

## Dates for the Diary

### National Careers Week

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> - Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2023

### International Women's Day

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023

### British Science Week

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> - Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2023

### Parent Forum Meeting

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2023: 4.30 - 5.30pm

## Student Value of the Term

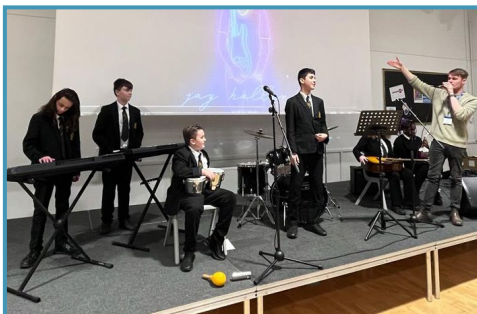
**WOMEN'S  
RIGHTS  
ARE HUMAN  
RIGHTS**

## Music Industry Taster Day

On 23<sup>rd</sup> February, Lower Academy students took part in a Music Industry Taster Day, learning new skills from professional musicians. Students enjoyed a song writing workshop run by Liam Hayes from the Essex Music Education Hub and visiting artist Jay Holland. A performance workshop where the students performed their compositions to each other was followed by a live performance from Jay Holland.

"The music day was really fun. I loved writing a song with Jay and Liam, they were both very kind and helped us with the music. Performing the song was scary but well worth it!" Isobel.T - Year 8

"The whole day was engaging and fun. Liam and Jay helped me play guitar and helped us all with creating a song to perform in front of an audience." Christina.K - Year 9



## Free Afterschool Teatime Club - Years 7 & 8

In order to support families with the cost of living, we are delighted to offer an after-school Tea Time Club **free of charge** to our Year 7 & 8 students.

The club is available from 3.30pm – 5.30pm (Mon-Fri) and will provide students with **Active Fun**, enrichment activities including drama and cooking. **Each student will receive Free Hot food and refreshments.**

Spaces are limited and the club will only be able to accommodate students who are pre-booked. This allows us to staff accordingly, and to provide enough hot meals for each student.

Each week, you will be able to log into your ParentPay account and book the days you require your child to access the club for the following week.



If you wish to utilise this club for the week ahead, please log into your ParentPay account and follow the steps listed below.

1. Log into [ParentPay](#)
2. Click on 'pay for other items'
3. Click 'view' next to the Teatime Club payment item (this is a free club, no payment is actually required)
4. Tick the consent box and click on 'Book Meals and Places'
5. Select the drop down 'After School' and the date of the week you wish to book for
6. Scroll down the page and click on 'Book a session' for each date you wish to book and it will turn green. You will need to scroll right to reveal the whole week
7. Scroll down and click 'Confirm bookings'
8. Your bookings have been confirmed

If you need to cancel a session please go back to step 6 and click on 'clear day' on the dates that you wish to cancel and save your changes.

## House Points - Week Ending 3<sup>rd</sup> March



## 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.

## School 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 Wellbeing Centre



## SEND Department Coffee Afternoons Every Wednesday 2:30pm – 3:30pm

We are delighted to offer our parents/carers the opportunity to meet with members of our SEND Department to discuss your child's progress. Coffee afternoons are held at the Lower Academy from 2:30 -



To book an appointment please visit the [Contact Us](#) page via the Basildon Lower Academy website and select the option for General Enquiries.



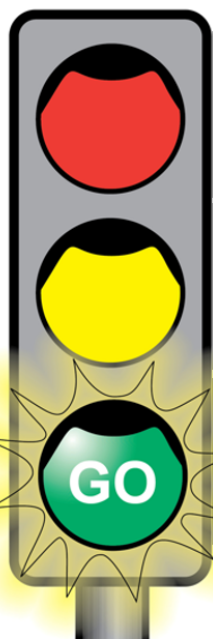
## Attendance Expectations

There is a clear link between academic success and attendance and as such our expectations for attendance are that:

- Parents have a legal duty to ensure their child attends regularly.
- Students should have 100% attendance each year.
- Students with attendance below 95% are of concern.

# ATTENDANCE

*Every Minute Counts!*



**89% & below**

*Drastic effect on academic achievement*

**95-99%**

*Less chance of success. Harder to make progress*

**100-96%**

*Good chance of success and progress*

### Absence from school

Children are required by law to attend school 190 days per year. The government states that every child's attendance should be above 95%.

### How do YOU measure up?

Attendance	Days Absent	Weeks Absent	Lessons Missed
95%	9 Days	2 Weeks	50 Lessons
90%	19 Days	4 Weeks	100 Lessons
85%	29 Days	6 Weeks	150 Lessons
80%	38 Days	8 Weeks	200 Lessons
75%	48 Days	10 Weeks	250 Lessons
70%	57 Days	11.5 Weeks	290 Lessons
65%	67 Days	13.5 Weeks	340 Lessons

## 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 should 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.
- Parents/carers must provide medical evidence to support all absences due to illness or medical appointments.
- Wherever possible parents/carers should make appointments outside of school hours but if this is unavoidable students should attend school before and after the appointment.
- If no appropriate medical evidence is provided then the Academies cannot authorise an absence. (ie. medical appointment card, prescription, doctor's letter.)

For further information and guidance regarding attendance and absence please visit our website: [www.basildonloweracademy.org.uk/attendance](http://www.basildonloweracademy.org.uk/attendance)



## Matilda Jr. Casting Revealed

Throughout February, 40 Lower Academy students dedicated their time and hard work to auditioning for our upcoming school production of Matilda Jr.

On Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February, after six gruelling auditions and recalls casting was revealed! We are delighted to announce that every student who attended auditions has been rewarded with a part. Our students have begun rehearsals and are showing the same dedication, commitment and passion as they did in their auditions.

"When the curtains drew back to reveal the cast list and I saw my name next to the character Matilda Wormwood, I was speechless! It took a few seconds for it to sink in before I started jumping up and down with excitement with my friends. I can't wait to start rehearsing for the show!" Ellaouise.J - Year 7

The opening show will be on July 5<sup>th</sup>.



Stakeholders recognise they have a clear voice, and they are listened to. There are strong processes in place through forums and surveys and these lead to practical change, examples of which students and staff were able to articulate.



Wellbeing Award  
for Schools

2022-2025

## 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).

## 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)

## Year 7 Students of the Week

Mathematician of the Week	Shanila Z
English Scholar of the Week	Decan P
Musician of the Week	Jenson Y
Sporting Legend of the Week	Emily B
Historian of the Week	Zack A
Chef of the Week	Anna R
Artist of the Week	Sabrie R
Engineer of the Week	Riley S

## Year 8 Students of the Week

Mathematician of the Week	Rubie F
English Scholar of the Week	Yanna I
Scientist of the Week	Larissa V
Sporting legend of the Week	Arianna G
Historian of the Week	Findley C
Geography Genius of the Week	David-Andrei C
RE expert of the Week	Larissa V
Chef of the Week	Archie C
Artist of the Week	Levi M
Performer of the Week	Mija K
Computer Scientist of the Week	Jessica N
Engineer of the Week	Alexis S

## Year 9 Students of the Week

Mathematician of the Week	Olivia B
English Scholar of the Week	Eduard S
Sporting legend of the Week	Diamond A
Historian of the Week	Frankie C
Geography Genius of the Week	Christina K
RE expert of the Week	Neyla T
Chef of the Week	Cory W
Artist of the Week	Lavinia G
Computer Scientist of the Week	Phoenix M
RSHE Champion of the Week	Ruby W

**Follow The Basildon Lower Academy on our social media channels**





## Year 9 Options Process & Transition to the Upper Academy

Over the course of term 1, Year 9 have been working hard beginning their first foundation GCSE content whilst getting ready for the options selection process. The information below is intended to provide an overview timeline of the activities which students will engage in to support their transition to the Upper Academy.

March 2023	Options Selection
May 2023	Parent/Student 1:1 Meetings
June & July 2023	Year 9 End of Year Assessments
w/c 10th July 2023	Year 9 Transition to Upper Academy - Options Tasters

The Government has an ambition for all students to complete the English Baccalaureate (EBacc) as research shows that this suite of subjects provides support for English & Maths achievement, creates greater opportunities post-18 and supports routes into higher education. Year 9 students will be selecting a Humanities subject and 2 further options to complement their compulsory suite of English Language, English Literature, Maths, Combined Science, French, Core PE, PSHE & Enrichment.

Please do continue to encourage students to complete tasks at home using online platforms on a regular basis. Our remote learning team continue to provide support via [remotelearning@basildonacademies.org.uk](mailto:remotelearning@basildonacademies.org.uk) Please do not hesitate to contact them if you need any advice, guidance or support in accessing out of hours learning.

We will be in touch in the coming months regarding the Options Selection process, which will include an opportunity for you to meet with a member of the leadership team 1:1 to discuss your child's options selection and link to post-18 ambitions.

## Free school lunch for all students

A free lunch will be available to all students every  
Monday & Friday between now & the Easter Holidays



6<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> March 2023

To celebrate British Pie Week The Dining Hall  
will be serving a different choice of pie every day  
in addition to the normal lunchtime menu.

Monday: Cheese, Onion & Potato

Tuesday: Steak & Kidney

Wednesday: Chicken

Thursday: Minced Beef

Friday: Chicken & Vegetable

