



The Basildon Lower Academy Newsletter

12th January 2026

Dates for the Diary

Year 7 AP1 Assessments

Monday 12th - Friday 16th January 2026

World Religion Day

Sunday 18th January 2026

Year 8 & Year 9 Progress Review Event

Thursday 22nd January 2026: 3.30pm-6.30pm

Holocaust Memorial Day

Tuesday 27th January 2026

National Apprenticeship Week

Monday 9th - Sunday 15th February 2026

Student Value of the Term

KINDNESS IS EVERYTHING

House Points - Week Ending 9th January



111,202
ALI



105,383
SEACOLE



91,585
AUSTEN



84,223
HAWKING

Leadership Message - Inclusive Support Through Our Lower Enhanced Provision

Our Enhanced Provision (EP) at the Lower Academy offers wraparound support for students who need a different approach or environment to learn. This includes those experiencing emotional challenges, anxiety, or difficulty regulating behaviour; as well as students returning after time away from school.

Key Features of the EP:

- Small group learning to encourage engagement.
- Dedicated Keyworker support to build positive relationships and model emotional regulation.
- Core Strength Programme and therapeutic sessions focusing on resilience, respect, affiliation, and attachment.
- Reintegration timetables tailored to individual needs, ensuring a clear path to successful progression.
- Ongoing support even after students return to mainstream lessons.

The EP follows the expectations of the Academies including uniform, attendance and behaviour, which supports transition back to the mainstream setting on a phased return.

We now have a counsellor one day a week in the EP, to further support students. The feedback from students attending these sessions has been extremely positive in how they feel following these interventions. We also have access to the School Nurse who can engage with students in school or in the home setting, if necessary. Building a link with the student and families supporting a number of medical issues including anxiety or other undiagnosed medical issues, which may impact on a student's ability to want to attend school. Both interventions are confidential to the students involved.



Our goal is to equip students with the confidence and skills to re-engage in learning, communicate effectively, and thrive in a supportive, inclusive environment. We value the partnership with parents and carers, whose involvement is vital to our success.

N. Hullyer

Senior Student Development Leader - Enhanced Provision

Regular feedback is sought from parents, staff, and pupils to identify what is working well, where adjustments are needed and where there are opportunities to enhance provision further. This includes the use of confidence checkers to ensure students have taken on the learning and to identify areas where further teaching is needed.



Excellence in Pupil Development Award

2023-2026

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

Supporting Your Child's Wellbeing with Parenting Smart

Parenting Smart, created by the children's mental health charity Place2Be, offers practical tips and guidance to support your child's wellbeing.

From managing screen time to handling big emotions, the website provides short, easy-to-follow articles and videos designed to help parents navigate everyday challenges with confidence.



Parenting Smart

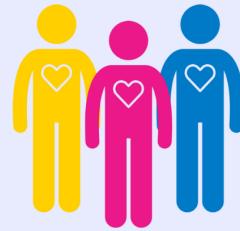
Explore helpful resources here: <https://parentingsmart.place2be.org.uk/>

Young Carers Club

Tuesdays

3:15pm-5pm

Venue: G7



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

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

Online Safety Advice: A Parent's Guide to Minecraft

Minecraft is one of the most popular games among children and young people, encouraging creativity, collaboration, and exploration. However, it's important for parents to understand the potential risks involved, including in-game communication, inappropriate content, and screen time.

[Click here](#) to access information and support on safety settings, setting boundaries, and talking to your child about Minecraft, please visit.

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](#)



Free Online Counselling Service

www.kooth.com is a free, confidential, safe and anonymous way for young people, aged 11-18, 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).



Tesco Funding Boosts Young Carers Club

The Lower Academy is proud to announce that its Young Carers Club has received funding through Tesco Stronger Starts, helping to further support students who have caring responsibilities at home.

The funding was presented to the Academy by Tesco Community Champion, Stephanie Herring, from Tesco Extra in Pitsea, and will be used to enhance the provision offered through the Young Carers Club. The grant will support activities and resources that provide young carers with a safe, supportive space to relax, connect with peers, and enjoy time away from their caring responsibilities.



The Young Carers Club plays an important role within the Academy, offering a welcoming environment to relax, socialise, and enjoy time with peers.

The Academy is extremely grateful to Tesco Stronger Starts and to Stephanie Herring for their ongoing support and commitment to making a positive difference for young people in the local community.

Mr Emberson, Young Carers Lead at The Lower Academy, said: "I cannot thank Steph enough for all her support since I reached out to her. She has offered more than I thought was available and is constantly on hand to help. The treats we are given are a massive bonus to the group, as it allows them to relax and have some laughter together. We will be taking this

This funding will help ensure that the Young Carers Club can continue to grow and provide meaningful support to students who do so much for others.

"Thank you so much for the funding and for all the food you provide for us." James.B – Year 7

"Thank you for the funding and the treats you have given us. We are really grateful." Darcie.M – Year 7

The Young Carers Club is always grateful for donations to help continue its work. If anyone is able to support the group with donations of food, resources, or soft furnishings, please contact temberson@basildonacademies.org.uk for more information.

Thank You to Our Community

We would like to say a huge thank you to our school community for their generosity and support. We have received a lovely letter of thanks from the Royal British Legion following our fundraising efforts in the lead-up to Remembrance Day.

Thanks to the cake sale and the purchase of poppies, we raised over £150, helping to support this important cause.

Thank you to everyone who supported and got involved.



Parent Drop In - Monday 19th January

This week's Parent Drop In will be on Monday 19th January 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. 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.





EXTRA-CURRICULAR SPORTS CLUBS

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

NHS Guidance: Is your child too unwell for school?

As seasonal illnesses become more common, the NHS offers clear guidance to help parents and carers decide when children should stay at home and when it is safe to return to school. The advice covers common conditions such as coughs, colds, sickness, diarrhoea and fever.

You can view the full NHS guidance here: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>



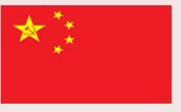
VEGANUARY MONTH

Throughout January the Dining Hall will
be serving a Vegan Dish of the Day

BASILDON ACADEMIES

WORD OF THE DAY

12th - 16th January 2026

Monday:	Sagacity (noun) проницателност in Bulgarian – keen mental discernment and good judgement. <i>Her sagacity made her a respected mentor.</i>	
Tuesday:	Judicious (adjective) 明智 in Cantonese – having or showing good sense. <i>The judicious choice was to revise earlier rather than later.</i>	
Wednesday:	Taciturn (adjective) 沉默寡言 in Chinese – reserved or saying little. <i>The taciturn boy spoke rarely, but always wisely.</i>	
Thursday:	Formidable (adjective) strašan in Croatian – inspiring fear or respect through power. <i>The formidable essay question tested every skill she had learned.</i>	
Friday:	Inscrutable (adjective) nevzpytateľný in Czech – impossible to understand or interpret. <i>The teacher's inscrutable expression kept students guessing.</i>	

Job of the Week: Mental Health Therapist

What does a Mental Health Therapist do?

Mental Health Therapists use therapy to support people who have mental health problems.

Your work with clients could involve:

- Encouraging them to talk about emotional or relationship problems
- Analysing past events and behaviours so that changes can be made
- Assessing their way of thinking and their feelings
- Helping them develop new strategies for coping
- You could work with adults or children, individually or in groups. You may also be involved in training non-client groups like social workers.

Labour Market Information

- 169,927
- 3,760 in your local area of Essex
- +7.2% 118,954 jobs
- +11.3% in your region of East of England, an increase of 13,484 jobs



What Qualifications do you need to do this job
You'll usually need:

- A relevant degree or professional qualification in social work, psychology, medicine, or mental health
- A minimum number of placement hours in a mental health setting, or equivalent work experience
- Training at postgraduate level, like a master's degree, PsyD, or PhD

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



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



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!

