

## Dates for the Diary

### National Careers Week

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> - Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2025

### International Women's Day

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2025

### 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

### Year 9 AP2 Assessments

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

## Student Value of the Term

**WOMEN'S  
RIGHTS  
ARE HUMAN  
RIGHTS**

## House Points - Week Ending 28<sup>th</sup> February



59,080  
ALI



58,552  
SEACOLE



48,224  
AUSTEN



42,721  
HAWKING

## Personal Development: Building Skills for the Future

At the Lower Academy, we are committed to helping students develop the skills and confidence they need to thrive - not just in school, but in life. Through our Personal Development programme, we offer a range of experiences to support their journey, from career exploration to essential life skills.

Before half term, students took part in National Apprenticeship Week, engaging in activities that introduced them to a variety of pathways, including apprenticeships, T Levels, and A Levels. They also had the opportunity to connect with training providers: one delivered a virtual session, while TCHC visited Year 9 students in person. These experiences broaden students' understanding of their options and encourage them to start thinking about their future with confidence.

To further support this, students are continuing to build key employability skills through Skills Builder, developing competencies such as teamwork, problem-solving, and communication. These qualities are vital for success, whatever path they choose. Parents can help reinforce this at home by encouraging their children to recognise how these skills apply in everyday situations.



Students also have access to Unifrog, a fantastic online platform where they can explore careers, courses, and apprenticeships. We are currently looking into ways for parents and carers to access this resource; in the meantime, we encourage you to ask your child about what they've been exploring on the platform. These conversations can be a great way to spark ambition and set goals for the future.

By working together, students, parents/carers, and staff, we can ensure every young person leaves the Lower Academy prepared, inspired, and ready to take their next steps with confidence.

**J. Mizon - Enrichment & Personal Development Leader**

There has been a heavy emphasis on the training and development of staff to support them in supporting students. Examples of this include extensive whole staff training in Trauma Perceptive Practice (TPP) and ensuring all key pastoral staff are mental health first aid trained to enable them to triage student need effectively.



Wellbeing Award  
for Schools

2022-2025

## 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)

## 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.

The logo for Young Minds, featuring the word 'YOUNG' in yellow and 'MiNDS' in grey, with a small yellow dot above the 'i' in 'MiNDS'.

## Aspire - Believe - Achieve

## Year 8 Students Rewarded for Outstanding Progress in French

Year 8 students were recently recognised for their dedication and progress in French this term. Teachers from the French department nominated students from all classes for their continued engagement, rewarding them with a special movie afternoon in the main hall.

Students had the opportunity to vote on a selection of films and chose to watch the popular French movie Boule et Bill. The French department expressed their pride in the students' achievements and looks forward to seeing their continued enthusiasm for the subject.

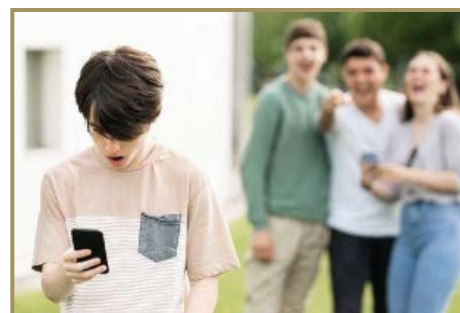


## Online Safety Hub: Online Bullying FAQs

Online bullying can have a significant impact on a child's wellbeing, and knowing how to respond is crucial. Our Online Safety Hub provides clear, practical advice on handling common online bullying situations. Click the link below for guidance on how to support your child:

<https://basildonacademies.onlinesafetyhub.uk/parent/articles/online-bullying-faqs>

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](#)



## 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](#)



**Special Educational Needs  
and Disabilities**



## MP Richard Holden Visits Basildon Lower Academy's Eco Committee

On Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February, Richard Holden MP visited the Lower Academy to meet with students involved in the school's Eco Committee and gardening projects. The visit allowed him to see first-hand, the progress students have made over the past year in transforming outdoor spaces and creating sustainable habitats for local wildlife.

During his time at the academy, Mr Holden spoke with students about their ongoing projects, the support they have secured, and their future vision for the school's allotment and grounds. He was particularly impressed with the students' passion and commitment to environmental sustainability, praising their knowledge, enthusiasm and politeness. He noted how valuable such projects are for schools and wished he had been able to take part in something similar during his own school years.

To show his support, Mr Holden even rolled up his sleeves and helped with some digging and clearing of the allotment beds. He also discussed ways he could assist the school in further developing its outdoor spaces and sustainability initiatives moving forward.

The visit was a fantastic opportunity for students to showcase their hard work and inspire further support for their eco-friendly initiatives.



## Building Futures: Year 9 Students Learn About Vocational Opportunities

Last week, Year 9 students welcomed Charlotte Love, Learner Recruitment and Mentor from TCHC Group, to learn about vocational education.

TCHC Group offers vocational courses and functional skills qualifications at Level 1 and Level 2. With two campuses, including a dedicated Construction Centre, they provide practical, skills-based learning in a supportive environment.

TCHC welcomes students from all backgrounds, including those who may not thrive in traditional academic settings. Smaller class sizes and SEN support create a nurturing atmosphere, helping learners gain confidence and progress towards apprenticeships or further education.

The visit highlighted the benefits of vocational education and the pathways available beyond conventional routes.

"I loved the experience. It made me think about the options and how to get a college opportunity for when I am older in life." Stevie-Lee G

"I think THTC is a great college for students because it offers many beneficial opportunities. My sibling went there and had a positive experience." Megan.L





## Year 9 Students Explore NHS Careers in Interactive Workshops

Year 9 students recently took part in insightful NHS Careers Workshops led by Kate Evans from the Health & Care Academy. The sessions introduced students to the vast range of career opportunities within the healthcare sector; from frontline patient care roles, including nurses and paramedics to vital behind-the-scenes positions like digital communication officers and administrative staff.

Throughout the workshops, students gained a deeper understanding of the skills and attributes essential for success in these careers. Kate highlighted the importance of transferable skills, many of which students are already developing, including teamwork, organisation, and creative problem-solving—all key qualities for thriving in the workplace.

A major focus of the sessions was the importance of communication across different healthcare roles. Students even had the chance to learn basic sign language, practicing how to introduce themselves—a valuable skill in patient care and professional settings.

To put their communication skills to the test, students participated in an interactive listening and instruction challenge. One student was given a visual aid, while their partner, unable to see it, had to recreate the object using only verbal instructions. Using playdough to shape their creations, students quickly realised the importance of clear, precise communication.



The sessions provided a valuable insight into the world of healthcare, inspiring our students to consider future careers in this essential industry.

"We really enjoyed the communication playdough activity, it was fun, and we learned a lot. Sofia.D and Fizzah.A

"This was a fun interactive experience in communicative skills." Bailey.O

## Parent/Carer Online Safety Workshop - Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 7:30pm - 8:30pm

The Basildon Academies are committed to the digital safety and wellbeing of students. As part of this commitment, a workshop is being held to help parents and carers understand the risks young people face in their online lives and the practical steps that can be taken to support them.

Lyndsey Vaughton, Training Lead for Education & Wellbeing at SmoothWall, will provide valuable insights and tools, including:

- Information on the latest apps and games young people may have access to.
- The harmful content young people may be exposed to.
- Ways to help young people safely navigate online risks.
- Access to the brand new and FREE Online Safety Hub, with dedicated guidance for parents.
- An introduction to a parental app that allows control over what young people see online, plus other important features.

Attendees will also have the chance to win an enhanced license provided by Smoothwall to cover children's devices.

Join the workshop online by clicking the link below:

[Parent/Carer Online Safety Workshop](#)

# BASILDON ACADEMIES

## WORD OF THE DAY

3<sup>rd</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> March 2025

British Pie Week

National Careers Week and International Women's Day (8<sup>th</sup> March 25)

Monday: <b>World Wildlife Day</b>	<b>Conservation (Noun)</b> išsaugojimo in Lithuanian Definition: The action of conserving something, particularly wildlife and natural resources. Example: World Wildlife Day highlights the importance of conservation efforts to protect endangered species.	
Tuesday: <b>Pancake Day</b>	<b>Gastronomy (Noun)</b> gastronomía in Spanish Definition: The art of choosing, cooking, and eating good food. Example: Pancake Day is a celebration of gastronomy, showcasing a variety of delicious pancake recipes.	
Wednesday: <b>World Book Day</b>	<b>Literature (Noun)</b> sastra in Indonesian Definition: Written works, especially those considered of superior or lasting artistic merit. Example: World Book Day celebrates literature by encouraging people to read and share their favourite books.	
Thursday:	<b>Narrative (Noun)</b> 敘事 in Cantonese (Traditional) Definition: A spoken or written account of connected events; a story. Example: The narrative explored on World Book Day helps to engage readers in diverse literary genres.	
Friday: <b>UA Sixth Form Admissions Event</b>	<b>Imagination (Noun)</b> ìrònú in Yoruba Definition: The faculty or action of forming new ideas, or images or concepts of external objects not present to the senses. Example: World Book Day encourages students to use their imagination by creating their own stories and characters.	

## Job of the Week: Game Designer

### What does a Game Designer do?

You'll write the code that controls the game, using ready-made code and writing new code as needed. You'll be working on computer games that may take several months or years to produce.

Your day-to-day duties could include:

working with other people, like game designers, to understand their needs  
writing code using programming languages like C++, C#, Python, Visual Studio, and DirectX

### Labour Market Information

UK jobs: 690,681

Essex Jobs: 15,902

Growth: +41.4%

Top 5 LEAs: 1. Hampshire (23,133) 2. Surrey (22,283) 3. Hertfordshire (19,941) 4. Essex (15,902) 5. Kent (14,545)

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

You'll usually need an HND, foundation degree, or degree in one of these subjects:  
computer game development  
computer game design  
computer game programming  
computer science  
games technology

A qualification that includes a work placement will give you an advantage.

### Let's Talk Money

UK annual median: £49,430

The school repeatedly demonstrate they are prepared to go the "extra mile" to find the right solutions for their students. Creative examples include developing an eGaming suite, opening the school facilities on a Saturday to enable students to study (including the art facilities), and providing catering sessions for parent and child providing the opportunity to cook cost effective healthy meals together.



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)

**Did you know?** **90%** of young people with attendance **BELOW** **85%** fail to get good grades.

MISSING **1 DAY A WEEK**

=

LOSING **ONE YEAR OF SCHOOL LIFE.**

### Good attendance means:

Being in school at least **97%** of the time, that's at least **184 days** a year.

Target  
**97%+**



**175**

days are **NOT**  
spent in school  
each year.\*

\* Plenty of time for shopping,  
holidays & appointments.

**190**  
Days of  
education

**184**  
Days of  
education

**171**  
Days of  
education

**162**  
Days of  
education

**152**  
Days of  
education

**143**  
Days of  
education

**100%**  
0 days absent

**97%**  
6 days absent

**90%**  
19 days absent

**85%**  
28 days absent

**80%**  
38 days absent

**75%**  
47 days absent

### **SERIOUSLY WORRIED**

Very poor attendance has a serious  
impact & reduces life chances.

### **VERY CONCERNED**

Poor attendance gives  
less chance of success.

### **WELL DONE**

Good attendance gives the  
best chance of success.



# Pancake Day - Tuesday 4th March



To celebrate Pancake Day on Tuesday 4th March, the Dining Hall will be serving pancakes in addition to the regular dessert menu options



3rd - 7th March 2025

To celebrate British Pie Week, the Dining Hall will be serving a different pie each day, alongside the usual lunchtime menu.

Monday: **Cheese, Onion & Potato**

Tuesday: **Steak & Kidney**

Wednesday: **Chicken**

Thursday: **Minced Beef**

Friday: **Chicken & Vegetable**





# BASILDON FRAMES

Using stop motion animation  
to explore identity, belonging and place.  
Local workshops for young people in  
basildon.

[www.animatingeducation.co.uk/basildonframes](http://www.animatingeducation.co.uk/basildonframes)

Contact: [newwaverlystudios@gmail.com](mailto:newwaverlystudios@gmail.com)



**15TH & 22ND  
MARCH**