



Dear parents and carers

When the Governors and I sat down to discuss our vision for Alameda, we really wanted to capture the breadth of opportunity that middle schools can offer due to their size and specialist facilities. That vision is something that we return to often during the school day, in assemblies, form times and lessons.

At Alameda we are **Ambitious** to Achieve, **Motivated** to Learn and **Confident** to Soar.

For me, this last half term has embodied our vision perfectly and I would like to take a moment to reflect on the many successes that continue to make our school such a vibrant and inspiring community. Following the drama club's performance of *Macbeth* at The Grove Theatre, our recent *Music and Dance Showcase*, and *Alameda Moves* were nothing short of exceptional: displaying not only the talent of our pupils, but also their dedication, confidence and joy in performing. Alongside this, we have celebrated impressive sporting achievements, with our teams demonstrating resilience, teamwork and true school spirit. The girls' netball team qualifying for the Under 13 national finals is an outstanding achievement. Furthermore, we have celebrated success at the UK Mathematics Trust Regional Competition in Milton Keynes and were runners up in the Luton Rotary Clubs Technology Tournament in March. I hope you enjoy reading about all our achievements in the following pages.

As I write, 60 pupils are enjoying our inaugural French trip, and 50 pupils will be taking to the slopes for the first week of the Easter holidays. Thank you to all the staff who make turn these opportunities into life-long memories.

While there is much to celebrate, I would also like to acknowledge that we have experienced extended periods of staff absence this academic year. This is, I hope, a temporary challenge, and I am grateful to both staff and pupils for their flexibility, support and understanding during this time. I am excited to welcome Mrs Wilkins (Head of Maths) back from maternity in May.

It is with both gratitude and sadness that, next half term, we will be saying farewell to our well-read and much-loved librarian, Mrs Sharpe, who leaves us after 25 years of devoted service. Her knowledge, kindness and wisdom have shaped the reading journeys of countless pupils. As the saying goes, "A library is not a luxury but one of the necessities of life," and her work has truly embodied this sentiment. We will all miss her greatly.

Finally, a polite reminder from me to all pupils that when wearing school uniform in the local community, they are ambassadors for our school. Please speak to your child about acting sensibly and showing consideration for others on their journeys to and from school.

Wishing you all a peaceful holiday and I look forward to welcoming the pupils back to school on Monday 13th April.

Best wishes,

Jacqueline Ross

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English

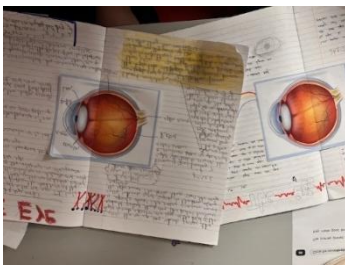
It has been another busy and exciting half term in the English department, with pupils across all year groups showing fantastic engagement with reading, writing and discussion.

Year 5

Year 5 have been thoroughly enjoying their class text, *There's a Boy in the Girls' Bathroom*. Pupils have shown excellent engagement with the themes of the story and have produced some fantastic writing in role, really capturing the voices and feelings of the characters. It has also been wonderful to see the creativity of the year group, with some beautiful artistic representations of the settings from the novel.



Year 6



Year 6 have continued to work incredibly hard in their English lessons and recently completed another very successful set of mock SATs. We are extremely proud of their engagement and the progress they are making across all areas of the curriculum. Pupils also produced some brilliant pieces of writing for British Science Week, showing both creativity and enthusiasm for the topic. We think they were definitely inspired by the Exciting Science show they watched too!

Year 7

Engagement with the class reader *Ghost Boys* has been fantastic. Pupils have approached the themes with maturity and sensitivity, leading to thoughtful discussions in class. We have also seen great progress in analytical writing, particularly through the use of quotation explosions to explore language in more depth. Alongside this, pupils produced some wonderful travel writing guides to Chicago – the descriptions were so vivid and the writing so persuasive they truly made us want to visit!

Year 8

Year 8 pupils have approached their study of *Stone Cold* with great maturity, showing thoughtful understanding of the issue of homelessness. They produced some excellent persuasive speeches to the government about tackling the societal problems that can lead to homelessness. It was also great to see this work complemented by their studies of the playscript in drama lessons. More recently, pupils have been enjoying a film studies unit on *Romeo and Juliet*, building confidence with understanding Shakespearean language while also learning key film terminology. We hope this unit has inspired some pupils to consider film studies as an option later in their education.

World Book Day



We had a fantastic time celebrating World Book Day this year. It was wonderful to see so many pupils (and staff!) getting involved. The "Murder in the Library" mystery was solved by lots of our keen readers, and we received some brilliant entries for the World Book Day token competition. We were also incredibly proud of the four pupils who represented Alameda in the National Year of Reading Quiz – the only school represented from Bedfordshire! Their achievement even earned them a well-deserved shout-out from Blake Stephenson, which was a fantastic recognition of their enthusiasm for reading.

We are very proud of the effort and enthusiasm our pupils continue to show for English and look forward to seeing what they achieve next.

Miss Jennings and Mrs Drewery

Science

British Science Week

British Science Week was celebrated in style this year. Both the Year 7 and 8 Science Fairs took place, as well as the travelling science roadshow 'Exciting Science' returning for their second Year 5 and 6 classes.

The week really showcased the very best in how science is championed and supported at Alameda.

Science Fairs

You may notice the addition of the 's' at the end of fairs. Indeed, after last year's success and ever-expanding number of participants, the decision was made to run not one, but two science fairs this year. Wednesday saw the Year 7s present their work, with Year 8s following on Thursday.

The two hours in the hall of the actual science fair is the culmination of, for many, a solid six months of work, both in school and at home. The quality and depth of many of the projects reflected this. The wonderful thing about science is that it helps explain and deepen understanding of whatever interest you may have, so students presented work on music, bike engineering, a whole lot of food related topics, fish and even dog psychology!



Some students pursued their own scientific enquiries or deepened their knowledge of subjects they had learnt in their lessons. These topics were as broad as magnetic slime, glow in the dark bouncy eggs, DNA, the science of bubbles, natural disasters, carbon snakes, dreams, lung and heart function, hot air balloons and microorganisms!

I'm sure visitors left with a new multitude of facts, insights and inspirations.

The winners were:

Year 7

1st -Monstrous microorganisms

2nd -The human heart

3rd – Bike parts

Student's choice: Oobleck vs elephant's toothpaste



Year 8

1st - Food science

2nd -Dog neurology

3rd - Do skittles have a flavour?

Student's choice: DNA and radiation



The 'Exciting Science' Roadshow

Years 5 and 6 enjoyed the return of the scientists from the Exciting Science project. Doing things bigger and crazier than we could ever do in a classroom, the show really is an exciting showcase of scientific mayhem with a whole lot of learning thrown in too!

The mad scientists showed the children just how fun science can be with volcanic eruptions, rocket launchers, breathing fire, 'The Big Bang' and toilet paper blowers.

The children absolutely enjoyed it, one commenting 'totally and obviously awesome'.

Key Stage Two Science Club

It has been great to see so many keen students attend KS2 science club again this term. There have been competitive engineering tasks, messy making sessions and strange smelly sessions! All of these are great to try at home too so if you're bored over the Easter break there's always some fun science you can try.

Spring term activities:

- Build the tallest tower
- Oobleck
- Marshmallow catapult launch
- What's that smell?
- Perfect paper planes
- Rainbow columns
- Beautiful buoyant boats
- Ice cream in a bag
- Easter special (galactic eggs)



The club takes a break now until September- sincere thanks to our Year 8 Science Leaders who have been running the sessions since September and who have inspired our younger students.



Year 8 Science Leaders

Congratulations to all our science leaders who have run sessions for KS2 in their lunch breaks, as well as delivering sessions to our feeder lower schools. We do have some exciting projects in the pipeline for summer for them to get involved with, these will be announced soon! Really well done - your leadership has been invaluable!

Miss Smith

French Department

It has been an exciting second term for the Languages Department.



We have had **Year 5** design pet posters and some of them were rewarded for their efforts, well done!

Year 6 took part in a French lesson covering the solar system for Science Week and have also been covering the theme of food and drink, in which they can request items from a menu and then let another person know when they are hungry or thirsty.

Year 7 learnt to tell the time in French and learnt about schools in France, describing clothes, teachers and lessons. Sixty of our Year 7 are currently on the French Trip to Chateau Beaumont (more information to follow in our summer newsletter).

Year 8 have been learning how to describe different types of pictures. They have also learnt French skills covering how to go shopping in a market and ordering foods by weight.

All the students have been wonderful in their attitude to learning on these different themes, and I am very pleased that they enjoy their lessons.

The Languages Department wishes all our community des joyeuses Pâques.

Mr Bargiela

Geography



It has been a busy and exciting time across the geography department, with pupils showing great enthusiasm and commitment to their learning.

Year 5 have been working fantastically in groups on our mountains project. They have been building their teamwork skills while also learning and using lots of new geographical vocabulary. Pupils have also been using technology to support their learning, helping them research and present their ideas with confidence.

Year 6 have delivered sensational drama performances. They used character, action and narrative to tell powerful geographical stories, showing creativity as well as a strong understanding of the themes we have been studying.

Year 7 have been fully engaged in their China topic, developing their understanding of the country's physical and human geography.

Year 8 have been getting outside for some important fieldwork. They have been measuring trees and learning about the vital role they play in our world. It has been great to see pupils applying their knowledge in a real-world setting.

We also saw fantastic whole-school engagement at home with the Great British Birdwatch. Thank you to all those who took part.



Miss Mills

Design Technology and Textiles

In Textiles Club and DT lessons, pupils have been creating seasonal decorations and sweet dispensers. KS2 pupils and DT leaders have particularly enjoyed the extracurricular lunchtime DT sessions.

Numerous Headteacher Awards have been submitted in recognition of the high-quality work produced across the department, and entries are still being accepted for the mascot competition.

This term, 12 KS3 pupils took part in the DT Rotary Tournament. Working independently, they were challenged to move a car using a pulley and weight system. Despite strong competition, our pupils achieved an impressive second place in the Foundation category.

Next term, we are looking forward to the Year 7 DT trip to the Silverstone Museum.

Mr M Brown

Spring Music and Drama Concert – A Resounding Success

This week's Spring Music and Drama performance was a truly memorable occasion and a great success from start to finish. Our talented soloists delivered brilliant performances, moving the audience and, at times, bringing many to tears.



The school's music groups showcased not only their impressive skill but also their teamwork, performing each piece with confidence and precision. The evening built to a spectacular close, with the choir delivering a rousing finale that quite literally raised the roof.

Our Drama "Act 1" group also deserves special recognition for their passionate and polished performance, demonstrating both dedication and creativity on stage.

A huge thank you goes to all of the staff—both in the spotlight and working behind the scenes—for their continued support in helping our children prepare and shine.

We now look ahead with excitement to our next major event: the Big Tent Schools event on the school field on 9th July. It promises to be a fantastic occasion, and we look forward to welcoming everyone there. Tickets will go on sale in April, so please keep an eye out for further details.

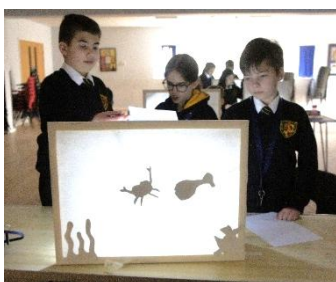


Mr Bottone

Drama

It has been another brilliant term for Drama with pupils developing skills and confidence both in lessons and by taking part in extra-curricular activities.

Year 5 have explored a varied programme of theatre this term, starting with a unit on puppetry that began with workshops delivered by professional puppeteer, Su Nixon, from Full House Theatre. Pupils made paper puppets



and applied key puppeteering skills to make them breathe, give them weight and bring them to life through coordinated movements. This has been a fantastic partnership with a renowned theatre company to bring industry practice into the classroom and provided a valuable and fun foundation for pupils to then expand their puppetry skills further by creating their own



shadow puppet theatres. It has also been lovely to go back in time to study Greek theatre and learn about why amphitheatres are shaped as they are, what the different sections of the theatres are used for and the importance of the Chorus in performance. Pupils have had the opportunity to develop unison speaking and devise choreography using a Greek myth as their text and then design their own Greek theatre masks to use in performance. It's been a joy to see Year 5 grow in confidence and understanding through this term, embed our Key Cs in their own creative process and expand their awareness of different theatrical traditions and cultures.





Following on from their Physical Comedy unit last term, **Year 7** classes have had a fun term focusing on different performance skills, including mask and mime work and performance poetry. Creative collaboration has been at the heart of all learning this term and it has been lovely to see pupils working together to apply their knowledge of physical comedy to devise group mime pieces that demonstrate a new understanding of the principles of full mask performance. Our Drama motto at Alameda is Courage + Kindness = Confidence and it has been a pleasure to see pupils challenge themselves to produce and perform hilarious and skilful skits in front of their peers. This

confidence has also been evident in the Performance Poetry unit this term where pupils have focused on rhythm and storytelling, applying body percussion and vocal skills to produce their own precisely choreographed versions of the poems. This has really been a transformative term for the Year 7s and I cannot wait to see what they do next term!

Spring Term for **Year 8** has been all about joint units with English to support pupils' understanding of play texts, adaptations and directorial choices. Through the study of the play version of the novel *Stone Cold*, pupils explored the differences between script and prose, choices made by playwrights and directors when adapting texts for the stage, and how proxemics, staging and inference within dialogue can reveal tension, emotion and character relationships for a live audience. Understanding differences between mediums has also been a key feature of our unit on Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, where pupils' exploration of directorial choices in Baz Luhrmann's film version in English has been compared with a stage production at The Globe Theatre and practical work in lessons exploring ways to tell powerful stories in imaginative ways. Both units provide valuable insights and learning that will help pupils in years to come when studying Shakespeare at GCSE level.



Extra-Curricular Drama

Both Act 1 and Act 2 Drama groups have produced incredible performance pieces this term.

Act 2 - Macbeth at the Shakespeare Schools Festival



A cast of pupils across all year groups demonstrated genuine courage and commitment in rehearsals for their abridged version of Shakespeare's

Macbeth in preparation for a performance as part of the national Shakespeare Schools Festival at The Grove Theatre in Dunstable. It has been an extraordinary experience for all involved and their performances, both at the theatre and in school to support Year 6 and their understanding of the play, have been incredible. The impact of this



project on pupils has been far-reaching with many exceeding their own expectations of their capabilities, voicing that this has increased their confidence around school and in lessons, made them more resilient and willing to face new challenges, and increased their sense of belonging amongst peers. This is the power of drama and theatre, and we are so incredibly proud of everyone involved.

Act 1 – The Butterfly Lovers at the Spring Concert

The Act 1 Drama group involving Year 5 and 6 pupils have also been busy rehearsing a physical theatre ensemble piece based on an ancient Chinese folktale called **The Butterfly Lovers**. The group has really developed their drama skills during the process, including unison and choral vocal and physical skills, using bodies and physical action to represent locations, themes and link to dialogue, and use choreographed staging to tell stories to an audience. Their performance at the Spring Concert was magical and they should be very proud of how they are developing into a really accomplished group of performers.



Ms Bell

Dance



This term in dance, pupils have put in hours of rehearsals to perform two fantastic dance shows. They have truly flourished, showcasing an inspiring level of creativity, commitment, and talent across all year groups.

Once again, we took part at the Redborne Dance Showcase giving pupils the opportunity to perform and be part of the wider dance community.



This term also saw us perform our own separate dance show called *Alameda Moves*. Over 100 pupils from across all year groups took part, showcasing a variety of dance styles. They all have a genuine passion for dance. We look forward to building on this success in the coming term with even more exciting opportunities to perform.

Well done to all pupils who took part.

Mr Brown and Ms Nieto

PE

This term has been another fantastic one for the PE department, with pupils across all year groups demonstrating outstanding commitment, teamwork and positivity in a wide range of sports and competitions.

In rugby, both our Year 5 and Year 6 teams performed exceptionally well. The Year 5 team secured an impressive 3rd place, showing great determination and development throughout the competition. Our Year 6 contact rugby team were crowned overall winners, a superb achievement that reflects their resilience, teamwork and growing confidence in competitive situations. It was particularly pleasing to see both teams made up of boys and girls, highlighting our inclusive approach and the positive team culture we continue to build.

At Key Stage 3, rugby continued to thrive. The Year 7 team enjoyed an excellent run, winning all of their matches before narrowly losing a closely contested final against RBA to finish as league runners-up. Their journey to the final was a great example of teamwork and collective effort.

The Year 8 team also performed strongly, finishing 3rd in the league and showing consistent progress across the term.

We were also looking forward to the girls' contact rugby competition on the final day of term, providing a fantastic opportunity for students to showcase their skills and enthusiasm for the sport in a supportive and energetic environment.



In handball, our Year 8 girls achieved a brilliant 2nd place at the county competition, demonstrating excellent teamwork and tactical awareness. Meanwhile, our KS3 boys were dominant in their local competition, finishing 1st and 2nd, and we wish them the very best as they go on to represent the school at county level this week.

Netball has been another real highlight. The Year 8 girls reached the final four of the Sisters n Sport Netball Bowl competition, enjoying a fantastic day of high-quality competition at Loughborough.

The Year 7 team also impressed, reaching the regional semi-final stage. Across KS2, the netball league has been a great success, with pupils thoroughly enjoying the opportunity to represent the school and develop their teamwork skills. In addition, our Year 6, Year 7 and Year 8 teams all competed in county competitions, gaining valuable experience of performing at a high standard.





Our badminton programme continues to go from strength to strength, with Alameda winning all four partnership competitions this term.

This success is a direct reflection of the excellent attendance and commitment shown by students at our before-school clubs, where positivity and effort have been key drivers of improvement.

In football, the Year 5 team finished 4th in their league competition after Christmas and have continued to develop through additional friendly fixtures, allowing more pupils the opportunity to represent the school. In girls' football. Both KS2 and KS3 teams have shown fantastic attitudes, with the KS3 team currently unbeaten and the KS2 team demonstrating great enthusiasm and positivity in every match they play.



Finally, a number of our pupils represented the school at the district cross-country event at Sharnbrook, where several runners produced outstanding performances. We are especially proud that some of our students have been selected to represent the county, a testament to their hard work and determination.

We are now looking forward to an exciting and busy summer term, with athletics, cricket and rounders fixtures on the horizon.

Our extra-curricular programme will continue to run before school, at lunchtime and after school, supported by our amazing sports leaders, providing as many opportunities as possible for all students to get involved, stay active and continue building those key values of teamwork and positivity which have been a focus in our PE lessons this term.

We hope everyone has both a restful and active break and we look forward to seeing everyone in the summer term. Don't forget to follow our PE department on Instagram: @alamedaPEandSki

Mr Oliver

Parental Communication and Respecting Privacy

As a school community, it is important that all communication about pupils, whether it be with staff or other parents, remains respectful and mindful of privacy. When discussing or raising concerns about other children, please remember that they are minors and deserve the same care and protection we would expect for our own children.

Please be aware that sharing other pupils' names or personal information in written or electronic communication can raise data protection (GDPR) concerns. If you need to communicate with the school about another pupil, focus on facts and situations rather than naming individuals wherever possible. This helps us maintain a safe and respectful environment for everyone.

We appreciate your cooperation in ensuring that our school community continues to be supportive, safe, and respectful for all pupils.

Mrs Sibley



THURSDAY 9TH JULY 2026

ALAMEDA SPORTS FIELD - IN THE BIG TENT.

**SCHOOLS INVOLVED: ALAMEDA MIDDLE,
MAULDEN LOWER, THE FIRS LOWER,
RUSSELL LOWER AND REDBORNE UPPER**

TICKETS £5 PER PERSON
(UNDER 3'S ARE FREE - NO TICKET IS REQUIRED)

GATES OPEN AT 5PM - PERFORMANCE FROM 6PM-7.30PM

**This will be a celebration of Dance,
Drama and Music students from
our local schools. It is hosted by
Alameda Middle School and run by
Amphill Cultural Events.**

**Food & drink concessions
available***
(*see booking site for TSC's)

**Tickets available on  trybooking
Amphill Big Tent Weekend**

