# The Basildon Lower Academy Newsletter • 28th September 2026

## Dates for the Diary

**Lower Academy Year 6 Open Evening**
Thursday 1st October 2026: 5pm-7pm

**Upper Academy Sixth Form Open Evening**
Thursday 1st October 2026: 5pm-7pm

**Meet the Tutor - Parent Event**
Monday 5th October 2026: 3.15pm-4.30pm

**Half Term**
Monday 26th - Friday 30th October 2026

**Year 9 AP1 Assessments**
Monday 23rd November - Friday 4th December 2026

Student Value of the Term

## Black Lives Matter

### House Points - Week Ending 25th September

| Seacole | Ali | Hawking | Austen |
|---|---|---|---|
| 36,214 | 32,062 | 31,904 | 26,142 |

# Welcome from the Safeguarding Team

We would like to welcome our new Year 7 families, as well as families joining us in Years 8 and 9.

Starting a new school or returning after the summer can feel exciting, but it can also make young people feel nervous or worried. These feelings are normal. However, if those worries become too much, please encourage your child to talk to someone.

Young people can speak to any trusted member of staff they feel comfortable with. Our school website also has information about services that can help with mental health and wellbeing, including Kooth. We can also make referrals where appropriate, to Essex School Nurses and Catch22 for support.

We would like to welcome our new Year 7 families, as well as families joining us in Years 8 and 9.

**Helping at home**

- Listening and giving young people time to talk.
- Trying different ways to communicate, including talking, texting or writing notes.
- Helping them work out what is making them worried.
- Thinking together about what could make things easier.
- Encouraging breaks from social media and screens.
- Reminding them that it is always okay to ask for help.



**If you have concerns about your child's wellbeing, please contact us. We are here to listen, help and support.**

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL): S.O'Neill
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL): F.Chittock
Designated Safeguarding Lead for Enhanced Provision: V.Oddy
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead for Enhanced Provision: N.Hullyer

**S.O'Neill**
**Senior Student Development Leader & Designated Safeguarding Lead**

# Lower Academy Open Evening Thursday 1st October

We are excited to invite all prospective students and their families to our annual Open Evening on Thursday 1st October between 5-7pm.




This is a fantastic opportunity to explore what makes our school such a welcoming, vibrant, and inspiring place to learn. During the event, visitors will have the opportunity to:

- Tour the school and explore our classrooms and specialist facilities (including science labs, sports hall/dance studio, art and design areas, ICT suites, swimming pool, catering kitchens, and more).
- Meet our dedicated staff and current Student Ambassadors, who will share how we support all students to succeed both academically and personally.
- Experience live subject demonstrations and interactive activities.
- Learn more about our curriculum and enrichment opportunities.
- Ask questions about the transition to secondary school and meet the staff who guide students through every step.











Whether you're already considering The Basildon Lower Academy or just starting to explore your options, this is a brilliant chance to experience our welcoming, inclusive learning community first hand and ask all the questions that matter to you and your child.

We look forward to welcoming you and showing you what makes our school such a special place to grow, learn, and succeed.

# Celebrating Our Jack Petchey Award Winners

Last week, our Jack Petchey Award recipients were celebrated at a special awards ceremony at Basildon Towngate Theatre. Students, staff, families and members of the school community came together to recognise and celebrate their achievements.

Throughout the last academic year, Layla.W, Constantin.T, Mackenzie.B and Ayesha.T were each recognised with an Outstanding Achiever Award. Mrs Jacob also received a Leader Award following recognition from the school community.

The Jack Petchey Awards celebrate young people and staff who demonstrate outstanding effort, determination and positive contributions to their school and wider community.

The ceremony provided a wonderful opportunity to recognise the achievements of our award recipients and celebrate the positive impact they have made throughout the year. It was also a chance for families and members of our school community to share in their success.

As part of their awards, each student received prize money to spend on something that is meaningful to them while also benefiting the wider school community. The funds have been put to great use, supporting a range of activities and resources, including a cinema trip, a year-group movie day, enrichment materials and sensory equipment.

We are incredibly proud of all our Jack Petchey Award recipients and their achievements, and look forward to seeing the positive difference they continue to make within our school community.


















## Parent Drop In

Our next Parent Drop In will be on Thursday 1st October between 9am and 10am.

There will be no need to book an appointment, just sign in at reception and staff will be happy to show you to the venue. There is no set topic for the drop in sessions, if we are not able to answer any specific questions, we will follow up and then feedback to you.




# Students Learn About Hate Crime and Online Responsibility

The Lower Academy recently welcomed Yasmin, Education Officer from Essex County Fire and Rescue Service, who delivered important sessions on hate crime to students across all year groups.

The session explored what constitutes a hate crime and why it is important to recognise and challenge behaviour that targets people because of characteristics such as their race, religion, sexual orientation or disability.

The session also highlighted the importance of treating others with respect and understanding that comments or behaviour that may seem like a joke can have serious consequences.




Online behaviour was another key focus. Students were reminded to think carefully about what they post and share online, as content can remain accessible for many years and may be seen by future employers or others. The session highlighted examples of public figures who have faced consequences for inappropriate posts made when they were younger, reinforcing the importance of thinking before posting.

Students also learned why reporting hate crime is so important. Reporting helps ensure that people can access support and protection, while also helping the police understand the extent and impact of hate crime within communities.

The session provided a valuable opportunity for students to develop their understanding of hate crime, online responsibility and the importance of respecting and supporting others.

"The assembly was useful as I now know that it isn't just rude to make fun of people, but that it can be illegal in some circumstances." Leija.V – Year 7

"I enjoyed the assembly and learned that there will always be rude people in the world who don't let others live happily and be different, but that isn't okay." Scarlett.P – Year 7

"The assembly was interesting because I now know what LGBTQ+ stands for, what hate crimes are and how people can be treated because of their identity, race or disabilities." Kenzie.E – Year 7

## Parent/Carer Updating Contact Information

Please ensure we have current contact information on file for you, including home address, mobile phone number, and email address. If any of your details have changed, email us at **admin@basildonacademies.org.uk** with the updated information.

# Safeguarding



At the Basildon Academies, keeping children safe and helping them to thrive is at the heart of everything we do.

We know that family life can sometimes be challenging. If you or your child needs help, support, or advice, we are here. No problem is too big or too small, and we will always support families with kindness, care and without judgement.

We work closely with a range of services to make sure children and families get the right help at the right time. This may include school nurses, health professionals, counsellors, mentors, family support workers and Children's Social Care.

Please contact our safeguarding team if you have any concerns about your own child or another student at the Academies: www.basildonloweracademy.org.uk/safeguarding

# Extra-Curricular Sports Timetable

| | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Before School** 7.30am-8.20am | Rugby All Years | Football Year 8<br>Basketball Year 9 | Football Year 7 | Cross Country All Years | Girls Football All Years |
| **Break Time** 9.55am-10.15am | Basketball Year 7 | Basketball Year 8 & 9 | Girls Basketball | | Basketball Year 8 & 9 |
| **Lunch Time** 12.15pm-1pm | | Futsal Year 9 | | Strength & Conditioning | Basketball Year 9 |
| **After School** 3.10pm-4.10pm | | Basketball Year 7<br>Football Year 9 | Football Year 8<br>Girls Basketball Year 8 & 9 | Football Year 9<br>Girls Football All Years | Basketball Year 9 |

# Free October Half Term Clubs with Essex ActivAte

Essex ActivAte half term programmes provide free, fun and engaging activities for eligible children and young people during the October half term break. From sports and crafts to outdoor adventures and more, there are plenty of opportunities to stay active, make friends and try something new, alongside receiving nutritious meals and snacks.




Spaces are limited and can be booked directly with local clubs when they go live, with no Holiday Activities voucher code or referral required.

To find a club near you, visit the Find Your Active Activity Finder on the Active Essex website. Simply select 'Programmes' to view the upcoming half term activities, enter your local area, and book directly with the club using the contact details provided.




## Student Portal

Within the Student Portal, you will find links to a range of resources and learning platforms that students can access to support their studies. The main page, which provides access to all key links, can be found here: Student Portal

Accessing the Student Portal also enables single sign-on, meaning students do not need any additional passwords for platforms such as SENECA. Students simply log in to the portal in the same way they would when logging in to a school computer.

## YOUNG CARERS CLUB

**TUESDAY** 3.15PM-5PM G7

VARIOUS ACTIVITIES EACH WEEK INCLUDING BOARD GAMES, COOKING, PHOTOGRAPHY, ARTS & CRAFTS.

REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED. TALK TO OTHERS, RELAX & HAVE FUN.

## School Nurse Drop In

If students are worried about their health, would like a confidential chat or would just like to find out more about how our school nurse can help them, the nurse can be found:

Every Thursday Breaktime & Lunchtime
Location: The Wellbeing Area
Ground Floor Blue Block




## Online Gaming – A Guide for Parents and Carers

Online gaming can be a positive way for young people to have fun, develop skills and connect with friends, but it is important to understand the potential risks. This helpful guide answers common questions about online gaming and offers practical advice for parents and carers on helping young people stay safe.



Click here to access information and advice on age ratings, privacy and safety settings, in-game purchases, and setting healthy boundaries around gaming.

The Online Safety Hub is an online resource with lots of expert advice and guidance to help find out how to keep our young people safe online. You can access it for free here: Online Safety Hub - The Basildon Academies

## Follow Us

# Job of the Week:
## Stunt Double



### What Qualifications do you need to do this job?

- You'll need to be at least 18 years old, and have excellent physical fitness and a commitment to staying very fit.
- You'll also need membership of the Joint Industry Stunt Committee (JISC) Register of Stunt Performers and Coordinators. This shows employers that you're recognised as a professional stunt performer and can perform hazardous or specialist stunt work.

### What does a Stunt Double do?

Stunt performers stand in for actors to perform specialised or dangerous actions.

Key Responsibilities:

- You'll use highly-developed physical and sporting skills to make them look natural and part of the action, like:
- Gymnastics or high diving, for performing all types of falls
- Fighting skills, possibly with weapons
- Swimming or diving
- Horse riding
- Advanced driving techniques, for performing car chases and crashes
- You'll set up, plan and perform stunts, usually whilst being supervised by a stunt coordinator.





### Labour Market Information

- +0.2% 1,593 jobs
- -5.8% in your region of East of England, an decrease of 4,201 jobs

### Let's Talk Money

UK annual median:
£24,249

# WORD OF THE WEEK

# EMPATHY

The ability to understand and share the feelings of another.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| HINDI (हिन्दी) (Hindī) | सहानुभूति (sahānubhūti) | |
| IGBO (Igbo) | Ndịmụrụ (en-DEE-moo-roo) | |
| LITHUANIAN (Lietuvių) | Empatija (em-pa-TEE-ja) | |

♥ Different languages, shared understanding. EVERY VOICE MATTERS. ♥

ASPIRE - BELIEVE - ACHIEVE