



Alameda Middle School

July 2026

Ambitious ■ Motivated ■ Confident to Soar

Dear Parent/Carer

It seems incredible that we have reached the end of another academic year already. And what a successful year it has been!

Our school has been buzzing with activity. A packed extra-curricular programme has taken children to Spain, France, Italy and even Manchester, where our mixed Under-13 Flag Football team was crowned the fifth best in the country. Congratulations!

Along the way, pupils have competed in the UK Maths Challenge and the Rotary Design and Technology Challenge, as well as delivering a superb performance of *Macbeth* at The Grove Theatre in Dunstable to a hugely appreciative audience.

Despite the extreme heat in recent weeks, we have enjoyed inclusive Sports Days, celebrated achievement at awards evenings, and been entertained by an exceptional evening of dance, drama and music at The Big Tent. I continue to feel incredibly privileged to be Headteacher of Alameda, and it is a constant source of pride to watch our children grow in confidence and character as they continue to soar.

As always at this time of year, we also say goodbye to valued colleagues, as well as to our wonderful Year 8 cohort.

Mrs Demmers-Derks, Mr Carr and Ms Picard from our SEND department will be leaving us at the end of this term and will be greatly missed. Mr McGrath, Mrs Bell and Ms Koncz are also moving on to new chapters. Each of them has made a significant contribution to the lives of so many children and to our school community, and we thank them sincerely while wishing them every success for the future.

We are equally delighted to welcome new colleagues in September: Ms Homann, who joins our Maths department, and Ms Robinson, who will be teaching English and Drama. We very much look forward to welcoming them to the Alameda team.

As we head into the summer holidays, I would like to leave you with the words I shared in our whole-school assembly:

I hope you all enjoy a well-earned rest. Spend time with your family and friends. Read a good book, explore somewhere new, play outside, take care of our planet, try something different, and make memories that will stay with you long after the holidays are over.

Then, when September arrives, come back ready for your next adventure. Bring your curiosity. Bring your kindness. Bring your determination. Most importantly, bring the confidence to keep soaring.

Mrs Ross

Headteacher

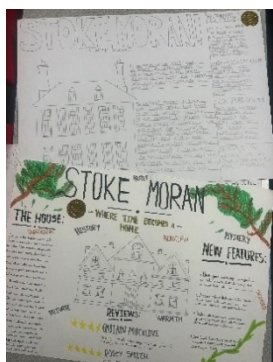
English

What a fantastic year it has been in English!



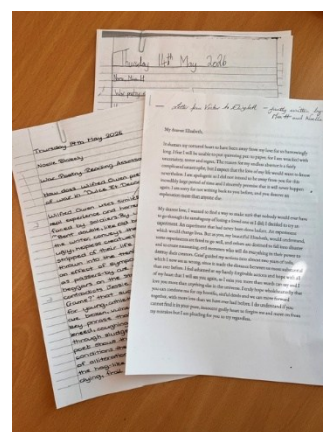
Our Year 5 pupils have completed their first year at Alameda brilliantly. This term, they thoroughly enjoyed the performance from M&M Productions and their study of *Stormbreaker*. From designing ingenious spy gadgets and creating villainous pets to crafting vivid descriptions of sinister lairs, pupils have demonstrated impressive creativity and imagination throughout the year.

Year 6 have worked exceptionally hard to develop and refine their writing skills this term. We have been incredibly impressed by their ability to write for a range of purposes and audiences, carefully adapting their language and vocabulary to suit different contexts. As part of their transition to Year 7, pupils have recently turned their attention to *Macbeth*. It has been wonderful to incorporate drama into lessons and see pupils growing in confidence when tackling Shakespearean language. We have also received some truly superb homework this term – the models of The Globe were outstanding!



Year 7 have ended the year studying detective fiction, developing a strong understanding of plot development and the ways authors create suspense and intrigue. More recently, they have explored advertising and media, making links between English, STEM and Art to understand how messages are communicated to audiences. Their engagement has been terrific, and they have produced some excellent advertising campaigns, showing a mature understanding of layout, design and persuasive techniques.

Year 8 have certainly finished their time with us in style. Their work on war poetry has been tremendous, and their analysis of language and structure has genuinely impressed us. They have risen brilliantly to the challenge of comparing poems, developing skills that will serve them well at Key Stage 4. To conclude the year, pupils have explored the wonderfully atmospheric world of gothic horror. Building on their previous learning about suspense, they have examined how writers use sentence and text structure to create tension and have engaged enthusiastically with a range of extracts from the genre. It has been a pleasure to share this unit with them, and we wish them every success as they move on to the next stage of their education.



Beyond the classroom, we have continued to champion reading as part of the National Year of Reading. We were delighted to achieve certification for our spring term reading activities and are hopeful of achieving this again for the summer term. One of the highlights has undoubtedly been our 'drop everything and read' sessions, which have been enjoyed by staff and pupils alike.

We are also delighted to welcome Mrs M, our new librarian. She has already made an impact, expanding our stock and creating exciting new opportunities for reading across the school. We are very excited about the plans she has for next year. You can read her full introduction in *The Alameda Reader*, our reading newsletter, which Mrs Barnes shared in June.



Finally, details of the Central Bedfordshire Libraries Summer Reading Challenge 2026 can also be found in *The Alameda Reader*. We hope as many pupils as possible take part, discover some exciting new books and enjoy reading over the summer holidays. Please encourage your child to share their Summer Reading Challenge success with us when they return in September.

Have a wonderful summer break, and we hope your summer reading takes you to all kinds of magical places.

Miss Jennings and Mrs Drewery

Summer Reading

Looking for a fun way to keep your child reading over the summer? In addition to the Central Bedfordshire Libraries Summer Reading Challenge 2026, there are other exciting opportunities to keep up the reading fun this summer break:

Reading Rocks Summer Book Boost

Reading Rocks Summer Book Boost is open to all readers aged **5–11**, whether they already love books or need a little encouragement!

Simply sign up with your email address and receive **seven weekly emails** throughout the holidays, featuring:

-  Videos from authors and illustrators
-  Exciting book extracts to enjoy together
-  Links to audiobook versions
-  Simple, fun activities to inspire a love of reading

Sign up here: [Summer Book Boost - Reading Rocks](#)

Free First News This Summer!

Help keep your child's reading skills sharp over the summer with **free access to First News**, the UK's award-winning newspaper for children.

Throughout the holidays, your child can enjoy:

-  Weekly digital editions packed with child-friendly news
-  Daily stories to read, listen to or watch
-  Fun quizzes and polls on current events
-  Puzzles, crosswords, Sudoku and word games
-  Family discussion prompts and talking points

It's a fantastic way to encourage regular reading while helping children stay informed and engaged over the summer break. [Alameda First News Link](#)

Maths

It has been another superb term in maths, with pupils across all year groups working incredibly hard to develop their reasoning, problem-solving and mathematical thinking skills. We have been delighted to see their confidence and enthusiasm continue to grow as they have tackled a wide range of challenging topics.

Year 5

Year 5 have continued their mathematical journey, deepening their understanding of key concepts through reasoning and problem-solving activities. This term, they have explored:

- Position and Direction
- Decimals
- Negative Numbers
- Measures
- Volume

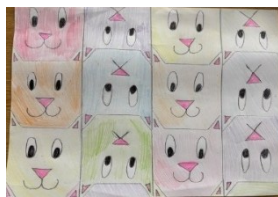
We have been particularly impressed by the determination the pupils have shown in improving their times tables and developing the arithmetic skills that will prepare them for Year 6.

Year 6

We could not be prouder of the determination, motivation, resilience and dedication shown by our Year 6 pupils throughout SATs week. Every single pupil approached the tests with a positive attitude and gave their very best – a huge well done to them all!

Since SATs, the pupils have continued to build on their mathematical knowledge by exploring the topics ratio and algebra through a variety of engaging activities. They have enjoyed team-building challenges, mathematical scavenger hunts and collaborative group projects, all of which have helped to strengthen their understanding while making learning fun.

During Little Paxton week, we also combined maths and art to create some fantastic pieces of mathematical artwork, including tessellations, Islamic geometric designs, curves of pursuit and origami-inspired creations. The pupils produced some truly impressive work and thoroughly enjoyed seeing the links between mathematics and creativity. I can't wait to have some on display in my classroom next year!



Year 7

Year 7 have worked hard this term and have explored a range of exciting topics, including Averages, Angles and Probability.

The pupils particularly enjoyed discovering how these mathematical concepts can be applied to everyday life, helping them to see the relevance of maths beyond the classroom.

Year 8

Again, Year 8 have really pushed themselves and shown a real drive of enthusiasm as they have completed the last term. The topics they have covered include:

Fractions, Correlation and Operations in standard form

They also completed a busy assessment week, demonstrating excellent effort and perseverance throughout. We have been extremely impressed with their results and look forward to sharing their achievements with their secondary schools. Well done, Year 8, on a fantastic end to the term!

TTRockstars

A huge congratulations to all of our Year 5 and Year 6 Rockstars! We have been blown away by the scores on this term's leaderboards. They reflect the dedication, commitment and perseverance our pupils have shown in practising their times tables.



Times table fluency is an essential mathematical skill that supports learning across the curriculum and provides a strong foundation for future success. It has been wonderful to see so many pupils embracing the challenge and striving to improve their personal bests.

Year 5 Top 10 TTRockstars

1. Jasmine A
2. Tommy D
3. Lucy F
4. Immy W
5. Oliver B
6. Violet H
7. Holly B
8. Charlie C
9. Sophie G
10. Danielle G

Year 6 Top 10 TTRockstars

1. Harrison D
2. Isabelle S
3. Olivia S
4. Austin D
5. Alexander W
6. Aarush P
7. Freya S
8. Anushka S
9. Jessica G
10. Oliver H

We are really proud of your hard work and enthusiasm. We are already looking forward to launching some exciting TTRockstars competitions next academic year and can't wait to see even more pupils climbing the leaderboards!

Maths Team Challenge

Well done to the ten pupils who have been regularly attending the Maths Team Challenge events at Redborne School on a fortnightly basis: Rian B, Oscar N, Oscar T, Libby M, Presley R, Kayla M, Thea P, Jacob J, Cameron S and Fergus G.

The pupils have had the opportunity to work alongside other local middle and upper schools to explore and investigate a wide range of challenging mathematical ideas. It has been fantastic to see their confidence grow as they develop their curiosity and begin to question the 'why' behind mathematical concepts. This experience has had a clear and positive impact on their mathematical thinking and language.

We look forward to welcoming new Year 7 and Year 8 pupils to take part in this opportunity next year.

Parallel Academy

Well done to all of the nominated Year 6 and Year 8 pupils who have taken part in the Parallel Academy programme. It has been wonderful to see these pupils challenging themselves beyond the classroom and demonstrating real commitment to their learning.

Year 6 pupils involved in the Primary Webinar Programme include: Aarush P, Charlie N, Eva G, Harry T, Kaelem W, Louisa P, Oliver H, Rafferty G and Ralph F.

Year 8 pupils involved in the Year 8 Webinar Programme include: Thea P, Sophia D, Mia H, Kayla M, Jacob J and Elias E.

In addition, we are unbelievably proud of Cameron S, who successfully gained a place on the highly competitive Tutorial Programme — a fantastic achievement.

Think Maths Enrichment Workshop

We are very excited that 45 of our pupils will be taking part in the Think Maths Enrichment Day at Redborne School. They will join pupils from other local schools to explore the mathematics and art of

paper folding. This is a great opportunity to experience maths in a creative, hands-on and imaginative way, and we hope all pupils enjoy the day.

UKMT Primary Maths Team Competition

Unfortunately, the UKMT Primary Maths Team Challenge was postponed due to the recent heatwave. We are currently working to reschedule the event for September and look forward to sharing the pupils' achievements and experiences once it takes place.

Mrs Wilkins

Geography

Year 5

What an excellent end to the year for our Year 5 geographers!

This term, pupils have been exploring sustainability and thinking carefully about how we can all help to protect our planet. As part of their learning, they researched, planned and delivered speeches explaining how we could make Alameda a more sustainable school.

The quality of their work has been exceptional. Pupils showed real thought and maturity when considering practical ways to reduce waste, save energy and encourage more environmentally friendly choices within our school community. Their ideas were creative, well-researched and demonstrated an excellent understanding of sustainability.

The highlight of the unit was watching pupils confidently present their speeches. They spoke with enthusiasm, clarity and confidence, and they should all be proud of what they achieved.

Year 6

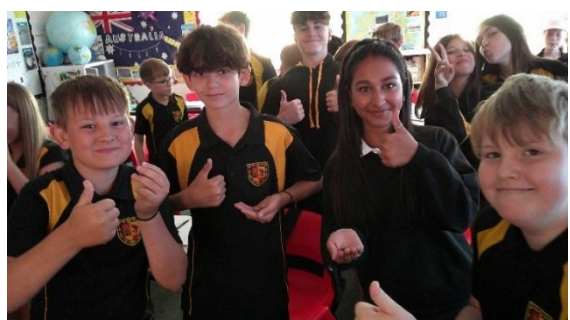
Our Year 6 pupils have also been showcasing their presentation skills as they delivered presentations all about rivers. We have been really impressed by the teamwork they demonstrated when working together, as well as the confidence they showed when presenting to their classmates. They spoke clearly, shared interesting facts and worked collaboratively to produce some fantastic presentations. Well done, Year 6!

Year 7

Year 7 have continued to explore sustainability in geography and have been learning about edible insects as an alternative source of protein. Some pupils even embraced the opportunity to taste some edible insects! It was great to see so many pupils stepping outside their comfort zones and engaging so positively with the lesson.



Their enthusiasm and willingness to try something new made for a memorable learning experience.



Year 8

As our Year 8 pupils prepare to leave Alameda, we would like to congratulate them on everything they have achieved in geography. Throughout their time with us, they have developed their geographical knowledge, enquiry skills and understanding of the world around them. We are incredibly proud of the progress they have made and the curiosity they have shown along the way.

We wish all our Year 8 pupils every success as they begin the next stage of their journey. Well done, Year 8 - we know you will go on to achieve great things!

Miss Mills

Science

As we draw to the end of another busy year in science, it is time to celebrate all the positive things that have happened over the past term.

Key Stage 2

Our Year 5 students had a truly out of this world experience when they visited the National Space Centre in Leicester for the day. They explored rockets and the wonders of the universe. A real highlight of the day was the planetarium where the students flew through the universe, learning facts and showing off their knowledge in the interactive quiz. They had a brilliant day, and they should be commended for the school values they demonstrated throughout the day.



Our Year 6 students have been getting in touch with nature and have collected living things (insects/leaves/sticks) from a wooded area to look at under a microscope. Students were amazing at showing off their microscope skills and really focussing in on their specimens. They were left in awe of what they saw. Continuing with the nature theme, our Year 6s have been enjoying researching and being creative in making posters to celebrate the 100th birthday of David Attenborough.

Key Stage 3

As a reward for winning the KS3 science fair, our Year 7s had the opportunity of taking part in the Big Bang Fair held at the NEC in Birmingham. When they first arrived, students engaged with the many interactive stalls on offer. A particular favourite with the students was the Rolls Royce stall where they learned all about different aircraft, took part in the many activities surrounding the engineering involved. Our students were treated to two exciting shows. They enjoyed the loud pops and bangs of a chemistry show and were enthralled with the zoological show where snakes and tarantulas were on display. The students were very fortunate to be involved in carrying out a demonstration to the audience to show the comparison between spider silk and rope. Our students should be incredibly

proud of being excellent ambassadors for the school. They had a fantastic day, coming away with a real buzz from the event.



We say a fond farewell to Jim McGrath who has inspired countless students with his enthusiasm over the past six and a half years. He will be missed by students and staff alike, and we wish him all the best with his future endeavours.

Miss Douglas

Art

It has been another creative and inspiring term in the art department, with pupils across the school exploring new techniques, developing their skills and producing some truly excellent artwork.

Year 5 – Funky Fish Ceramics

Year 5 pupils have been designing their very own funky fish sculptures, thinking carefully about design, colour and texture. After developing their ideas in their sketchbooks, pupils learnt a range of clay techniques to transform their designs into exciting 3D ceramic pieces. The creativity and imagination shown throughout this project has been fantastic, with every pupil producing a unique and vibrant final piece.



Year 6 – Crazy Shoes

Year 6 have had a fantastic time creating their crazy shoes!

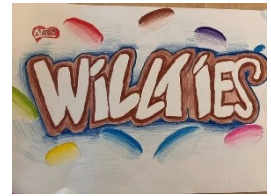


Pupils carefully planned their designs in their sketchbooks, considering colour, pattern and detail before using the clay skills they developed in Year 5 to craft their final pieces. We are incredibly proud of their creativity, imagination and perseverance. Every shoe is completely unique and showcases the individuality of each artist.

Year 7 – Branding and Design

Year 7 pupils have linked their art learning with their English studies by exploring design, branding and the use of colour.

Inspired by some of the world's most recognisable brands, pupils have analysed how logos communicate identity and meaning before creating their own personalised branded names. The results have been imaginative, thoughtful and full of creativity. ✨



Year 8 – Japanese Art and African Art Workshop



Year 8 pupils have been exploring Japanese art through mixed media, creating beautiful koi fish and landscape artwork inspired by traditional techniques.

Some Year 8 pupils also had the exciting opportunity to take part in an African art workshop at The Art Barn. They spent the day experimenting with patterns using chalk and charcoal before creating large-scale portraiture inspired by African masks.

Pupils then worked collaboratively to design and create their own masks using a range of materials, finishing them with collage and mixed media techniques. It was such an enjoyable day in a wonderful setting, and the pupils produced some truly impressive artwork.



A huge well done to all pupils for their enthusiasm, creativity and commitment to developing their artistic skills this term.

Miss Jiggles

Dance

It has been another exciting and successful year for dance, with students showcasing their talent, creativity and dedication in a variety of performances and extra-curricular clubs.

The first of our shows was the Redborne Dance Showcase, where students once again demonstrated their hard work and passion, delivering memorable performances that entertained family, friends, and the wider school community. This event also gave our KS3 pupils an insight to what dance will be like at upper school.

This was followed by the return of our own dance show, Alameda Moves, where pupils showcased their talent on our own stage. Dancers put in hours of rehearsals to pull off two amazing shows, featuring a range of styles with impressive choreography.

One of the highlights of the year was undoubtedly performing at the Big Tent, where our dancers took to a unique stage alongside other talented performers in music and drama. It was a truly incredible experience that allowed students to represent the school with pride while gaining valuable performance experience. These performances could not have happened without the pupils regularly attending extra-curricular clubs – we had over 100 pupils attending this year!

A huge congratulations to everyone involved. Thank you to all the dancers, staff and supporters who made these events such a success. We can't wait for the year of dance ahead!

Design & Technology and Textiles

What a great year for Design & Technology and Textiles! Our students have been demonstrating creativity, innovation, and excellent practical skills throughout their lessons. From producing high-quality practical outcomes to developing detailed technical drawings, students have shown great dedication and pride in their work.

Our DT and Textiles Club has continued to grow with the support of our enthusiastic DT Leaders. They have run KS2 DT clubs, supporting younger students, and encouraged others to develop their design and making skills.

Year 7 students also enjoyed an inspiring trip to Silverstone. They explored the world of STEM, design, and technology, gaining first hand insight into how these skills are used in motorsport industry.

Another highlight of the year was taking part in the Rotary DT Tournament, where students worked collaboratively to solve design challenges, demonstrating creativity, teamwork, and problem solving under pressure. Our team placed second out of 15 team – well done to all involved!

Looking ahead, there is plenty to be excited about in Textiles, with new projects for Year 5 and 8. Our Year 8s can look forward to an extra hour of DT, textiles and food tech on their timetables next year, giving them more time to be creative and apply their learning from across the curriculum in practical ways.

Well done to all our DT and Textiles students for another successful and inspiring year!

Mr M Brown

Drama

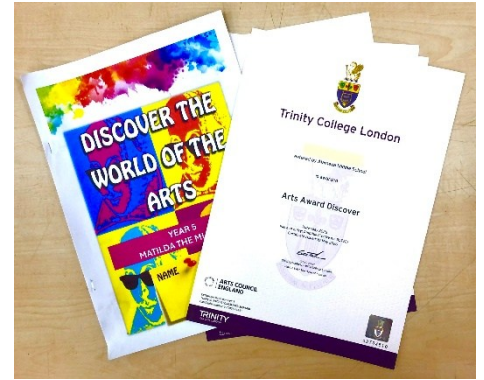
Summer term has been jam-packed full of incredible learning and participation in drama with pupils exploring new skills and building their confidence across lessons and in extra-curricular activities.

Year 5

The focus for Year 5 this term has been musical theatre, and we've been delighted to collaborate with the music department on a joint unit where pupils learn singing techniques using songs from *Matilda the Musical*. Alongside this in drama, we have explored the features of musical theatre, looked at the difference between script acting and acting through song, and learned how to build interesting physical and vocal characters.

In recent weeks, pupils have developed their creative leadership skills to design their own group choreography linked to Matilda songs, building on the Key Cs to demonstrate effective collaboration, coordination, communication and creative confidence. It has been a delight to see individuals take on leadership roles, embodying our drama motto by showing kindness to others, encouraging them to be courageous and praising their growing confidence: it's what drama is all about!

In addition, 55 Year 5 Drama pupils were awarded Trinity College London Discover Arts Awards this term. Arts Awards are recognised arts qualifications similar to Duke of Edinburgh Awards and this year we embedded completing Discover level into the Musical Theatre unit. Well done to all those who entered their portfolios.



Year 7

It's also been another brilliant term for Year 7 with a new unit on horror. This unit has been designed to complement Detective Fiction being studied in English and introduce elements of the horror genre, which pupils study in English in Year 8. Pupils have explored grotesque characters, collaborated on staging stories and explored Edgar Allan Poe's *The Fall of the House of Usher*, bringing together all the skills they have developed throughout the year.



Witnessing the transformation in Year 7 this year has been incredible; many going from nervous pupils in September to confident, articulate and brilliantly creative theatre-makers now. The impact on confidence has been huge, and pupils have commented that they are now able to speak up more across all their subjects, are more comfortable to work with others outside of their friendship groups and have discovered strengths in themselves they never knew they had. I could not be more proud of all of them for the positive way they have embraced everything that drama can offer them academically and personally.



Year 8



For Year 8, this term has been all about theatre design. Pupils have studied the process of costume and set design from research, initial ideas, sketches and final concepts; looking at the work of key film and theatre designers, the theory and practicalities involved in designing for performance, and where designers draw their inspiration from. This unit has also enabled pupils to enhance their work in art by researching different art styles and artists across history including Bauhaus, Impressionism, Surrealism and Pop Art and apply these to key characters and scenes in Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*.



Pupils who began the term saying they weren't designers have created stunning design concepts that show understanding of characters, settings and fabrics, and how to interpret artistic style and adapt it to create original designs that reflect a director's theatrical vision. Not only has the unit built new skills and broadened pupils' awareness of the many career strands involved in theatre and film, but it has also provided a valuable foundation for those who may go on to study GCSE Art and Design, Fashion and Textiles or choose to focus on design for their GCSE Drama practical exam.



Extra-Curricular Drama

For my final term at Alameda, we have had the pleasure of bringing both Act 1 and Act 2 Drama groups together to work on a concert with songs from *Les Misérables* as part of The Big Tent Festival.



Pupils have worked on an adaptation of selected extracts from Victor Hugo's original novel interwoven with songs from the musical. The commitment, enthusiasm, hard work and fun of drama group members is always exceptional, but this term they have really stepped up to create convincing characters and develop skills in acting through song to produce a range of both heartbreaking and hilarious scenes and songs that reflects a cast that trusts and supports one another to rehearse and perform exceptional theatre.

The Big Tent performance was something really special showing confidence, courage and independence on stage accompanied by an incredible orchestra of young musicians – what an experience to end the year on!



And finally...

As I depart Alameda at the end of this term, I am very grateful for all the wonderful young people I have had the pleasure of sharing the last two years with and the growth I have witnessed in them. I look forward to seeing the new drama teacher, Miss Robinson, continue with new drama adventures and I'm sure there'll be many more life-changing experiences in the years to come.

Ms Bell

French Department

It has been a lovely final term within the French Department. We covered themes such as free time, sports, hometown and weather (very appropriate for this time of year) and a wonderful conclusion to a productive and enjoyable year. The term has been full of opportunities for all of year groups, from learning how to name and describe clothing, to telling the time and discussing their school day. Some students took part in creating a French school menu and the entries were magnificent.

This year we also had the opportunity to visit France. The excursion was a lovely experience with some of our students describing it as 'the best trip, ever'.

Finally, we wish good luck to all the Year 8 students who are moving on with their further education. We will certainly miss you and we look forward to hearing from you.

The languages department wishes all our community des grandes vacances d'été.

Mr A Bargiela

Amphill vs Cancer 5K – Team Alameda

A group of our staff recently laced up their trainers and proudly represented Team Alameda in this year's Amphill vs Cancer 5K.

While there may have been a few aching legs, we're delighted to report that every member of Team Alameda crossed the finish line! More importantly, thanks to the incredible generosity of our families, friends and wider school community, we raised an additional £410 for this wonderful charity. We all had a fantastic day seeing so many of our pupils and their families taking part. The event was a wonderful celebration of community spirit, with everyone coming together to support an important cause.

A huge thank you to everyone who donated, cheered us on and joined in. We are incredibly proud to have been part of such a special community event, and we are already looking forward to the next one!



Eco Council Update

It has been another busy and exciting term for our Eco councillors, who continue to demonstrate their commitment to protecting the environment and promoting sustainability across Alameda.

♥ Big Green Week (6th–14th June)

During Big Green Week, pupils and staff were encouraged to take simple actions to support the environment, including taking learning outdoors, reducing paper use and swapping a screen-based

lesson for an alternative activity. Every small change helps, and it was wonderful to see so many classes getting involved.

As part of the week, we also held our Eco Poster Competition. The standard of entries was incredibly high, making judging very difficult. Congratulations to our winners:



🏆 **Year 5:** Jasmine A – Winner

🏆 **Year 6:** Harry B – Winner | Mason B – Commended

🏆 **Year 8:** Finton M – Winner **and overall competition winner**

In addition, several Year 5 pupils received runner-up awards in recognition of the outstanding quality of their entries. Well done to everyone who took part!

Growing Crops for the Future

We are delighted to announce that Alameda has been selected as **one of just 70 schools across the UK** to take part in an exciting action research project led by the **University of Southampton**.

The project explores which crops may be suitable for growing in the UK's future climate as temperatures rise and weather patterns become increasingly unpredictable. Over the coming months, pupils will be growing and monitoring a range of crops, including chickpeas, buckwheat, sunflowers, sweetcorn, peas and lablab beans, before sharing their findings with the research team.

Mrs Chavda and Miss Mills are working with a group of Year 5 pupils to help plant the crops, monitor their growth and collect data that will contribute to this national research project.

Eco Council Visit to Whipsnade Zoo 🐘

To recognise their hard work and commitment throughout the year, our Eco Council enjoyed a reward trip to Whipsnade Zoo.

The pupils had a wonderful day, including:

- 🌿 Spotting both of the elusive lynx.
- 🌿 Seeing the bongo and giraffes up close.
- 🌿 Watching the wolverine enthusiastically enjoy its breakfast!

They also took part in an engaging climate change workshop, where they impressed the session leader with their thoughtful answers, insightful questions and excellent knowledge. We are incredibly proud of the way they represented Alameda throughout the visit.

Eco Council is just one of the many leadership opportunities available to our pupils. If your child would like to become involved next year, Mrs Chavda would be delighted to provide further information. 🌍 ❤️



Mrs Chavda

Food Technology

We are looking to further enrich our upcoming food lessons and wondered if any of our school parents or carers work as chefs, cooks, bakers, or in a local restaurant, café or other food-related business.

If you have experience in the food industry and would be willing to volunteer some of your time to support a lesson, demonstrate a skill, judge competitions or talk to the children about your role, we would love to hear from you!

Please get in touch with Mrs J Friend at jfriend@alamedamiddleschool.org.uk if you are interested or would like more information. Your support would make our food lessons even more engaging and inspiring for the children.

Mrs Friend

Celebrating Student Leadership at Alameda



We are delighted to announce the launch of our new pupil leadership roles at Alameda. The response has been truly outstanding, with an impressive 280 applications submitted through our new online application form. It has been wonderful to see so many pupils eager to contribute to our school community and develop their leadership skills.

The new leadership roles will commence in September, and successful applicants will be notified on their return to school once the selection process has been completed. We would like to thank every pupil who took the time to apply your enthusiasm, commitment, and willingness to make a difference are greatly appreciated.

As we look ahead to welcoming our new leaders, we also took the opportunity to celebrate the incredible contributions of our current leadership team with a fun-filled reward day at Box End. Pupils enjoyed an action-packed day on the aqua park, tackled the ninja assault course, experienced paddle boarding, and had the thrill of the cable tow. It was a fantastic way to recognise their dedication and hard work throughout the year.



Finally, we say a fond farewell to our amazing Year 8 leaders. They have represented Alameda with pride, supported numerous school events, and served as excellent role models for younger pupils. We would like to express our sincere gratitude for everything they have contributed to our school community and wish them every success in the future.

Mrs Nelson-Cole

PE News

As another busy and successful sporting year comes to a close, we would like to take the opportunity to celebrate the fantastic achievements of our pupils. Whether representing the school at local competitions or competing on the national stage, our children have continued to demonstrate determination, resilience, teamwork and respect, making Alameda incredibly proud.



Our Year 7 cricket team has enjoyed an outstanding season, winning their league to secure a place in the County Finals, which are still to be played. We wish the team the very best of luck and look forward to seeing what they can achieve.

Our KS3 rounders team embraced every opportunity to compete against other schools this term. While the results didn't quite go our way, the team represented the school brilliantly, showing perseverance, sportsmanship and a positive attitude throughout. Sometimes the greatest successes aren't measured by results alone.

Meanwhile, our KS2 rounders teams enjoyed their partnership competitions, with Year 6 finishing as partnership runners-up and Year 5 securing an impressive third place in competitions that we were proud to host here at Alameda.



One of the highlights of the year was undoubtedly our flag football team. Competing in the sport for the very first time, the team progressed through local and regional competitions before qualifying for the National Finals in Manchester.

An unforgettable overnight trip saw the children compete against the very best schools in the country, eventually returning home as the 5th best team in the UK. While the achievement itself is remarkable, the memories, friendships and experiences gained over those two days are something we hope the children will remember for many years to come.

Our Gaelic football team also enjoyed a fantastic experience, travelling to London to compete in the largest Gaelic football competition outside of Ireland. The boys more than held their own, winning several matches against strong opposition and demonstrating great skill, determination and teamwork throughout the tournament.



As always, athletics proved to be another strength for Alameda. At the KS3 District Championships, we finished as the second-best school in the district out of 28 competing schools, an exceptional achievement. There were many outstanding individual performances, with Edward becoming Year 7 District Champion in the shot put and Max crowned Year 7 District Champion in the high jump. Both should be incredibly proud of their achievements.

Our KS2 athletics season presented a few challenges, with weather conditions ranging from heavy rain to extreme heat, alongside a clash with the residential camp. Despite this, the children thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to compete against other schools and, as always, represented Alameda with enthusiasm, encouragement and determination.



They've already had a mention in the newsletter, but we must shout out our sports leaders again. They have been outstanding ambassadors for the school, particularly during our sports days, where they helped events run smoothly with maturity and professionalism. Their willingness to support younger pupils, take responsibility and lead by example has been exceptional. They continue to earn praise and admiration from other schools whenever they help deliver community sporting events, and we are incredibly proud of the example they set.

We would like to thank every pupil who has represented Alameda this year, attended clubs, supported teammates, officiated competitions or simply embraced every opportunity to get involved. Your enthusiasm, commitment and attitude are what makes sport at Alameda so special.

A special thank you goes to our departing Year 8 pupils. You have made a lasting contribution to the PE department over the past four years, and we hope you leave with many happy sporting memories and friendships. We wish each and every one of you the very best of luck as you begin the next stage of your journey.

Have a safe, restful and enjoyable summer break. We look forward to another exciting year of sport in September!

Mr Oliver

English Schools Ski Association National Indoor Finals 29th June 🏂👏

On 29th June, Alameda pupils competed in the English Schools Ski Association National Indoor Finals, representing the school with determination, resilience and excellent sportsmanship.

Competing against schools from across the country, our teams achieved some outstanding results:

- **Year 5 Team – 12th place**
- **Year 6 Team – 13th place**
- **Year 7 Boys' Team – 4th place**
- **Year 7 Mixed Team – 7th place**

These are fantastic achievements at a national competition and reflect the hard work, commitment and enthusiasm shown by all of our skiers throughout the year. We are incredibly proud of every pupil who took part and represented Alameda so well.

Congratulations to all of our competitors on an excellent performance. We look forward to seeing what next season brings!



Music Department Round-Up – A Year to Remember

What an exceptional year it has been for music at school!

This year has seen us working hard to develop a wide range of musical groups, ensuring that there is something for everyone, whatever instrument they play or stage they have reached in their musical journey. It has been wonderful to see so many students embracing the opportunities on offer, growing in confidence, and sharing their love of music with others.

One of the highlights of the year was our **Open Mic Evening** in May. Students of all ages and abilities took to the stage, from members of our beginner bands to experienced solo singers, performing music that they genuinely love. The standard was exceptional, but what stood out even more was the emotion and commitment in every performance. There were several moments during the evening when it was difficult to find a dry eye in the audience a wonderful reminder of the power of live music and the confidence our students have developed.



More recently, we were thrilled to take part in **The Big Tent Schools Performance**, joining schools from across the local area in an unforgettable celebration of the performing arts. Performing on such an enormous stage in front of an audience of well over 1,000 people, alongside around 350 performers, is no small achievement. Every one of our students rose to the occasion with confidence, enthusiasm and professionalism.

The evening opened with our **Folk Group**, led by our wonderful violin teacher, **Hannah Perry**. After an incredible 43 years of inspiring young musicians, Hannah is retiring this summer. She will be sorely missed by students, staff and families alike. The Folk Group performed with infectious energy and rhythm, and by the end of their set the audience couldn't help but tap their feet and join in.

This was followed by **Fiddle Fiesta**, our string ensemble, joined by talented string players from Russell Lower School. Their performance demonstrated the strength of collaboration across our schools and the musical friendships that continue to grow.



One of the biggest musical challenges of the evening came next and, in our opinion, we absolutely smashed it! Students performed a fully orchestrated selection of music from *Les Misérables*, accompanied by beautifully acted scenes devised by the wonderful **Ms Bell**, who will also be greatly missed as she leaves us at the end of this term. This was an ambitious project that truly stretched our musicians, singers and actors. Supported by members of the Redborne Orchestra and friends from Ampthill Concert Orchestra, the performance was full of passion, commitment and musical excellence. The quality of both the playing and the acting was simply outstanding.



The lower school choirs then each took their turn on the Big Tent stage, singing with confidence and giving every young performer the opportunity to raise their voice as part of this spectacular event.

Our dancers followed with a truly exhilarating display of passion, creativity and precision, before it was time for our bands to shine. Our **Rocky Starts Band**, with an impressive 35 players, demonstrated just how much they have achieved this year. The **Keyboard Club** delighted the audience with Taylor Swift

favourites, while the **Rock Band** made *Valerie* look effortless. Finally, the **Redborne Band** showed our younger musicians exactly what they can aspire to, delivering a fantastic performance of *Our House*.

The evening concluded with a live band accompanying the massed choirs from all the participating schools. The energy, excitement and sheer joy of making music together provided the perfect finale to an unforgettable event.

Looking back over the year, it has been incredibly rewarding to see music flourishing across our school community. From first rehearsals to major public performances, our students have shown remarkable commitment, courage and enthusiasm.

Thank you to all our students, parents, staff, visiting musicians and volunteers for making this such a memorable musical year. We are immensely proud of everything our young musicians have achieved.

Now we look ahead with excitement to next year... although one question remains: **how on earth are we going to top this?**

Mr Bottone

Safeguarding

The safety and wellbeing of children remains everyone's responsibility, including during school holidays. If you are concerned about the welfare of a child or young person, please do not wait to seek advice or report your concerns.

If a child is at immediate risk of harm, contact the police on 999.

For non-emergency safeguarding concerns, please contact Social Services Hub on 0300 300 8585 team or the NSPCC Helpline on 0808 800 5000 for advice and support.

CAMHS Bedfordshire are also offering Mental Health drop-in sessions locally at Flitwick Community Football Centre – to access this please call 01582 707635

By remaining vigilant and acting on concerns, we can all help keep children safe during the holiday period.

Worried About a Child's Safety?

Trust your instincts. You don't have to handle concerns alone.

NSPCC Child Protection Helpline

For: Parents, carers, professionals, or anyone worried about a child

- Confidential, free advice and support
- Available 24 hours a day

 **0808 800 5000**

 **NSPCC**

 **CHILDLINE**

For: Children and young people

- Free and confidential
- Talk to a trained counsellor
- Available 24 hours a day

 **0800 1111**

 **Childline**

 **Central Bedfordshire Safeguarding Hub**

If you are concerned about a child or young person:

Office hours:

 **0300 300 8585**

Out of hours / urgent concerns:

 **0300 300 8123**

 **IMMEDIATE DANGER**

If a child is at immediate risk of harm, call 999.

ALAMEDA NETBALL SPAIN TOUR 2027

COSTA BRAVA RESORT, SPAIN



**AMBITIOUS
TO ACHIEVE**



**MOTIVATED
TO LEARN**



**CONFIDENT
TO SOAR**



TRAVEL DATE:

SUNDAY 30TH MAY – THURSDAY 3RD JUNE 2027

*Sun, Sport &
Spanish Adventures
await!*



ACCOMMODATION

3*** resort hotel in Lloret de Mar –
based on 3–4 sharing a bedroom



NIGHTS

4 nights in resort



MEAL PLAN

Half board (buffet breakfast & evening
buffet dinner; water included free with meals)
Lunch provided on 2 days when training.
First meal is dinner on arrival;
last meal is breakfast on departure day.



TRAVEL / TRANSFERS

Flight tour: return flights from the UK
to Spain including airport and match
transfers in Spain



**ALL PLAYERS MUST
HAVE A COMPETENT
SKILL LEVEL IN NETBALL
AND UNDERSTAND
THE RULES AND
REGULATIONS OF
THE SPORT.**

OTHER INCLUSIONS



WATER WORLD DAY PASS



**INCLUSIVE USE OF
BOWLING VENUE**



**1 x CHECKED BAG
PER PERSON (FLIGHT GROUPS)**



**TRAVEL INSURANCE
INCLUDED**

PRICE OF
THE TRIP

£870

PER PERSON
INCLUDES

PRICE INCLUDES:

- ✓ NETBALL DRESS
- ✓ HOODIE
- ✓ TRAINING TOP
- ✓ TRAVEL BAGS

WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SECURE
A VERY GOOD PRICE!

DEPOSITS OF £50 CAN BE MADE BY
17TH JULY TO SCOPAY
TO SECURE YOUR CHILD'S
PLACE ON THE TRIP.

SPAIN

Lloret
de Mar
Costa Brava



BEAUTIFUL
BEACHES



WORLD-CLASS
FACILITIES



UNFORGETTABLE
EXPERIENCE



FRIENDSHIPS
THAT LAST



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LIBRARY

2025-2026



13.67

Average loans
per day



864

REGULAR CLASS VISITS



REVIEWS
WRITTEN

87



4,265

BOOKS ISSUED

417

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1698 Fiction loans

2567 Non-Fic loans

1

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Librarian hired



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Top

borrowers:

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Esme D Yr6

Albert B Yr8