

Dates for the Diary

Bank Holiday

Monday 4th May 2026

Year 8 AP2 Assessments

Monday 11th - Friday 15th May 2026

Year 9 AP2 Assessments

Monday 18th - Friday 22nd May 2026

Half Term

Monday 25th May - Friday 29th May 2026

Year 9 AP2 Assessments

Monday 1st - Friday 5th June 2026

Student Value of the Term

**CLIMATE CHANGE
IS REAL**

House Points - Week Ending 24th April



199,076
ALI



181,867
SEACOLE



172,196
AUSTEN



163,056
HAWKING

Leadership Message - Supporting SEN Students Through Transition

The Summer Term is a particularly busy time as we prepare for end of year transitions, especially for our Year 9 students moving to the Upper Academy. We are currently working closely with the Upper Academy SENCO, Miss Grannon, to plan additional support for students with SEN and barriers to learning to ensure this transition is positive and well supported.

As part of this, a plan will be put in place for identified students, with some being invited to attend an additional SEN transition day in a small group, ahead of the whole school transition days later in June. Families will be contacted directly if their child is invited to take part.



I would also like to take this opportunity to thank parents and carers who have supported the SEN team by contributing to the review and updating of One Plans for students who require them. Your input is invaluable in helping us build a fuller picture of each child's strengths and needs.

We aim to follow the Essex guidance by reviewing One Plans termly, with the involvement of both parents/carers and students, ensuring support remains appropriate, meaningful and responsive.

C.O'Keefe

Assistant Headteacher & SENCO

Parent Drop In - Wednesday 29th April

This week's Parent Drop In will be on Wednesday 29th April between 10am and 11am.

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.



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.

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

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 yellow dot above the 'i' in 'MINDS'.

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](#)

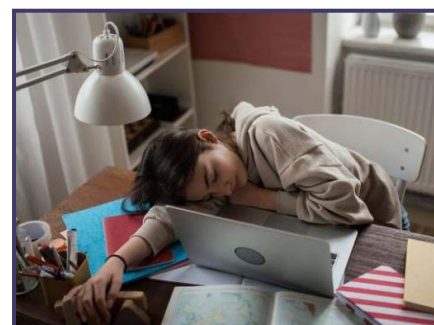
Accessing the Student Portal also enables single sign-on, meaning students do not need any additional passwords for platforms such as SENECA. Students simply log in to the portal in the same way they would when logging in to a school computer.

Online Safety Hub: Is Your Child's Screen Stealing Their Sleep (and Their Smarts)?

Is your child scrolling late into the night or struggling to switch off from their screen? With many young people using devices right up until bedtime, experts are raising concerns about the impact on sleep, focus, and learning.

For guidance and advice for parents and carers, visit: <https://basildonacademies.onlinesafetyhub.uk/parent/articles/is-your-child-s-screen-stealing-their-sleep>

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: <https://basildonacademies.onlinesafetyhub.uk/>



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 SEND Department - Ground Floor Blue Block



Ayesha Recognised for Outstanding Achievement with Jack Petchey Award

Year 8 student Ayesha.T is the latest recipient of the Jack Petchey Outstanding Achiever Award, recognising her dedication and positive contribution to school life.

Ayesha has shown real commitment to her studies and personal development. She has successfully moved up through the academic sets and consistently completes out-of-hours learning, reflecting her drive to do her best.

Her enthusiasm for Physical Education stands out. She regularly attends extracurricular sports clubs and has taken part in activities such as cross-country, showing a willingness to step outside her comfort zone and take on new challenges.

Beyond the classroom, Ayesha is known for her kindness and integrity. She is a loyal friend who offers support when it is needed and always treats others with fairness and respect. She also responds well to feedback and looks for ways to improve.

Speaking about receiving the award, Ayesha said: "I was truly shocked, happy and overwhelmed when I learned that I had received the award."

Ayesha's commitment, positivity, and character make her a very deserving recipient. We are proud of her achievements and look forward to seeing what she accomplishes next.



Supporting Aspirations Through Careers Boards

The Lower Academy continues to support its comprehensive careers programme through a series of informative careers boards displayed around the school. Designed to reinforce students' aspirations and broaden their understanding of future opportunities, the boards provide valuable insights into a wide range of professions.

One display highlights pathways to future destinations, helping students explore the steps required to achieve their ambitions. Another dedicated "Job of the Week" board showcases specific roles in greater detail, featuring key information such as qualifications required, potential salaries, and career progression routes.

These resources support students in making informed decisions about their futures while encouraging them to aim high and pursue their goals with confidence.

Student Aspirations

"When I grow up I want to become a veterinary surgeon, because I really like animals." – Mariia.G – Year 7

"I want to be a Design Engineer so I can design a house for my mum and an aeroplane for my sister." Blessing.N – Year 7

"I want to travel the world, so I want to be a flight attendant." Khadijah.S – Year 7



Essex Sexual Health Service Webpages Dedicated to Secondary Parents & Carers

The Essex Sexual Health Service has a website dedicated to parents and carers. Parents can find a wealth of resources, including FAQs, insights into RSE, and advice on how to have those important conversations.

www.essexsexualhealthservice.org.uk/parents-and-carers/



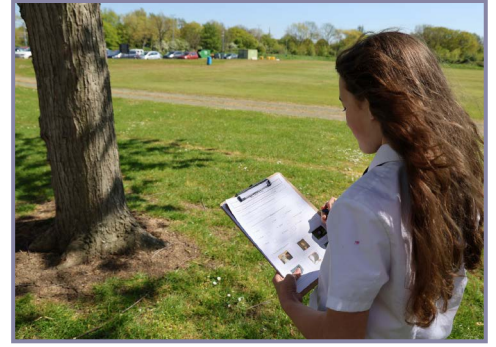
Year 7 Geographers Celebrate Earth Day with Outdoor Fieldwork

To mark Earth Day on 22nd April, Year 7 geography students took their learning outside to explore the school environment through hands-on fieldwork.

Students investigated how human geography can impact the physical environment, identifying natural features across the site and completing detailed field sketches. As part of the activity, they also observed how the landscape has been shaped and changed by human activity.

The session included a practical nature hunt, where students identified different trees, leaves and plant life around the school grounds, helping to build their understanding of local ecosystems.

Spending over an hour outdoors, students engaged fully with their surroundings while developing key geographical skills in a real-world setting. It was a fantastic opportunity to combine classroom learning with outdoor exploration in the warm weather.



#MOVE WITH US
Ambassadors

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY FOR ALL GET TOGETHER



Try adapted sports seen at the Paralympics, including Power Chair Football and Boccia!



Discuss inclusivity in sports with Ellie Challis and small changes you can use to help make a difference!



Take part in a social media workshop, to help share your top tips for creating inclusive activity opportunities.



Tuesday 26th May 2026 9:30am - 2:30pm



Witham (more details provided upon registration)



Lunch will be provided

This event is first come, first served. To secure your place, please register using the link in the email by the 8th May. We may also be able to cover public transport costs, so please get in touch with us about this.

WITH SPECIAL GUEST

ELLIE CHALLIS

Ellie is a Paralympic champion para swimmer from Essex, winning gold at Paris 2024 and silver at Tokyo 2020 in the S3 50m backstroke.

She's also a multiple-time world champion and world-record holder, cementing her place among Britain's leading para swimmers.



Please note you must be registered as an Ambassador to attend!

www.activeessex.org/move-with-us/

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

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

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	2½ 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.



EXTRA-CURRICULAR SPORTS CLUBS

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	Before School 7.30am-8.15am <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Girls Basketball & Netball 	Before School 7.30am-8.15am <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Girls Football • Year 7 Boys Football 	Before School 7.30am-8.15am <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Track Athletics 	Before School 7.30am-8.15am <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 8/9 Boys Football

BASILDON ACADEMIES WORD OF THE DAY

27th April - 1st May 2026

Monday:	Sagacity (noun) <i>sabiduría</i> in Spanish – the quality of having keen insight. <i>The leader's sagacity inspired confidence.</i>	
Tuesday:	Obsequious (adjective) <i>servil</i> in Catalan – excessively obedient or servile. <i>The obsequious assistant agreed with every word.</i>	
Wednesday:	Transient (adjective) – <i>transiente</i> in Galician – lasting only a short time. <i>The transient storm passed quickly.</i>	
Thursday:	Inevitable (adjective) <i>inevitável</i> in Portuguese – certain to happen. <i>The inevitable exam timetable arrived.</i>	
Friday:	Euphoria (noun) <i>euforia</i> in Basque – a feeling of intense happiness. <i>There was euphoria at the May Day parade.</i>	

Job of the Week: Laboratory Technician

What does a Laboratory Technician do?

Key Responsibilities

- Setting up experiments and investigations
- Carrying out risk assessments
- Collecting and analysing samples
- Preparing solutions, cultures or specimens
- Recording and presenting data
- Ordering and controlling stock
- Disposing of chemicals and waste products safely
- Cleaning and maintaining equipment

Labour Market Information

- +41.4% 897,801 jobs
- +40.8% in your region of East of England, an increase of 89,463 jobs

Let's Talk Money

UK annual median:
£28,210

What Qualifications do you need to do this job?

Typical Entry Requirements:

You'll usually need at least 4 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A* to C) including English, maths and science.

Employers may also expect you to have A levels or a degree in a subject like:

Biology, biomedical science, chemistry, physics, pharmacology, forensic science, environmental science, materials science

Experience of working in a laboratory could help you get a job.

You could get into this job through an apprenticeship.

Partnership and engagement with parents and the wider community is now seen as a strength of the school and has enhanced the school's reputation. Clear evidence of this is in the rising roll, migration into the school & the enhanced reputation of the school within the local community & wider education community.



Leading Parent
Partnership Award

2023-2026

Follow The Basildon Lower Academy on our social media channels



THROUGH THE DOOR

100%

FOR 24

Easy Raffle Entry
£50 to win



EVENT RULES

Attend everyday on time for 24 days
for your chance to be entered into this
terms attendance competition.
Winners will be announced May 22nd.

PRIZES

- 1st Draw**
£50 Lifestyle Voucher
- 2nd Draw**
£10 Lifestyle Voucher
- 3rd Draw**
£5 Lifestyle Voucher

APRIL 20TH-

MAY 22ND

INFORMATION

For more information, pop down
to the attendance window.