



**LOWER ACADEMY**

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**UPPER ACADEMY**

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Friday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2025

## They Said We Did

Dear Parents/Carers,

Each half term, the DSL and I host a Student Voice Panel, offering our students the opportunity to share their thoughts and feedback on various aspects of school life. In our recent meetings, a number of concerns were raised, and I am pleased to report that we have taken action on many of them.

Below is a summary of the key issues raised and the steps we have taken to address them:

- **Availability of condiments** – Students highlighted that condiments were not always available. We have ensured that appropriate condiments are now provided with any meal that requires them (e.g., ketchup with chips, butter with jacket potatoes).
- **Concerns about access** – Some students were worried about being late for lessons due to locked internal doors. We have now disarmed the locks, allowing students to access corridors from any entrance.
- **Calculators** – Students noted that there were not enough calculators available in lessons. We have ordered new calculators for all year groups which are suitable for GCSEs so that they are well prepared.
- **Discomfort from student gatherings near toilets** – To address this concern, we have installed CCTV with live feeds in key areas, along with a truancy tracker to monitor student movement.
- **Clip-on ties** – We have heard concerns about the durability and comfort of the clip-on ties and from September 2025 a Velcro tie will be available to be purchased instead.
- **Equipment in lessons** – Students expressed frustration with the availability of stationary items e.g. pens, highlighters and now all classrooms are fully stocked.
- **Interruptions to rotation subjects due to assemblies** – Students raised concerns about assemblies interrupting their rotation subjects. We have reviewed changes to improve the scheduling in this area.
- **Availability of some meal options at break and lunch** – this has been reviewed, and improvements will be made in this area.
- **Lessons being interrupted by noise in the quad due to lesson cross over** – this is no longer an area for students to congregate at these times.
- **Knowledge about keeping themselves safe** – The students asked to have more information about how to keep themselves safe and to ensure they knew who was in our safeguarding team. A week of Safeguarding Awareness events has occurred to educate students around a range of contextual safeguarding topics and the students reported they felt helped in this area. This will be continued so that all students are aware of the support available inside and outside of school.
- **Access to Parent Pay in school** – By the end of the academic year we will have installed in the reception a facility to top up parent pay in person with a bank card to make it easier for everyone.

We are grateful for the students' input and look forward to continuing these valuable discussions. By working together, we can ensure that we make ongoing improvements that are important to our school community.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R Rees".

R Rees  
Headteacher  
Basildon Lower Academy  
Basildon Upper Academy