

Dates for the Diary

National Careers Week

Monday 2nd - Saturday 7th March 2026

British Science Week

Friday 6th - Sunday 15th March 2026

International Women's Day

Sunday 8th March 2026

Year 7 Parents Evening

Thursday 12th March 2026 - 3.30pm-6.30pm

Easter Holidays

Monday 30th March - Friday 10th April 2026

Student Value of the Term

WOMEN'S RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS

House Points - Week Ending 27th February



151,681
ALI



142,533
SEACOLE



130,273
AUSTEN



126,313
HAWKING

Leadership Message: Inspiring Futures

National Careers Week: Launching Our Careers Taster Programme

This week, as we mark **National Careers Week**, we are excited to launch our brand-new **Careers Taster Programme** as part of our wider Careers Provision across the Academies.

This initiative will see alumni and Academy staff who have previously worked in a range of professional industries sharing their experiences, insights and career journeys with our students. Although launching this week, the programme will run throughout the year, providing ongoing opportunities for inspiration and guidance.

Recently, all Lower Academy students completed a careers-focused survey, identifying their interests, ambitions and personal strengths. The Careers Taster Programme has been carefully shaped around this feedback to ensure that encounters are meaningful, relevant and inspiring.

This week, students will hear from a Nail Technician, an Engineer who helps design and build theatre sets, a Hairdresser and a Make-up Artist. Through these sessions, we aim to broaden horizons, raise aspirations and help students make clear connections between their learning today and their future pathways.

Wider Careers Programme

This launch builds upon the strong foundations already established within our careers programme. Throughout the year, students have engaged in visits from further education institutions and have met professionals from a range of employment sectors.

We also marked National Apprenticeship Week, encouraging students to explore and discuss the many pathways available to them beyond the Academies.

In addition, we have relaunched our Unifrog platform, which supports students in exploring career pathways in detail. Through Unifrog, students can research income levels, qualification requirements, labour market information, college courses and application processes.

We remain committed to ensuring every student is informed, ambitious and equipped to make confident decisions about their future.

B.Barnard - Careers Lead



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.



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

Online Safety Hub: Navigating Social Media and Gaming Apps Safely

With so many social media and gaming apps available, it's important for parents to understand potential risks and how to keep children safe online. This guide provides practical tips on privacy settings, screen time, online interactions, and age-appropriate content to help you support your child's digital wellbeing. [Click here](#) to access information promoting healthy digital habits at home.

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](#)



Important Reminder: Access to Timberlog Close

At the start of each academic year, we communicate the importance of keeping the small cul-de-sac leading to the Lower Academy free from vehicles during peak times of the day.

The road is residential, narrow and in the event of an emergency, an ambulance or fire engine would have their access heavily impeded. This isn't just to the school but to the neighbouring properties.

As we all know, prompt response is essential when waiting for an emergency vehicle and we need to ensure that access to all properties in Timberlog Close and the small roads from it are accessible should it be required.

We respectfully remind you that we request that you do not drive into Timberlog Close at all at the start or end of the school day.

Alternative arrangements to drop off or, collect children from nearby, safe locations should be made. If you choose to utilise some of the neighbouring roads off of Timberlog Lane, please do so respectfully and courteously to residents, never causing an obstruction to anyone's home.

Thank you for your continued support.



Millie Celebrates Gymnastics Success

Year 7 student Millie.O is achieving fantastic success in gymnastics alongside her studies. She is a dedicated member of South Essex Gymnastics Club, which runs sessions at Eversley Leisure Centre.

Millie has been involved in gymnastics since the age of seven and has quickly made her mark in competition. She has entered three regional gymnastics competitions so far; winning medals in two of them and proudly taking home a trophy. Her awards were achieved in Women's Artistic competitions, which include floor, bars, beam and vault; demonstrating her all-round strength, skill and determination.

Her commitment to the sport goes beyond competing; Millie also volunteers at her club, helping to coach and train younger gymnasts, including her sister and cousin. She supports them in learning new skills and is currently helping her sister master a back walkover while coaching her cousin on a back handspring.

Outside of gymnastics, Millie's ambition and resilience continue to shine. Last year, she climbed to the summit of Snowdon with her uncle; an incredible achievement that reflects her determination and positive attitude.

Looking ahead, Millie is entering even more competitions this year and is hopeful for continued success. We are incredibly proud of her achievements and look forward to celebrating many more in the future.



Students Become British Sign Language Ambassadors

Following last year's successful launch of British Sign Language (BSL) learning during Tutor Time, selected students at the Lower Academy have been recognised for their dedication and enthusiasm.

After months of developing their skills and demonstrating a genuine passion for learning BSL, the students were nominated by their form tutors for their commitment and understanding of the language. In recognition of their achievement, each student has received a special BSL Ambassador badge, a finger spelling chart, a BSL learning booklet and a certificate.

These students are now officially BSL Ambassadors for the Lower Academy. In their new role, they will act as role models for their peers, encouraging others to embrace BSL with the same enthusiasm and commitment. As ambassadors, they will help promote inclusion across the school community and champion the importance of communication for all.

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"BSL is important because the UK's population is growing and we need to include and encourage everyone, disability or not, to use sign language." Scott.J – Year 7

"BSL is important because it can help build good relationships in a community or around the world, and also make sure people with hearing and speaking difficulties don't feel left out, so BSL can make everyone feel equal." Halimatu.B – Year 8

"I believe that sign language is good because it is another way for deaf and mute people to communicate." Charlotte.D – Year 7

The Academy has also created its own Useful [School Language BSL Booklet](#) which is available to view online. The booklet is a fantastic resource for students, families and staff who would like to learn key signs used in everyday school life and continue developing their BSL skills.

New Opportunity for Students: Essex Music Service Youth

We are pleased to share an exciting opportunity from Essex Music Service for students who are interested in music or having their voice heard within their local community.

Essex Music Service is setting up a **Youth Voice session in Basildon**, where young people can share their views and ideas about music opportunities in the area. Their feedback will help shape future music provision and may also lead to the opportunity to join a **county-wide Youth Voice group**, influencing music services at a wider strategic level.

This session is open to all young people with an interest in music, regardless of their level of experience or current involvement with Essex Music Service.

During the session, students will be able to:

- Share their thoughts on current music activities and opportunities
- Suggest what they would like to see more or less of
- Contribute ideas about how youth voice should be represented
- Connect with other young people who share an interest in music

Date: Friday 6th March

Time: 5:00–6:00pm

Location: Southernhay Youth Centre, Basildon, SS14 1FN

If your child would like to attend, please complete the sign-up form to confirm their place: Basildon: [Youth Voice Meeting Sign Up Form](#)



BRITISH PIE WEEK

2nd - 6th March



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



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.

BASILDON ACADEMIES WORD OF THE DAY

2nd - 6th March 2026

Monday:	Impetuous (adjective) Impetwu in Maltese – acting quickly without thought. <i>His impetuous decision caused unnecessary problems.</i>	
Tuesday:	Ethereal (adjective) rangirua in Maori – extremely delicate and light, seeming not of this world. <i>The ethereal music filled the cathedral.</i>	
Wednesday:	Bibliophile (noun) bibliofil in Norwegian – a person who loves or collects books. <i>The bibliophile spent hours in second-hand bookshops.</i>	
Thursday:	Sagaciousness (noun) زيركى in Persian – the quality of being wise and shrewd. <i>His sagaciousness in debates made him a strong leader.</i>	
Friday:	Empirical (adjective) empiryczny in Polish – based on observation or experience. <i>The experiment provided empirical evidence for the theory.</i>	

Job of the Week: Funeral Director

What does a Funeral Director do?

Funeral directors make arrangements for burials or cremations, and provide support and advice for the bereaved.

Day-to-day responsibilities include:

- meeting with relatives or friends to give advice and arrange details of the funeral
- arranging the date and time of the funeral with the church, cemetery or crematorium
- organising flowers, transport and death notices
- advising on legal requirements and helping clients complete paperwork
- preparing the body for burial or cremation

Labour Market Information

+13.9% 328,648 jobs

+17.4% in your region of East of England, an increase of 38,744 jobs

Let's Talk Money

UK annual median:
£30,894

What Qualifications do you need to do this job?

You can register with the National Association of Funeral Directors (NAFD) and take their funeral service awareness online training.

You could start as a funeral service arranger and administrator. This would allow you to gain experience and knowledge of all aspects of the work and receive on-the-job training.

After 6 months, you'd take the NAFD's diploma in funeral arranging and administration.

The range of opportunities for parents to be involved and/or get involved is constantly growing and at all levels the school are actively seeking to develop the opportunities they provide for families to be involved in the life of the school.



Leading Parent
Partnership 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

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.



EXTRA-CURRICULAR SPORTS CLUBS

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	Before School 7.30am-8.15am • Girls Basketball & Netball	Before School 7.30am-8.15am • Girls Football • Year 7 Boys Football		Before School 7.30am-8.15am • Year 8/9 Boys Football



Essex County Council
Special Educational Needs
and Disabilities

The Essex Local Offer website

provides information about help available to children and young people (aged 0 to 25) with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

You can also find information on:

- support, groups and activities
- help with learning
- advice for young people
- health and wellbeing
- housing and employment
- financial support

Visit www.send.essex.gov.uk for more information and to sign up to our newsletter

