS

CELEBRATING GREAT ATTENDANCE AT ALDE VALLEY

We've been having a blast at school every week with our Friday Fiestas! At Alde Valley, we love ending the week with a bit of fun. As a reward for students who attend throughout the week, the Fiestas also create a real buzz and a positive atmosphere heading into the weekend.



KARAOKE FUN



CUP-STACKING CHALLENGE

THREE WEEKS OF FUN — AND MORE TO COME!

Students have enjoyed karaoke, bingo and a thrilling cup-stacking competition.

Next up: a spooky Halloween scavenger hunt, with over 45 prizes to be won!

YEAR 8 AT HAMPTON COURT PALACE

THU 22 OCTOBER

BRINGING HISTORY TO LIFE

Year 8 students were given an extraordinary opportunity to visit Hampton Court Palace in London.

Taking part in an interactive workshop brought history to life, while exploring the beautiful palace and grounds gave students the chance to soak up the stories of this remarkable place.

It was a wonderful opportunity to extend learning beyond the classroom and discover our history and heritage.

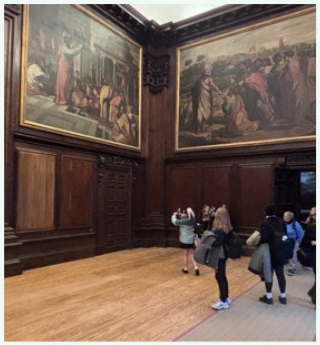
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EXPLORING LEARNING AND MAKING MEMORIES









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YEAR 7 LONDON TRIP

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HISTORY CULTURE AND FRIENDSHIP

The Tower of London and Hadestown

Year 7 enjoyed a packed day of culture in London, visiting the Tower of London before watching Hadestown.

The show links to their study of Greek mythology in English, bringing those stories to life on stage.

As their first whole-year-group trip at Alde Valley Academy, it was a wonderful chance to build friendships and create shared memories.

A first school trip to remember!

DISCOVERING LONDON TOGETHER









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PE NEWS AND AFTER-SCHOOL CLUBS

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FOOTBALL AND NETBALL



Our Under-14 girls' football team were knocked out of the cup by Copleston. Well done to everyone who represented the academy.



Great fun and improvement from our Under-12 and Under-13 netball teams.

AFTER-SCHOOL PE CLUBS



PE AFTER HALF TERM FOR YEARS 7 8 AND 9

Girls' groups: hockey — bring gum shields and shin pads. Boys' groups: rugby — bring football boots. Mixed groups: netball.

YEAR 9 BOYS PROGRESS TO THE NEXT ROUND!

4 – 2

CUP MATCH VICTORY

A fantastic cup win for Year 9!

The boys' Year 9 football team won their cup game 4–2 and progress to the next round.

Well done to all the players for representing Alde Valley Academy. We look forward to following their progress in the competition.



LANGUAGES JOIN THE AVA DUOLINGO LEADERBOARD

THU 22 OCTOBER

LEARN COMPETE AND HAVE FUN



HOW TO JOIN

Duolingo is a free language-learning app, also available in a web browser. Any language counts; Years 7, 8 and 9 are encouraged to practise French or Spanish to support class learning.

1. Go to www.duolingo.com. Use your school email and choose "Sign in via Google".
2. Open account settings, then Duolingo for Schools.
3. Enter ONE classroom code: XYBNRK or XKZKXC.
4. A message may say the code is not recognised. The Languages team advises that this is a glitch; ask Mrs Thompson to check that you have joined.
5. Use your first name only in your username — no surname or nickname.

COMPETITION REWARDS AND RULES

Open to students and staff. Reach the top 20 to win house points. The top three students win 20 house points and a queue jump ticket.

- Use your school email and a username with your first name only, for example Lily54321.
- The competition ends on the last day of each month. Earn as much language-learning XP as you can.
- Any language counts. Chess, music and maths do not count towards this competition.
- Take part each month and follow the rules to keep your place on the leaderboard.

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READING, GAMES AND COMMUNITY DONATIONS

BOOK FAIR - 12TH-17TH NOVEMBER

We are delighted to be hosting a book fair at Alde Valley Academy from 12th to 17th November!

BOARD GAMES WANTED!

As the weather gets colder, we would love more board games for students to enjoy at break and lunchtime.

If you have complete board games at home that you no longer use, please consider donating them to school. Your generosity will help create welcoming spaces for students to play, connect and have fun.



UNIFORM SWAP SHOP

We are starting our very own Alde Valley Academy uniform swap shop!

We hope to make pre-loved uniform available at parent events, including parents' evenings and school shows.

Please send any clean, good-condition uniform you would like to donate into the school office. We will collect donations and use them to launch this supportive, sustainable initiative for families.



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COMMUNITY, CAREERS AND FIELDWORK

ALDEBURGH YOUNG PEOPLE'S COUNCIL



Students aged 9–16 who live in Aldeburgh are invited to get involved and share their views through the Aldeburgh Young People's Council.

Meeting details: Saturday 14 November, 10:00am, Moot Hall, Aldeburgh.

YEAR 10 GCSE GEOGRAPHY FIELDTRIP



Year 10 GCSE Geography students recently visited Lowestoft as part of their GCSE coursework.

The fieldtrip gave students the opportunity to apply classroom learning in a real coastal environment, collect data and develop practical fieldwork skills to support their coursework.

It was a valuable experience that helped bring geographical concepts to life beyond the classroom.

BRITTEN PEARS CREATIVE CAREERS WORKSHOP



A number of our students recently took part in a Creative Careers workshop at Britten Pears at Snape Maltings, alongside students from a range of other schools.

Students were introduced to careers in the performing arts sector and explored the many roles available within the wider creative industries.

The workshop provided a valuable insight into creative pathways and future opportunities in performance, production and arts-based careers.

ASPIRATION AND CAREERS AT IPSWICH TOWN

YEAR 8 VISIT WITH IPSWICH TOWN FOUNDATION



Students from Year 8 listened to speakers and explored the stadium during their visit with the Ipswich Town Foundation.



The event gave students the opportunity to think about future pathways, aspirations and the opportunities available to them locally.

Our Ipswich Town Foundation partners recently took a group of Year 8 students to the football ground for a fantastic and inspiring event.

During the visit, students were introduced to a range of careers and experiences, encouraging them to think about future opportunities and post-16 pathways right on their doorstep.

The initiative aimed to highlight the diverse career paths available within a football club, demonstrating that professional opportunities extend far beyond the pitch.

It was an engaging and motivational experience, helping students develop their aspirations and think positively about their next steps.

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YOUNG CARERS - CREATIVITY, WELLBEING AND REWARD

BLINDFOLDED ART TO MUSIC

Our wonderful Young Carers group, supported by Mrs Dawes, recently took part in a creative blindfolded art-to-music session. Students listened to the music and responded through colour, movement and texture, letting the sounds guide their artwork.

A creative wellbeing experience

It was a brilliant opportunity to relax, have fun and try something completely different together. The activity encouraged confidence, imagination and trust.

A VERY WELL-DESERVED REWARD!

The group are now looking forward to their reward trip to Jump on 16 December. We hope they have a fantastic time - very well deserved!

CREATIVITY IN ACTION







Lead with Kindness | Stronger Together | Creating, connecting and celebrating our Young Carers

Thank you to Mrs Dawes for supporting this fantastic group.

We are so proud of our Young Carers and all that they contribute to school life.

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HOUSE COMPETITION - PUMPKIN CREATIVITY

HALF-TERM HOUSE CHALLENGE

Our House Competition for this half term was a brilliant pumpkin challenge for both staff and students. The entries showed imagination, humour and fantastic attention to detail - and they certainly brought a splash of autumn colour to the academy!

CREATIVITY, COMMUNITY & HOUSE PRIDE

From carving and painting to inventive 3D designs, we loved seeing so many different ideas. Thank you to everyone who took part and helped make this a fun, inclusive House event.

WINNERS

Student winners:

Scarlett & Daisy

Teacher winner:

Miss Alford

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A FANTASTIC DISPLAY OF CREATIVITY















Thank you to everyone who entered - a brilliant celebration of creativity, fun and our House community.

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UPCOMING DATES | OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2026

OCTOBER & NOVEMBER

22 OCT	Meet the Year 7 Tutor Evening
22 OCT	School Council Forum at Sizewell B Visitor Centre
23 OCT	Professional Development Day for staff – school closed
23 OCT	Edurio survey open to parents and students
2 NOV	Students return to school
3 NOV	Five Year 11 students visit the Houses of Parliament
8 NOV	Remembrance Parade – St Margaret's Church, Leiston
9 NOV	Year 11 two-week mock examination window begins
10 NOV	Year 7 and 8 Hackathon
11 NOV	School Remembrance Ceremony – cadets and Guides may wear their uniform
12-17 NOV	Book Fair at break and lunchtime

NOVEMBER & DECEMBER

13 NOV	Gaming Careers Trip to Lowestoft
20 NOV	Children in Need
27 NOV	Flu vaccinations
3 DEC	Lille Christmas Market Trip
4 DEC	Flu vaccinations
9 DEC	Year 11 reports sent home to parents
10 DEC	Year 11 Parents' Evening
10 DEC	Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day for Save the Children
11 DEC	Christmas Concert at Alde Valley Academy
16 DEC	Enrichment Day 1
18 DEC	School closes at 1 pm for the Christmas holidays