Alde Valley Academy

Aspire and Achieve. Lead with Kindness. Stronger Together.

Inspiring our community, shaping brighter futures.

NOVEMBER 2026

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER • FRIDAY 13 NOVEMBER 2026

THIS WEEK AT ALDE VALLEY

Welcome back! It has been a wonderful start to the half term, full of ambition, creativity and community spirit. Here are some of the moments we are especially proud to share with you.

OUR STUDENTS SHINE AT THE HOUSE OF LORDS

Five Year 11 students — Lydia, Ruby, Merran, Sophia and Shanjay — represented Alde Valley Academy at a prestigious parliamentary engineering reception on 3 November. Ruby and Lydia asked thoughtful questions; Lydia received an exceptional round of applause.



YOUNG VOICES AT SIZEWELL C

Students met Nigel Cann, CEO of Sizewell C, to explore his career and discuss the issues that matter to local young people. Several attended the community forum, gaining valuable insight into decisions shaping our area.



REMEMBERING TOGETHER

On Sunday 8 November, Head Students Shanjay and Merran laid the Academy wreath at St Margaret's Church, Leiston, while Sophie gave a reading. On Armistice Day, Sophie led our cadets in a whole-school act of remembrance, accompanied by musicians from the Royal British Legion Band in Leiston.



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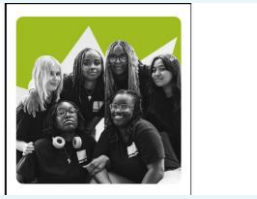
STUDENT VOICE / CAREERS / COMMUNITY

BIG IDEAS. BRIGHT FUTURES.

SOCIAL ACTION HACKATHON

Around 80 pupils from local primary schools and Alde Valley Academy came together at Sizewell C for a youth social action Hackathon. Our Year 7 and 8 representatives developed imaginative ideas to reduce inequalities in the area.

The event was delivered by Volunteering Matters and the I Movement team on behalf of Suffolk County Council.



YEAR 9 BT ENTERPRISE CHALLENGE

Twelve Year 9 students competed with other schools to create and pitch a business concept to a panel of experts — a brilliant blend of Dragons' Den and The Apprentice!



GAME DESIGN CAREERS

Students are visiting a GAME workshop in Lowestoft with Mr Reardon, exploring creative gaming design and how their interests could become future careers.



ON STAGE: A CHRISTMAS MIRACLE

KNIGHTS, DEMONS AND A PROFESSIONAL OPERA

Our students are rehearsing alongside conductor John Andrews and opera director Frederic Wake-Walker, Artistic Director of Mahogany Opera, for Britten Pears Arts' A Christmas Miracle.

This opportunity is made possible through Britten Pears Arts and the Leiston Education Partnership. The work was composed by Errollyn Wallen CBE, appointed Master of the King's Music in 2024 — the first Black person to hold the position.

Performances at Orford Church: Friday 20 November at 6.30pm; Saturday 21 November at 3pm and 6.30pm.

BRITTEN PEARS ARTS • MAHOGANY OPERA

BEHIND THE SCENES



Our students enjoying rehearsals with professional artists.

SPORT / PE / PRIMARY PARTNERSHIPS

ALDE VALLEY ACADEMY: MORE THAN A SCORE

UNDER-14 BOYS' CUP FOOTBALL

Alde Valley Academy 2–5 Mildenhall Academy. There were chances for both teams in an exciting cup match, but sadly the result did not go our way. Our boys showed great commitment and teamwork.



YEAR 7 & 8 NETBALL

Our Year 7 and 8 teams had great fun representing Alde Valley Academy in a partnership tournament — even with the fog rolling in! Well done to everyone involved.



PARTNERSHIPS AND SPORTING INSPIRATION

PRIMARY SCHOOL GAMES WINNERS

A huge well done to Saxmundham Primary School, winners of the girls' football tournament, and Leiston Primary School, winners of the boys'/mixed tournament. Great fun was had by all!

CAREERS IN FOOTBALL

Thank you to Barry Norman for speaking to our GCSE PE students about his career in football. Barry has worked with the England football team for many years and travelled with them to America this summer for the World Cup. His experiences highlighted the exciting range of careers available in sport.

ASPIRE IN ACTION

Sport at Alde Valley is about participation, teamwork, resilience and new opportunities — on the pitch and beyond.

FESTIVE FOOD & CELEBRATIONS

OUR SPECIAL FIREWORKS LUNCH

Last week our canteen served a special fireworks-themed lunch menu, bringing a little extra sparkle to the school day. Thank you to the catering team for this lovely treat!





CHRISTMAS DINNER — THURSDAY 10 DECEMBER

Our Christmas Lunch takes place on Thursday 10 December 2026.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH MENU

Traditional Christmas Roast Turkey
or Creamy Vegetable Puff Pastry Turnover (vegetarian)
Selection of Christmas Desserts

£2.65 per student

HOW TO ORDER

Please use the MCAS app → School Shop to choose Turkey or Vegetarian and pay by Friday 27 November.
Free school meal students receive lunch free, but parents/carers must still order their chosen option in MCAS.
Students will receive a token on the morning of 10 December to collect their lunch.
No other lunch food will be served that day. Students without a Christmas lunch order must bring a packed lunch; breaktime food is available as usual.
Orders are non-refundable due to the catering timescales.

CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY | THURSDAY 10 DECEMBER

Students may wear a Christmas jumper and bring a donation for Save the Children. All other school uniform expectations remain in place.

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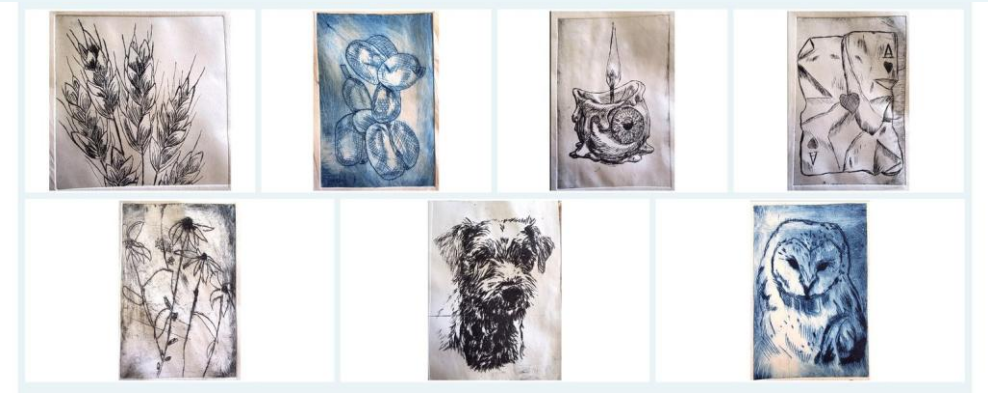
ARTS / CREATIVITY / MUSIC

THE CREATIVE SIDE OF ALDE VALLEY

YEAR 10 ART: DRY-POINT ETCHINGS

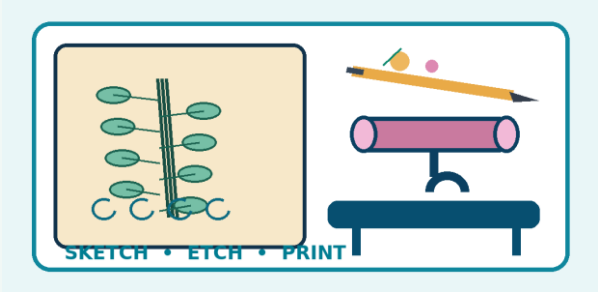
Inspired by Angie Lewin, our Year 10 students are creating extraordinary dry-point prints. Their designs demonstrate imagination, patience and impressive technical skill. Well done to all our young artists!



FROM SKETCH TO PRINT

Students are taking inspiration from the natural world, carefully engraving printing plates and experimenting with marks, textures and detail.

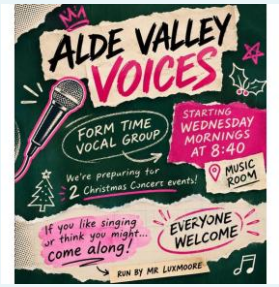
Their original designs reveal growing confidence and creative thinking. We cannot wait to see the finished prints!

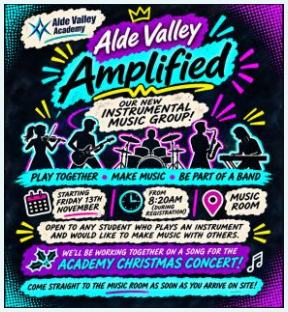


ALDE VALLEY VOICES & BOLD & BRASSY — EVERYONE CAN MAKE MUSIC!

ALDE VALLEY VOICES

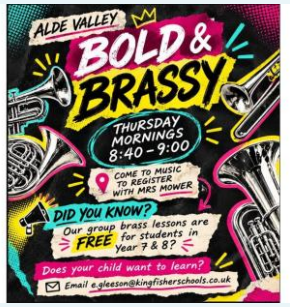
Our brand-new vocal group is off to a flying start, with 23 students already involved and three exciting performance opportunities before Christmas. If you love singing — or think you might — come along! Everyone is welcome. Wednesdays at 8.40am in the Music Room. Led by Mr Luxmoore.





BOLD & BRASSY

Big sound, big attitude! Bold & Brassy is for students who love making music together, whether they already play a brass instrument or are just beginning. Join us on Thursdays, 8.40–9.00am in the Music Room; register with Mrs Mower. FREE group brass lessons are available for Years 7 and 8. To get started, email e.gleeson@kingfisherschools.co.uk.



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SCHOOL LIFE / READING / CELEBRATION

GIVE SOMETHING NEW A GO

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

The Book Fair is open to all students at lunchtimes. Explore new titles, make a wish list and discover your next favourite read. Parents can pay online through Scholastic.



ART4WELLBEING

Love art? Join a welcoming space to draw, colour, chat or finish art homework. Fridays, 1.05–1.40pm in DT1, with rewards for regular attendance.



OCTOBER DUOLINGO STARS

Congratulations to everyone practising languages this month. Josh tops the October leaderboard with an incredible 5,444 XP!

DUOLINGO OCTOBER LEADER BOARD
1. Josh – 5444 XP
2. Leo – 3682 XP
3. Joann - 3641 XP
4. Mrs Thompson – 2844 XP
5. Faith – 2160 XP
6. Kai – 1527 XP
7. Harmony – 1480 XP
8. Mrs Steadman – 1089 XP
9. Shanjay - 1028 XP
10. Cherry – 881 XP

ATTENDANCE: EVERY DAY COUNTS

64% of our students are now in attendance band 1 — an increase of 25% compared with last year. Thank you to families for supporting excellent routines and punctuality. Well done to all the students and their parents and carers!

UPCOMING EVENTS | DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

13 NOV	Gaming Careers Trip to Lowestoft	**20–21 NOV**	A Christmas Miracle, Orford Church (Fri 6.30pm; Sat 3pm & 6.30pm)
27 NOV	Flu vaccinations	**3 DEC**	Lille Christmas Market Trip
4 DEC	Flu vaccinations	**9 DEC**	Year 11 reports sent home
10 DEC	Year 11 Parents' Evening	**10 DEC**	Christmas Dinner & Christmas Jumper Day
11 DEC	Christmas Concert at Alde Valley Academy	**16 DEC**	ASPIRE Enrichment Day
18 DEC	School closes at 1pm for Christmas		

Thank you for your continued support — we look forward to another exciting half term.