

Dates for the Diary

Year 7 Parents Evening

Thursday 12th March 2026 - 3.30pm-6.30pm

Options Event for Year 9 - Basildon Upper Academy

Monday 16th March 2026: 3.30pm-4.30pm

Easter Holidays

Monday 30th March - Friday 10th April 2026

Bank Holiday

Monday 4th May 2026

Year 8 AP2 Assessments

Monday 11th - Friday 15th May 2026

Student Value of the Term

**WOMEN'S RIGHTS
ARE HUMAN RIGHTS**

House Points - Week Ending 6th March



157,800
ALI



152,227
SEACOLE



139,077
AUSTEN



132,917
HAWKING

Leadership Message - Every Day Counts: Attendance Rewards and Support This Term

As we begin a new term, I hope everyone is feeling refreshed and ready to make the most of Half Term 4. A new half term brings a fresh start, and we would love to see every student striving for 100% attendance. Each half term, we recognise and reward positive attendance, so there's no better time to set that goal and commit to being in school, on time, every day.

We're also excited to continue our **weekly attendance raffle!** Every Monday, we will announce a new winner who can collect their prize from the attendance window. A £5 lifestyle voucher is up for grabs each week, and all students who attend school on time, every day that week, will be entered into the draw. It's a simple goal with a great reward!

To further support our students, we have introduced dedicated tutors who are available to help with any barriers that may be affecting attendance. This enhanced support works alongside our Attendance Team's ongoing contact and guidance, ensuring that every student and family has the help they need to build and maintain excellent attendance.

We are delighted to welcome you all back, especially those students we have missed. With upcoming assessments for some year groups, as well as opportunities to reflect on assessments completed before Christmas, being present in school is more important than ever. Success comes from being in the right place at the right time and attending school every day is the first and most important step towards achieving your goals.



Thank you for your continued commitment to being in school each day and contributing positively to our school community. We look forward to celebrating your achievements and excellent attendance throughout this half term!

S.Killick

Assistant Headteacher & Senior Attendance Champion

Parent Drop In - Tuesday 10th March

This week's Parent Drop In will be on Tuesday 10th March between 11.30am and 12.30pm.

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.



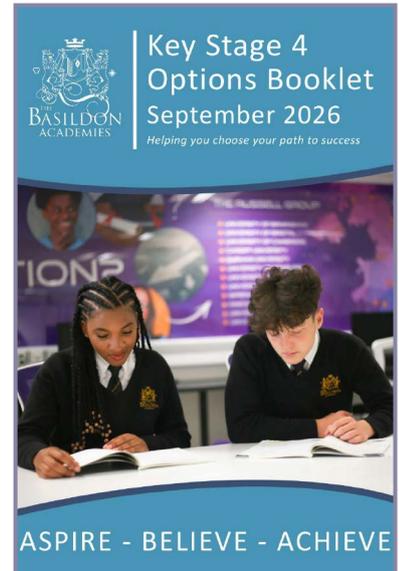
Year 9 Options Process

We are pleased to announce that the Year 9 options process will continue this week with students now able to make their final choices.

Having completed the expressions of interest we have been able to finalise the offer for this academic year. Students will be separated into two bands, blue and green and will be able to choose a humanities and 3 other subjects. The different bands will have their assemblies on Wednesday and Thursday this week with the options form available on Friday in tutor time for the students to bring home and discuss with parents and carers.

On Monday 16th March there will also be an opportunity to come to The Upper Academy to discuss the courses with Heads of Department before making final decisions. The first day that students can hand in their form will be Monday 16th March and all forms must be returned by Friday 17th April. This is an exciting time for the Year 9 students and we cannot wait to see what they choose.

To view the Year 9 Options Booklet and find out more about the subjects available, please click on the following link: [Key Stage 4 Options Booklet](#)



Congratulations to Mrs Jacob – Jack Petchey Leader Award Winner

We are incredibly proud to celebrate Lower Academy English Teacher Mrs Jacob, who has been awarded a Jack Petchey Leader Award.

The Leader Award recognises staff who go above and beyond to support and inspire young people. Students were invited to vote for the member of staff they felt truly deserved recognition for their dedication and hard work.

This award is particularly special as it reflects the voices of our students, and the genuine impact Mrs Jacob has on their daily school experience.

Students described her as:

- “A caring and supportive teacher.”
- “She understands everyone.”
- “She is positive and always helps us.”
- “She helped me pass my English AP.”
- “She is so patient and understanding – she listens and will always help.”
- “Lessons are fun and enjoyable with Mrs Jacob.”

These comments highlight the warmth, commitment and encouragement Mrs Jacob brings to her classroom every day. Her ability to build strong relationships, inspire confidence and make learning engaging truly embodies the values of our academy.

We would like to extend our sincere congratulations to Mrs Jacob on this well-deserved achievement and thank her for the positive difference she continues to make to the lives of our students.



The Essex SEND Local Offer Roadshows for all Schools

We're pleased to share that the Essex SEND Local Offer Roadshows are back, providing a friendly drop in space for parents and carers to learn more about SEND support.

- **Tuesday 17th March - 9.30am to 12.30pm**
- **Wat Tyler, Pitsea Hall Lane, Pitsea, Basildon, SS16 4UH**

The roadshows are for parents/carers of children with SEND aged 0-25. No booking needed, just drop in. For further information about what to expect from a roadshow and who will be there visit the [Local Offer Website](#)



Former Student Launches New Careers Taster Programme

Last week, the Lower Academy was delighted to welcome back former student Nicola Gunn as part of National Careers Week and the official launch of our brand-new *Careers Taster Programme*.

Nicola was the first guest in an exciting sequence of visiting professionals, designed to give students first-hand insight into a wide range of career pathways. Her visit marked a fantastic start to this new initiative.

Now a successful nail technician, Nicola shared her inspiring career journey with students, speaking openly about the different routes she has taken within the beauty industry. Her experience includes working with luxury brand Chanel, serving as a Beauty Consultant for Superdrug, and working as a make-up artist for professional photoshoots. Her story gave students a real understanding of the creativity, professionalism and determination required to succeed in the sector.

During her talk, Nicola explored the many pathways into the beauty industry, what it takes to build a career as a nail technician, and how passion and resilience can open exciting opportunities.

Students then had the opportunity to take part in a hands-on workshop, learning how to correctly prepare hands for a manicure and practising the techniques themselves. The practical session brought learning to life and allowed students to experience the skills involved in the profession.

"Best workshop of the year, it really helped me." Mia.G - Year 7

"We've learned a lot. It's been enjoyable and I'd really like to pursue a career as a nail technician."Sydni-Mae.H - Year 7

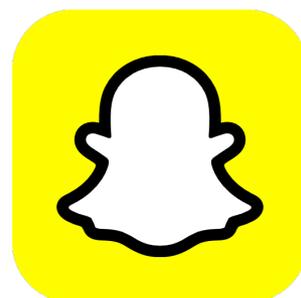
"This was really relaxing and calming. I got to express myself with my client." Ersa.T - Year 8



Online Safety Hub: Staying Safe on Snapchat

Snapchat is a popular social media platform that allows users to send disappearing photos and videos, known as 'snaps', to friends. The platform offers creative tools, including filters, lenses and augmented reality features to alter appearances. Users can share their daily lives through Stories, which disappear after 24 hours, and connect with friends through instant messaging, voice and video calls. [Click here](#) to access information and support relating to Snapchat.

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](#)



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.

Students Explore Future Pathways During National Careers Week

Students at the Lower Academy took part in a range of activities to mark National Careers Week, helping them explore future pathways, develop career awareness and reflect on their ambitions.

As part of the week, the Academy launched its new Careers Taster Programme, designed to give students first-hand insight into a variety of professions. The programme was shaped by a recent careers survey completed by students, which identified their interests, aspirations and skills.

The programme began with two former students returning to the Academy to share their career journeys and lead interactive sessions with students.

Alongside these visits, students also took part in Future Focus activities during Tutor Time, encouraging them to reflect on their strengths, interests and the many opportunities available to them after school.

Students have also recently been logging into the Unifrog online platform, which supports them in exploring career pathways in greater detail. The platform encourages students to research different industries, understand the skills required and discuss the many routes available beyond the Academies.

Together, these activities helped students build a clearer understanding of the world of work and the exciting possibilities open to them in the future.

"In Tutor Time we watched videos and learned about careers, including different jobs and colleges. We also talked about what we might want to do in the future and which subjects are needed for different career paths." Lacey.J.E – Year 8



Year 7 Enrichment Art Club – “Crazy Fish” Creations

During Year 7 Enrichment Art Club, students have been busy designing and creating their own incredible 3D clay “Crazy Fish” sculptures.

From preparing and shaping the clay to carefully styling their unique designs, students have explored the full ceramic process. Their work was fired in the kiln before being beautifully painted and finished with gloss and shimmering iridescent details.

The final results are bold, imaginative, and full of personality — a fantastic showcase of creativity, craftsmanship, and dedication. Well done to all our talented young artists!

The current Enrichment timetable includes opportunities such as sports, debate and science clubs, creative writing, music, literacy leaders, and a variety of art-based clubs; giving students the chance to explore interests, develop skills, and work alongside peers in a supportive environment.

Enrichment sessions take place Tuesday to Thursday, from 3pm - 3.30pm.



Students Mark World Book Day with Quizzes, Puzzles and Agatha Christie Activities

On Thursday 5th March, the Lower Academy celebrated World Book Day 2026 with students taking part in a range of activities designed to inspire a love of reading.

Throughout the day, students enjoyed quizzes, word searches and reading challenges, including a World Book Day quiz with five rounds focused on different books, authors and characters. Activities such as identifying "Who Am I?" characters from well-known stories made for an engaging and interactive experience.

The celebrations culminated in a special afternoon exploring the life and work of legendary mystery writer Agatha Christie. Students learned more about the famous English crime writer, explored extracts from her iconic murder mystery novels, and completed themed activity booklets featuring literary puzzles.

As part of the session, students also created fact files, artwork and mural designs inspired by Christie's stories and her remarkable achievements. Each class nominated their favourite designs, with the best from each year group going forward for judging and prizes.

Students also received a £1 World Book Day Book Token as part of the celebrations. To round off the week, students took part in the Lower Academy World Book Day Quiz Trail, where 26 questions were hidden around the school. The student in each year group who answered the most questions correctly won a prize.



"I really enjoyed the opportunity to take part in lots of interesting activities during World Book Day. The booklets with quizzes and word searches were really fun." Lacey-J.E – Year 8

"World Book Day was great! I really enjoyed learning about Agatha Christie and her brilliant books about crime and detectives. It was a great day." David.T

"It was really fun taking part in the quiz around the school where we had to find famous authors and characters from well-known books. I also enjoyed the word searches and learning about Agatha Christie. Making a fact file and drawing her was great, and taking turns reading part of one of her books was really interesting." Mackenzie.H – Year 8

From Classroom to Construction: Engineering Careers Brought to Life

As part of the Academies' Careers Taster Programme, the Lower Academy was delighted to welcome back former student Maria Hucker to speak with our students.

Maria now works as an Engineer at the Royal Opera House Thurrock Production Workshop, where she plays a key role in designing and constructing set pieces for productions staged at the world-renowned Royal Opera House in London. Her visit provided students with a fascinating insight into the creative and technical world of theatre engineering.

During her session, Maria shared her honest and inspiring career journey. She explained that her path was not always straightforward — originally aspiring to become a chef, she soon realised that career was not the right fit for her. Reflecting on her time at school, she spoke about her love of Design Technology and how discovering her strengths in practical subjects helped guide her towards engineering.

Maria talked students through the full process of set design, from the initial concept and creative ideas stage through to construction and installation. She explained how her role involves working with a range of materials including metal and wood, and how her welding skills are essential in bringing ambitious stage designs to life. Students were particularly excited to see images of her latest project — an impressive giant treehouse complete with stairs and a working swing, soon to feature on the theatre stage.

In addition to sharing her career story, Maria worked closely with students on a hands-on mini construction challenge. Students were tasked with designing and building their own structures, applying problem-solving skills, creativity and teamwork. Throughout the session, Maria offered guidance, encouragement and insight, helping students understand the practical skills and resilience required within engineering careers.

Her visit was an engaging and inspiring part of National Careers Week, giving students a real-world understanding of how creativity, technical skill and perseverance can lead to exciting and unique career opportunities.

"It was really interesting. It was difficult but that was the fun part. I'm curious to find out more." Zain.M - Year 7

"Making the plane was something to learn and remember. Maria was really kind and helpful." Blessing.N -Year 7



ARRIVE BE HERE ATTEND — IN TIME 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	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	1½ years
60%	80 days	16 weeks	400 lessons	2 years
50%	100 days	20 weeks	500 lessons	2 ½ 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

9th - 13th March 2026

Monday:	Catalyst (noun) catalisador in Portuguese – something that causes change. <i>The teacher's praise was a catalyst for renewed effort.</i>	
Tuesday:	Zealous (adjective) ਜੇਮੀਲੇ in Punjabi – showing great energy in pursuit of a cause. <i>The zealous campaigner worked tirelessly for climate action</i>	
Wednesday:	Sagacity (noun) sagacitatea in Romanian – keen judgement and wisdom. <i>Her sagacity made her an influential voice in the council.</i>	
Thursday:	Ambidextrous (adjective) амбидекстр in Russian – able to use both hands equally well. <i>The ambidextrous artist painted with both hands at once.</i>	
Friday:	Benevolence (noun) agalelei in Samoan – the quality of being kind and generous. <i>The benevolence of donors raised millions for charity.</i>	

Job of the Week: Politician

What does a Politician do?

A politician participates in government policy-making, often holding an elected position.

Day-to-day responsibilities include:

- Vote on new laws and policies
- Raise constituents' concerns with relevant ministers
- Debate issues and raise questions
- Talk to businesses and schools about local, national and international issues
- Speak to the media
- Hold surgeries and advice sessions in the constituency

Labour Market Information

-1% 25,076 jobs

+1.1% in your region of East of England, an increase of 2,863 jobs

What Qualifications do you need to do this job?

- To be at least 18 years old
- To be a citizen and a resident of the country you want to represent
- To be able to speak the national language of the country you want to represent
- To be a member of a political party

Let's Talk Money

UK annual median: £46,636

Leadership and management of TAs is well organised and they play a very important role within Basildon Academy. Teaching and non-teaching staff work closely together on a day-to-day basis, "It is teamwork, we do it together" a teacher commented.



Best Practice with
Teaching Assistants 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	O11
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.



CREATE MEMORIES

AT EASTER

Join us at 5 Elements during the Easter Holidays where every activity is designed to make this holiday unforgettable.

FREE

- ✓ **Boxing**
- ✓ **Kickboxing**
- ✓ **Mentoring**
- ✓ **Sports Based Games**



<https://portal.nestmanagement.co.uk/event/Index>