



The Basildon Lower Academy Newsletter

2nd February 2026

Dates for the Diary

LGBT+ History Month

February 2026

Children's Mental Health Week

Monday 9th - Sunday 15th February 2026

National Apprenticeship Week

Monday 9th - Sunday 15th February 2026

Half Term

Monday 16th - Friday 20th February 2026

Year 7 Parents Evening

Thursday 12th March 2026 - 3.30pm-6.30pm

Student Value of the Term

KINDNESS IS EVERYTHING

House Points - Week Ending 30th January



132,521
ALI



124,997
SEACOLE



109,615
AUSTEN



102,337
HAWKING

Leadership Message - A Positive Shift in Behaviour and Culture

Over the past half term, we have seen a genuinely positive shift in behaviour, attitudes, and the overall culture across our school. Expectations are clearer, routines are stronger, and most importantly students are rising to meet them.

We want to take a moment to recognise and celebrate our students. They have stepped up, supported one another, and shown real maturity in the way they move around the school, engage in lessons, and respond to expectations. This change has not happened by chance; it has been driven by students making better choices day after day, and we are incredibly proud of them for that.

A key part of this drive has been the use of mobile phones. Our expectation remains clear: **mobile phones are not seen and not heard during the school day**. This approach is now fully aligned with national guidance and the wider Department for Education initiative, which recognises the impact that reduced phone use has on focus, behaviour, and wellbeing. We appreciate the support of parents in reinforcing this message and ensuring phones are kept away during the school day.

What we are seeing now is encouraging: calmer corridors, more focused classrooms, and stronger relationships between students and staff. These are the foundations of a positive learning environment where everyone can succeed.



We are proud of our students for the way they have embraced these expectations and contributed to a culture that reflects respect, responsibility, and readiness to learn. We hope this momentum continues and that, together, we can keep building a school community where high standards are the norm and every student can thrive.

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support.

E.Huet
Deputy Headteacher

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.

Parent Drop In - Thursday 5th February

This week's Parent Drop In will be on Thursday 5th February 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. Please note, if your matter is of a confidential nature, we kindly ask that you call the school to arrange a separate appointment, as parent drop-in sessions are not intended for one-to-one discussions.



Home Learning

If you have any queries regarding home learning, including access issues or, to celebrate the work your child has completed at home, please visit the [Contact Us](#) page via the Basildon Lower Academy website and select the option for Home Learning/Homework.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding our students is at the forefront of everything we do. Parents and carers can access information via the following link www.escb.co.uk which offers guidance and signposts to resources on various safeguarding issues. Please contact our safeguarding officers if you have any concerns about your own child or another student at the Academies.

www.basildonloweracademy.org.uk/safeguarding

Student 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

Location: The Lower
Academy SEND
Department



Young Minds

[Young Minds](#) is the UK's leading charity committed to improving the emotional wellbeing and mental health of children and young people. Just as people's bodies can become unwell, people's minds can become unwell too.

Young Minds offer information to young people and children about mental health and emotional wellbeing. If you need to talk, they can let you know about organisations that listen, plus they offer online support and info.



Free Fruit at Breaktime



Students can choose an item of fruit from the till area in the Dining Hall at breaktime each day.

Aspire - Believe - Achieve

Online Safety Hub: Demystifying the Dark Web

In an increasingly digital world, young people may come across online terms and spaces that can be confusing or concerning. It is important that parents and carers understand what the dark web is, how it differs from the surface and deep web, and the potential risks associated with it. [Click here](#) to access information and guidance to help demystify the dark web.

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](#)



What Music Really Teaches Your Child

In some communities, Music is still dismissed as “not important” rather than recognised as a serious, rigorous academic subject. This view is outdated — and it underestimates the powerful role Music plays in children’s education.

Music is a **valued skill set**. It develops discipline, fine motor control, resilience, communication, and cognitive flexibility — the same transferable skills consistently seen in highly successful individuals, including doctors, lawyers, scientists, engineers, CEOs, and leaders across many fields.



Music does not make someone a doctor or a scientist. Neither does Maths, Science, or English on their own. What truly matters is **how students learn, what skills they develop, and the quality of teaching they receive**. In these areas, Music education is exceptionally strong.



Parents are often reassured by subject labels — “Maths is important because it’s Maths” or “Science is important because it’s Science.” But a subject is only as effective as the teaching and the student’s engagement. Knowledge that cannot be clearly communicated, understood, or applied is not education — it is information.

Music, Maths, and Science are not separate silos — they are deeply connected. In Music, students work daily with fractions, ratios, patterns, timing, and proportional thinking, reinforcing mathematical understanding. At the same time, Music draws on core scientific concepts such as sound waves, vibration, frequency, pitch, amplitude, resonance, and acoustics. Students experience these ideas physically and aurally long before they encounter them abstractly in Science lessons.

For many children, Music is where difficult concepts finally make sense. Fractions, ratios and wave behaviour become real when they are heard, felt and performed — not just written on a page.

Beyond academics, Music develops life skills few subjects integrate so completely. Regular practice builds discipline and consistency; performance develops confidence; ensemble work strengthens listening, collaboration, and communication. Instrumental study refines fine motor skills and precision — qualities essential in medicine, science and technical professions.

A strong education does not ask, “Is this Maths, Science or Music?” It asks, “What skills is my child developing, and who is teaching them how to learn?” Music answers that question powerfully.



Parents and carers who would like to explore this topic in more depth can read the full What Music Really Teaches Your Child document on our website, which expands on the research and ideas outlined above: <https://www.basildonloweracademy.org.uk/what-music-really-teaches-your-child>

Polite Notice: After School Site Access

We want all our students and families to know that keeping everyone safe at the Academies is really important to us. We love seeing students get involved in clubs and after school activities, and we encourage them to take part whenever they can.

However, **these organised activities are the only times students are allowed to stay on site after 3:00pm, unless they are attending a detention.**



To help everyone stay safe and ensure the site can be properly closed, students are expected to leave the school promptly at the end of the school day unless they are taking part in an organised after school activity. We ask that students do not wait around on site outside of these times.

Thank you for your support.

Absence Procedures

Please let us know as soon as possible if your child is unable to attend school, ideally by 8am, by email to lowerattendance@basildonacademies.org.uk or by calling **01268 498881**.

- Parents/carers must contact the school by 8.30am each day their child is absent.
- If no reason has been received for a child's absence, the Academy will initiate first day calling.
- Parent/carers may be asked for medical evidence to support absences after 3 days or reoccurring absence patterns.
- Wherever possible, parents/carers should make appointments outside of school hours. If this is unavoidable students should attend school before and after the appointment.



Please familiarise yourself with our attendance procedures found on the school website within the Parent Information section, so you know who and when you need to contact us. www.basildonloweracademy.org.uk/attendance

ARRIVE BE HERE ATTEND IN TIME TO TO TO ASPIRE BELIEVE ACHIEVE

Attendance percentages as Number of days and lessons missed from school.
Students are required to attend school for 190 days each year.

Attendance during one school year	Equals days absent	Which is approximately weeks absent	Which means this number of lessons missed	Absence over 5 years
95%	9 days	2 weeks	50 lessons	1/4 year
90%	19 days	4 weeks	100 lessons	1/2 year
80%	38 days	8 weeks	200 lessons	1 year
70%	59 days	12 weeks	300 lessons	1 1/2 years
60%	80 days	16 weeks	400 lessons	2 years
50%	100 days	20 weeks	500 lessons	2 1/2 years

Government (DfE) research suggests that 16 days absence or 92% attendance in any one year equals a full GCSE drop in attainment
How does **your** attendance compare with this target?

Daily rewards - Daily text messages for 100% attendance are sent via text message or through the MCAS app.

Weekly Rewards - Weekly Student briefings held on Mondays highlight the students who have received 100% attendance and 0 late marks. These students will receive a raffle entry for a £5 lifestyle voucher

Half Termly rewards - Each Half-term 100% attendance postcards are given to students based on the attendance for that half term.

Termly rewards - Students receive a badge and certificate during a celebration event for their term attendance which can be pinned to their tie.



BASILDON ACADEMIES

WORD OF THE DAY

2nd - 6th February 2026

Monday:	Astuteness (noun) οξύτητα in Greek – sharpness and shrewdness. <i>Her astuteness made her an excellent debater.</i>	
Tuesday:	Ebullient (adjective) bouyan in Haitian Creole – cheerful and full of energy. <i>The ebullient crowd cheered for their team.</i>	
Wednesday:	Solidarity (noun) ka lokahi in Hawaiian – unity or agreement of feeling or action. <i>The community showed solidarity in supporting the charity run.</i>	
Thursday:	Inefficiency (noun) חִמָּרָה in Hebrew – failure to make the best use of resources. <i>The committee was criticised for its inefficiency.</i>	
Friday:	Conciliatory (adjective) सिलाप करनेवाला in Hindi – intended to pacify or bring reconciliation. <i>She adopted a conciliatory tone to ease the tension.</i>	

Job of the Week: Marine Engineer

What does a Marine Engineer do?

A marine engineer designs, builds, and maintains the mechanical systems used on ships, boats, and other marine vessels. They work on everything that keeps a vessel running smoothly

Day-to-day responsibilities include:

- Shipbuilding, boat-building and repair
- Working in the leisure boat industry
- Designing, building and operating offshore gas and oil platforms
- Marine surveying
- Making sure engines, instruments and systems work safely

Labour Market Information

+41.4% 897,801 jobs

+40.8% in your region of East of England, an increase of 89,463 jobs



What Qualifications do you need to do this job?

You'll usually need an HNC, HND or degree in an engineering subject to get into this career.

Relevant subjects include:

- Marine Engineering
- Marine Technology
- Naval Architecture

You could also:

train as an engineering technician with the Merchant Navy or Royal Navy, studying for a degree while on the job or get into this career through a marine engineering technician apprenticeship

Let's Talk Money

UK annual median:
£48,776

What the schools stand for and promote is highly visible and consistent on each site from the values agreed with students to the diversity represented by the key figures the school's houses are named after.



Excellence in Pupil Development Award

2023-2026

Follow The Basildon Lower Academy on our social media channels



Enrichment Clubs Timetable

Club Name	Day	Room Number
Creative Writing Club	Tuesday	B12
Poetry Club	Tuesday	B16
Science Club (Year 7 Only)	Tuesday	O12
Science Club (Year 8 Only)	Tuesday	G12
Science Revision Club (Year 9 Only)	Tuesday	B14
Chess Club	Tuesday	O16
Art Club – Pop Art & Mixed Media (Year 7 Only)	Tuesday	O2
Art Club – Ceramics & Graphics (Year 7 Only)	Tuesday	O1
Scale Model Club	Tuesday	B18
Literacy Leaders (Year 7 Only)	Wednesday	B12
English Revision (Year 9 Only)	Wednesday	B15
Science Club (Year 9 Only)	Wednesday	G10
Science Revision Club (Year 8 Only)	Wednesday	G11
STEM Club	Wednesday	B3
Reading Eggs	Wednesday	O10
Art Club (Years 8 & 9 Only)	Wednesday	O3
Maths Club	Wednesday	B8
Debate Club	Thursday	B12
Reading Club (Year 7 Only)	Thursday	B13
Science Revision Club (Year 7 Only)	Thursday	G16
World Film Club	Thursday	O17
Scratch Club	Thursday	B11
Scale Model Club	Thursday	B18
Enrichment sessions take place from 3.00pm–3.30pm.		