

## Dates for the Diary

### British Science Week

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> - Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2025

### Year 7 Parents Evening (Online)

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2025 - 4pm-6.30pm

### Easter Holidays

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> - Monday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2025

### Bank Holiday

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2025

### Year 9 AP2 Assessments

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> - Friday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2025

### Year 8 AP2 Assessments

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> - Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2025

## Student Value of the Term

**WOMEN'S  
RIGHTS  
ARE HUMAN  
RIGHTS**

## House Points - Week Ending 7<sup>th</sup> March



61,404  
SEACOLE



61,157  
ALI



50,232  
AUSTEN



44,870  
HAWKING

## Leadership Message - Attendance to Improve Outcomes

As we continue our journey through this school year, I want to take a moment to highlight the critical importance of consistent attendance. Every day in school is an opportunity for our students to flourish, learn, and connect with one another. When students are present, they are more likely to succeed, and better able to build meaningful relationships with their peers and staff.

We understand that life sometimes throws obstacles our way, but I would like to encourage families to work with us to ensure students attend school as much as possible. We have many layers of support that can be offered to enhance attendance in school.

As a staff body, emphasising the importance of regular attendance is a key priority for us. By working together, we can create a positive environment where every student feels engaged and inspired to attend school each day. To further support this, members of our school community are reaching out to parents as points of contact, should you have any concerns that may impact your child's ability to attend school regularly. We appreciate your continued partnership in helping us maintain a strong and supportive school community. Additionally, we will be launching coffee mornings to meet with families to discuss options of support we have to offer. This will be advertised in the coming weeks.

With attendance in mind, we are excited to introduce our new attendance rewards strategy, which will be implemented this half term. This initiative will offer a range of incentives for positive attendance, with rewards given daily, weekly, half-termly, and termly to recognise and celebrate students' dedication to being present. These rewards and incentives can be seen on the school website.

Attendance During 1 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	¼ Year
90%	19 Days	4 Weeks	100 Lessons	½ Year
80%	38 Days	8 Weeks	200 Lessons	1 Year
70%	59 Days	12 Weeks	300 Lessons	1 ½ Years
60%	80 Days	16 Weeks	400 Lessons	2 Years
50%	100 Days	20 Weeks	500 Lessons	2 ½ Years

*Let's make every day count!*

**S.Killick - Assistant Headteacher & Senior Attendance Champion**

## 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](http://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](http://www.basildonloweracademy.org.uk/safeguarding)

## Free Online Counselling Service

[www.kooth.com](http://www.kooth.com) is a free, confidential, safe and anonymous way for young people, aged 11-26, to ask for help from a team of highly qualified and experienced counsellors and support workers.

Kooth is a well-established, award winning online counselling agency and is accredited by The British Association of Psychotherapy and Counselling (BACP).



## Aspire - Believe - Achieve

## 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

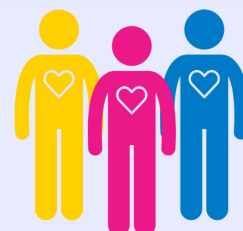


## Young Carers Club

Tuesdays

3:30pm-5pm

Venue: Learning Support  
Centre



Various activities each week including board games, cooking, photography, arts & crafts.

Refreshments provided. Talk to others, relax & have fun.

## Essex Local Offer Roadshows – Supporting Families with SEND

The Essex Local Offer Roadshows are returning, providing a great opportunity for parents and carers to ask questions and access support for children and young people with SEND. These drop-in events feature a morning marketplace for parents of children aged 0 to 25 and an afternoon session focused on early years support.

- Basildon Drop-In (Festival Leisure Park) – Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2025
- Morning session: 10:00am – 12:00pm (ages 0-25)
- Afternoon session: 1:00pm – 2:30pm (early years focus)

For more details and event dates, visit: [Essex Local Offer Roadshows](#)



Essex  
County  
Council

Special Educational Needs  
and Disabilities

## Online Safety Hub: Online Grooming: The Red Flags to Watch For

Understanding the risks of online grooming is crucial in keeping children safe in the digital world. This article highlights key warning signs to watch for and provides practical advice to help parents protect their children online.

Click the link for guidance on recognising the red flags and keeping your child safe online: <https://basildonacademies.onlinesafetyhub.uk/parent/articles/online-grooming-the-red-flags-to-watch-for>

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](#)



## Lower Academy Celebrates the Magic of Reading on World Book Day

On Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March, the Lower Academy celebrated World Book Day 2025 through a range of different activities for students across all year groups to engage in.

The day begun with an assembly presentation, delivered to the students to explain the reasons behind the day, different ways to engage in reading and to introduce MC Grammar's RAP to the students, to set the tone for the day.

After break, students participated in an exciting World Book Day Quiz, featuring six competitive rounds focused on books and authors. The challenges included word searches, code breakers, and the fun task of identifying the Masked Reader, making for an engaging and interactive experience.

The day ended with all students taking part in a Jane Austen-themed afternoon, where they had the opportunity to learn more about the famous English writer, born 250 years ago this year, and experience extracts from her renowned novels. Their final task was to design a Jane Austen Memorial to celebrate her life's achievements and her significance as one of the named Houses of the Academy. Students have been asked to nominate their favourite designs within their classes, with the best ones in each year group being put forward for judging and prizes.

Students also received a £1 Book Token as part of the World Book Day celebrations.



"We celebrated World Book Day with engaging activities that highlighted the power of reading, its importance, and the joy it brings. It was an interactive and insightful experience that deepened our appreciation for the magic of books." Rezia.O – Year 9

"I really enjoyed the World Book Day activities. It's great that secondary schools get to take part in this celebration. My favourite part of the day was creating a Jane Austen drawing as a tribute to her legacy." Sophie-Jo.C Year 8

"I found World Book Day interesting because it goes beyond just reading—it's about the joy and impact of literature. Authors like Jane Austen have entertained and inspired people for generations, and this day reminded me how fun and meaningful reading can be." Temi.N – Year 9





# Student Story Feature: The Mad Scientist

The academies love celebrating student creativity, and this week, we are excited to feature a fantastic piece of writing by Year 9 student Tia.C. Her story, The Mad Scientist, stood out for its great potential and excellent use of vocabulary.

Through dedication and coaching, Tia refined her work, learning to identify areas for improvement and implement feedback effectively. Her final piece is not only an engaging read but also a great example of how perseverance and guidance can help develop strong storytelling skills.



## The Mad Scientist

In 1945, there was a white-haired crazed scientist called Alberto. He spent most of his time in the laboratory working on antidotes and making elixirs. He was working on transforming things, such as making dirt turn into gold so he could be rich.

He was making liquids – he combined all the liquids and it made a massive explosion! When the vapour dissipated, he realised his concoction wasn't right. Alberto made a discovery, although he had done something wrong. The experiment made a legendary article.

## Students Engage in National Careers Week

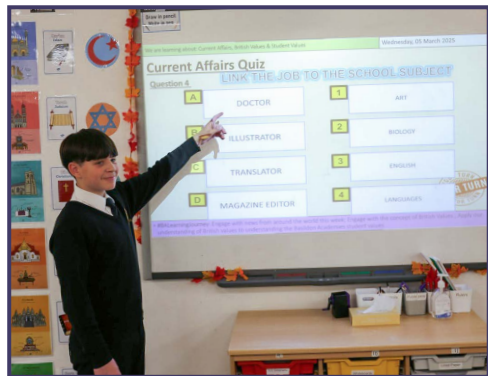
Students at the Lower Academy have taken part in a range of activities to celebrate National Careers Week, helping them explore future career paths and opportunities.

The week began with an introduction to 'Your Future Starts Here,' encouraging students to think about their ambitions. Personal Development sessions focused on 'Life is for Living,' followed by an interactive careers booklet led by teachers, providing valuable insights into different professions and career planning.

Students also put their knowledge to the test with a National Careers Week Quiz, and additional careers-themed activities took place during lunchtime, offering a fun and engaging way to learn more about future opportunities.

"Careers Week at the academies has shown me all the options available after school. I was worried before, but now I have multiple ideas for future careers." Michelle.C – Year 8

"Careers Week at the Lower Academy has really helped me understand what I want to do when I grow up. It has also shown me how hard I need to work to be successful. The activities have highlighted the wide range of career paths I can choose from in the future." Aaliya.W – Year 8



## EAL Ambassadors Welcome New Students to the Lower Academy

Our dedicated EAL Ambassadors have volunteered to provide a friendly welcome and ongoing support for new students joining the Lower Academy with English as an Additional Language (EAL). They will introduce themselves to new arrivals, offer guidance, and help students feel comfortable as they settle into school life.

"I'm very proud to be an EAL Ambassador for the Basildon Lower Academy. I am looking forward to helping people from different countries and cultures." David.T

"I am proud to support students from other countries and hope they will one day learn English as well as I have." Mihail.B



## DJ Workshop with DJ Shy Cookie



**Learn from a UK Garage legend!**

**Monday 17th March**

- Hands-on mixing experience
- Beat matching
- EQ and effects
- Reading the crowd

**Limited spots available**

Your parents have been emailed a link to sign up **FIRST COME FIRST SERVED**  
You can speak to Miss Stoddard for more information

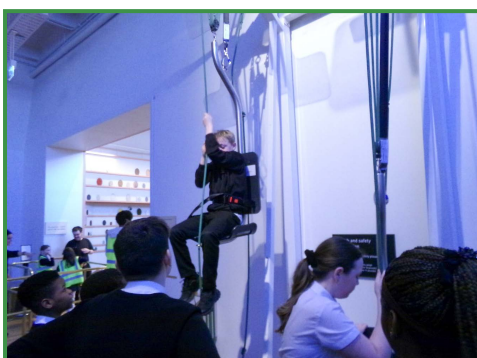
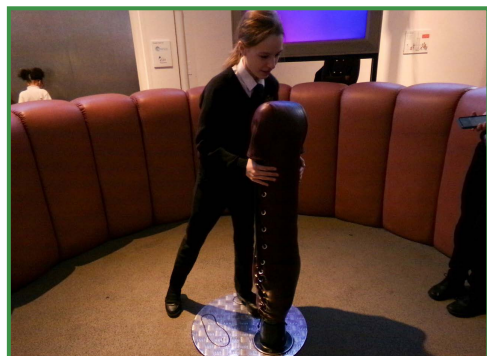


## Year 7 Students Explore the Wonders of Science in London

On Friday, a group of Year 7 students embarked on an exciting reward trip to the British Science Museum in London. The visit coincided with the start of British Science Week, making it a perfect opportunity for students to immerse themselves in the world of science.

During their visit, students explored the museum's fascinating Space and Flight section, where they learned about the history of aviation and space exploration. They also had the chance to take part in hands-on experiments at the Wonderlab, an interactive gallery designed to spark curiosity and creativity through science.

The trip was a fantastic way to celebrate students' achievements while also inspiring them to engage with science in a fun and interactive environment.



## EXTRA-CURRICULAR CLUBS

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Lunchtime:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Art</li> </ul> <b>After School: 3.30 - 4.30pm</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Archery (Sign up only)</li> </ul>	<b>After School: 3.30 - 4.30pm</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>History</li> <li>STEM</li> <li>Science</li> <li>Art</li> <li>Football Y7</li> </ul>	<b>Before School: 7.30 - 8.15</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Basketball</li> </ul> <b>After School: 3.30 - 4.30pm</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maths Y8</li> </ul>	<b>After School: 3.30 - 4.30pm</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Football Y9</li> <li>Maths</li> <li>Computer Club</li> </ul>	<b>Lunchtime:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Art</li> </ul> <b>After School: 3.30 - 4.30pm</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Basketball</li> </ul>

## 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](mailto:admin@basildonacademies.org.uk) with the updated information.

# BASILDON ACADEMIES

## WORD OF THE DAY

10<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> March 2025  
British Science Week  
Comic Relief – 21<sup>st</sup> March

Monday:	<b>Innovation (Noun)</b> Definition: The action or process of innovating; a new method, idea, or product. Example: British Science Week showcases technological innovation and breakthroughs in various scientific fields.
Tuesday:	<b>Inquiry (Noun)</b> Definition: The act of asking for information or investigation into a matter. Example: Scientific inquiry is a central theme during British Science Week, promoting curiosity and exploration.
Wednesday:	<b>Experimentation (Noun)</b> Definition: The process of trying out new ideas or methods to discover something. Example: British Science Week highlights the importance of experimentation in advancing scientific knowledge.
Thursday:	<b>Discovery (Noun)</b> Definition: The action or process of discovering or being discovered. Example: The week is a celebration of scientific discovery, encouraging students to engage with new and exciting research.
Friday: <i>Pi Day</i>	<b>Constant (Noun)</b> Definition: A quantity having a fixed value that does not change. Example: Pi Day commemorates the mathematical constant $\pi$ , a fundamental element in geometry.

## Job of the Week: Health Visitor

### What does a Health Visitor do?

Health visitors are nurses or midwives who have chosen to gain additional training and qualifications. Their additional training enables them to assess the health needs of individuals, families and the wider community to promote good health and prevent illness.

In addition to families with children, you may also work with at-risk or deprived groups such as the homeless, addicts or travellers.

### Labour Market Information

UK jobs: 1,387,919

Essex Jobs: 32,422

Growth: +13.9%

Top 5 LEAs: 1. Kent (35,610) 2. Lancashire (34,290) 3. Essex (32,422) 4. Hampshire (31,508) 5. Birmingham (27,100)



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

You'll need:

a Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) approved degree in nursing or midwifery  
current registration with the NMC  
to have completed a course in Specialist Community Public Health Nursing or Health Visiting (SCPHN or HV)  
clearance from the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS)

### Let's Talk Money

UK annual median: £23,409



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



## Absence Procedures

To report a student absence please visit the [Contact Us](#) page via the Basildon Lower Academy website and select the option for Attendance.

- 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](http://www.basildonloweracademy.org.uk/attendance)



# GOOD TIMEKEEPING



### What to do the night before:

Get everything you need for school ready



Set your alarm allowing plenty of time

Make your lunch and drink if you bring a packed lunch to school



Turn off devices half an hour before bedtime

Have a good night's sleep - a minimum of eight hours!





# South West School Age Community Drop-in

The School Age team at Essex Child and Family Wellbeing Services will provide drop-ins for parents/carers and school aged young people across South West Essex. The drop-ins are available for all young people including those who may be home educated or unable to access the support they require in the school environment.

## Support offered:

- Emotional health and wellbeing
- Improving sleep
- Nutrition support
- Physical and sexual health
- Personal hygiene
- Managing health conditions
- Signposting, advice and support.

**No need to book, just come along**

For more information

Tel: 0300 247 0013 (Mon-Fri 9am-5pm)

### **Northlands Park Family Hub**

Davenants, Basildon SS13 1QX

#### **School Age Parent Drop in**

9:15 – 10:15

#### **Young People's Drop-in**

15:30 – 16:30

1st and 3rd **Monday** of the month

### **All About Delivery Site**

Leinster Road, Laindon SS15 5NX

#### **School Age Parent Drop in**

9:15 – 10:15

#### **Young People's Drop-in**

15:30 – 16:30

2nd and 4th **Monday** of the month

### **Sunnyside Delivery Site**

Rosebay Avenue, Billericay, CM12 0GH

#### **School Age Parent Drop in**

9:30 – 10:30

#### **Young People's Drop in**

15:30 – 16:30

1st and 3rd **Thursday** of the month

### **Larchwood Gardens Family Hub**

Larchwood Gardens, Pilgrims Hatch, Brentwood  
CM15 9NG

#### **School Age Parent Drop in**

9:15 – 10:15

#### **Young People's Drop in**

15:30 – 16:30

1st and 3rd **Tuesday** of the month