



Alde Valley Academy

# Newsletter

for pupils, staff and parents



March/April 2018

## A Message from Mr Wilson

I have had the opportunity since Christmas to visit a number of other secondary schools in Suffolk and in the wider country. I must tell you that when I return to Alde Valley Academy, I am immediately struck by an incredible sense of community spirit that has unquestionably contributed to the school's rapid and sustained improvements. There was no greater example of this than the Talent Show that took place last Friday. The school always pulls together, a definite advantage of being a small school. I am very proud of what has been achieved here and I am sure that you and the town of Leiston share that pride. The word of our success is obviously getting to high places as I was recently very pleasantly surprised and honoured to be informed that I am invited to attend a Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace in May as part of Prince Charles' birthday celebrations. I do not know if he has heard of Alde Valley Academy, but if I have anything to do with it, he certainly will have by the end of the day!

This is an incredibly busy time for our Year Ten, Eleven and Thirteen students. There is much work being undertaken by the staff and students alike. I am always so impressed to see teachers going that extra mile, this is no better exemplified by the revision sessions taking place in mornings, after school and even on Saturdays! Last Friday when I visited lessons I saw terrific engagement and learning in all the lessons that I saw. We hear much in the media about education, staffing recruitment and a funding crisis and indeed the challenges facing all schools have never been greater but above all, it is the quality of learning that counts and that is what we will always seek to achieve.

Mr Mayhew and I took part in a meeting with representatives of EDF two weeks ago at Endeavour House in Ipswich. When Sizewell C comes into fruition, it will clearly have a huge impact on the career opportunities for young people in Leiston and beyond, particularly around apprenticeships. They are very keen to see Alde Valley Academy, particularly with its partnership with Suffolk New College, spearhead their investment into skills and labour in a wide range of areas. The Bright Tribe Education Trust is fully supportive of this and is equally excited about the tremendous opportunities that lie ahead for the young people of Leiston.

Finally, I would like to thank you all for your continued support to the school and supporting us in educating your children. It is a great honour and a responsibility that we take very seriously.

Happy Easter!

*Mr Wilson*

*Interim Regional Executive Principal*

## D ates for your D iary:

16th April: PD Day

17th April: First day of Summer Term

19th April: Course Advice Event at Suffolk New College 'on the coast'



# A Message from Mr Mayhew

Dear Parents

It has been a full and engaging half-term for students and staff at Alde Valley Academy. Year Eleven have just completed their final set of GCSE mock exams in English and Maths and students now need to focus on their revision over the Easter holidays. A revision programme has been set up for Year Eleven in school to assist with their learning over the Easter break and we hope that all of our students will take advantage of the staffs' commitment to their progress at this crucial time. Year Ten have also completed their English Literature mocks and for many students their hard work is beginning to pay off with some very pleasing results.

Year Nine students have made their GCSE options for the next 2 years. Their options included four additional subjects in Health & Social Care, Music Technology, Computer Science and Philosophy & Ethics. We look forward to working with all of our students in the Key Stage 4 years in their chosen programmes of study.

Key Stage 3 have had an equally busy time both in curricular and extra-curricular time. Both boys and girls have taken part in an extensive fixtures programme in football, rugby and recently were North Suffolk champions at the School Games trampolining hosted here at Alde Valley Academy. Our students go on to represent the North at the County finals on Tuesday 27th March. We wish them the best of luck and hope that all of their commitment to training pays off.

As the school moves forward with its mission to become an outstanding school we have been active in securing two new members of the Alde Valley Academy Drive Team: TJ Howarth-Culf and Mrs Tanya Miley. We welcome all new members of the team and look forward to working closely with them to drive the school forward in securing new opportunities.

In conjunction with this ambition for success we are busy securing partnerships within the local community. We have been in talks with EDF Energy representatives to develop a partnership between the Sizewell C planning team and Alde Valley Academy to establish a 'skills pipeline' for the construction and running of the new nuclear plant. If Sizewell C gets permission to proceed, they will require a skilled workforce of over 6,000 workers, 30% of which must be local. The start of this process involves a close working relationship with staff who value the established link with Alde Valley Academy and through working with Niki Rousseau and Roger Barge from Sizewell B we are sure that this positive impact will be significant for all the students in school.

I wish you all a very Happy Easter.

Mr D Mayhew

Interim Head of School

## My Relationship With Dance

My name is Aiden Perkins and I am currently in Year Ten at Alde Valley Academy. I have been dancing for the past seven years and dance at a high level across a range of disciplines: Grade 4 and 5 ballet, bronze ballroom and Latin.

I have entered many competitions both for ballroom and Latin which has involved a great deal of travelling, the most recent competition being at the Winter Gardens in Blackpool where I was awarded four trophies, including first place in the cha-cha-cha and quickstep. This gave me the title of 'UK Champion'.

In 2016 I was nominated for 'Raising the Bar Awards' for the most inspirational young person of the year. I was a runner up out of the hundreds of people who were nominated.

Most recently, I have auditioned for the English Youth Ballet for the third time. This is a company that puts on performances for young people to take part in between the ages of 8 -18 years. I have just heard that I have passed the audition and I will be performing in the new premier of 'Cinderella in Hollywood' at the Theatre Royal, Norwich on the 25th and 26th May 2018.



I have already performed in 'Swan Lake' and 'Sleeping Beauty' with the English Youth Ballet at the Theatre Royal.

My ambition is to study Performing Arts and to make a career of performing on stage, mainly in ballet, but I would like to increase my abilities and range as a performer to allow more flexibility. I hope to teach dance as I progress through my career.





## Partnership Schools Swimming Gala



Four local secondary schools competed in the Partnership Swimming Gala on Tuesday 6th February. Alde Valley Academy had a team of fifty students which included club swimmers and students from our swimming lessons. The Year 7 girls won their events and the Year 10 and 11 girls came second in their relays. The Year 7 boys team were seconded to help the Year 8 & 9 teams. Fantastic overall team effort and commitment was shown by students during the event.

A massive thank you to the Leiston Swimming Club for their first-rate and continued support.

*Mrs Mayhew*

*Performing & Creative Arts Faculty Leader*



## House Swimming Gala

This years House Swimming Gala was a fantastic event with over 100 students in the water! Students from Years 7, 8 and 9 applied their learning and enthusiasm to produce some very close races and tight results overall. Key Stage 4 consisted of mainly our GCSE PE students along with some club and ex-club swimmers from Year 11 representing their houses.

Results were:

Year 7 winners-Deben

Year 8 winners-Deben

Year 9 winners-Blyth

Key Stage 4 winners-Blyth

Overall House Winners for 2018 were Team Blyth.

Congratulations to all of our students in the pool at Alde Valley. Thank you for making this a great House event with commitment and encouragement from all involved.

*Mrs Mayhew*

*Performing & Creative Arts Faculty Leader*



## Primary Quicksticks Competition

A great hockey tournament was held here at Alde Valley Academy on the 8th March for our feeder primary schools. The exciting final game was between Coldfair Green and Saxmundham primary school's teams with Coldfair Green taking the winner's title at the end of the day!

Congratulations to them in their first tournament win this year in primary sports events.

# SPORT RELIEF

## NEWSFLASH!!

Students from Years 7–10 raised £490.10 in donations on their cycle challenge for Sport Relief on 23rd March. They cycled 254km during the day with class 7D winning a prize for cycling the furthest in their hour.

Excellent work for an excellent cause, thank you!

## FURTHER FUNDRAISING

Non-uniform and sporty clothes were worn by students and staff on the Friday for a £1 donation each towards Sport Relief.

Our Year 10 Young Enterprise team organised and sold tickets for an impromptu talent show within a few days. Although short notice it was a well organised and fantastic showcase. The amazing talents of several of our students from all years were thoroughly appreciated by all.

Well done to the boys for a lunchtime show enjoyed by all and with the non uniform the total raised for both was £431.78!



## Film club

Come and watch a film every Thursday after school at Miss Merrett's Film Club in room 6. Pupils can become a member of the Into Film Online Club which lets them select films they'd like to watch in the school club and write an online review plus enter competitions.



<https://www.facebook.com/OfficialAldeValleyAcademy>



<https://twitter.com/aldevalley>

### Policies:

Please be aware that all policies including the Behaviour and Exclusions Policies, Complaints Policy and Attendance Policy are available on the Academy's website under 'Useful Information'.

### Safeguarding:

Alde Valley's Designated Safeguarding Lead is Mr N Ketteringham (SendCo/Inclusion).



**‘Choices 2018’**  
 Art & Design Exhibition  
 Bury St Edmunds Cathedral  
 7th –21st March 2018

Alde Valley Academy has an ongoing exhibition programme to display **students’ work at Bury St Edmunds Cathedral**. This gives the school **opportunities to celebrate students’ achievements** by showing their artwork annually in the cathedral. This year all of Year Eight were involved in making six screens all based on geometric shapes. The students worked collaboratively, producing two screens for each class. Initially they split up the rectangular screen into shapes using wood, wire and cardboard. They then selected where they place, overlap, cover and reveal spaces using multiples of their chosen group shape. The Alde Valley screens took pride of place in the exhibition and they were illuminated using coloured light to draw attention to the shapes, textures and translucency of the work. Another major artistic success for Alde Valley Academy – we are now planning 2019!

**‘School Art - A Showcase of Artistic Talent from Leiston Schools’**

Art & Design Exhibition  
 St Margaret’s Church, Leiston  
 25th – 30th June 2018  
 Open Daily 10 -4

Alde Valley Academy is involved in organising an art exhibition to be held in St Margaret’s Church in Leiston in June. We are planning to include work from Leiston Primary School as well, to celebrate artistic achievement from across the age ranges in Leiston schools.

More information will follow shortly!