

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Greet, Meet, Eat - Parent Event

Wednesday 16th September 2026 - 5.30pm-6.30pm

Lower Academy Year 6 Open Evening

Thursday 1st October 2026: 5pm-7pm

Upper Academy Sixth Form Open Evening

Thursday 1st October 2026: 5pm-7pm

Meet the Tutor - Parent Event

Monday 5th October 2026: 3.15pm-4.30pm

Half Term

Monday 26th - Friday 30th October 2026

STUDENT VALUE OF THE TERM

BLACK LIVES MATTER

HOUSE POINTS - WEEK ENDING 4TH SEPTEMBER



2285
SEACOLE



1672
ALI



1215
HAWKING



1012
AUSTEN

LEADERSHIP MESSAGE

It has been wonderful to welcome students back and see them settling into the new academic year, reconnecting with friends, making new ones, and enjoying activities with their form tutors. A particular highlight was Sports Day, which provided a fantastic launch for our reinvigorated House System and showcased the enthusiasm, teamwork and spirit of our students.

As we begin the term, we ask all students to maintain excellent attendance and high standards of uniform. Being in school every day, on time, and ready to learn gives students the best opportunity to succeed.

We have continued to invest in both school sites, with improvements including new gazebos, outdoor food venues, roofing projects, sports hall flooring and social spaces. We have also introduced our new school day, featuring one-hour lessons and a longer lunch break, in response to feedback from our students. We have listened and will continue to listen as we work together to make our school even better.



We are committed to providing clear and effective ways for families and the school to work together to support every student's success. We look forward to welcoming parents and carers to our Meet, Greet & Eat event on Wednesday 16th September. Further details can be found within this newsletter.

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to a successful year ahead.

R.Rees
Headteacher

PARENT DROP IN

Our next Parent Drop In will be on Monday 14th September between 10.30am and 11.30am.

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.



CELEBRATING CULTURE, COMMUNITY AND TOGETHERNESS

During the final week of the last school year, The Basildon Lower Academy welcomed students, families and members of the local community to its annual Cultural Fayre, celebrating the diversity that makes our school such a welcoming and inclusive place.

The event featured an afternoon of live performances, activities, refreshments and cultural-themed stalls, giving students the opportunity to share and celebrate the many cultures represented across our school community.

Visitors enjoyed performances from our Street Dance Team, School Band and Brass Band, whose dedication and enthusiasm helped create a lively atmosphere throughout the event. Families also took part in a range of activities, providing a great opportunity for everyone to come together and enjoy the occasion.



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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.



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



KOOTH - 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).



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.



Free Fruit at Breaktime



Students can choose an item of fruit from the till area in the Dining Hall at breaktime each day

ASPIRE - BELIEVE - ACHIEVE

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 SEND Department
Ground Floor Blue Block



ONLINE SAFETY HUB - SUPPORTING YOUR TEEN WITH SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media can be a tricky area for parents and carers to navigate. This helpful resource offers practical advice on understanding your teen's social media use, encouraging healthy habits and supporting them to stay safe online. Take a look at the short video and explore the tips here: [Navigating Your Teen's Social Media Use](#)

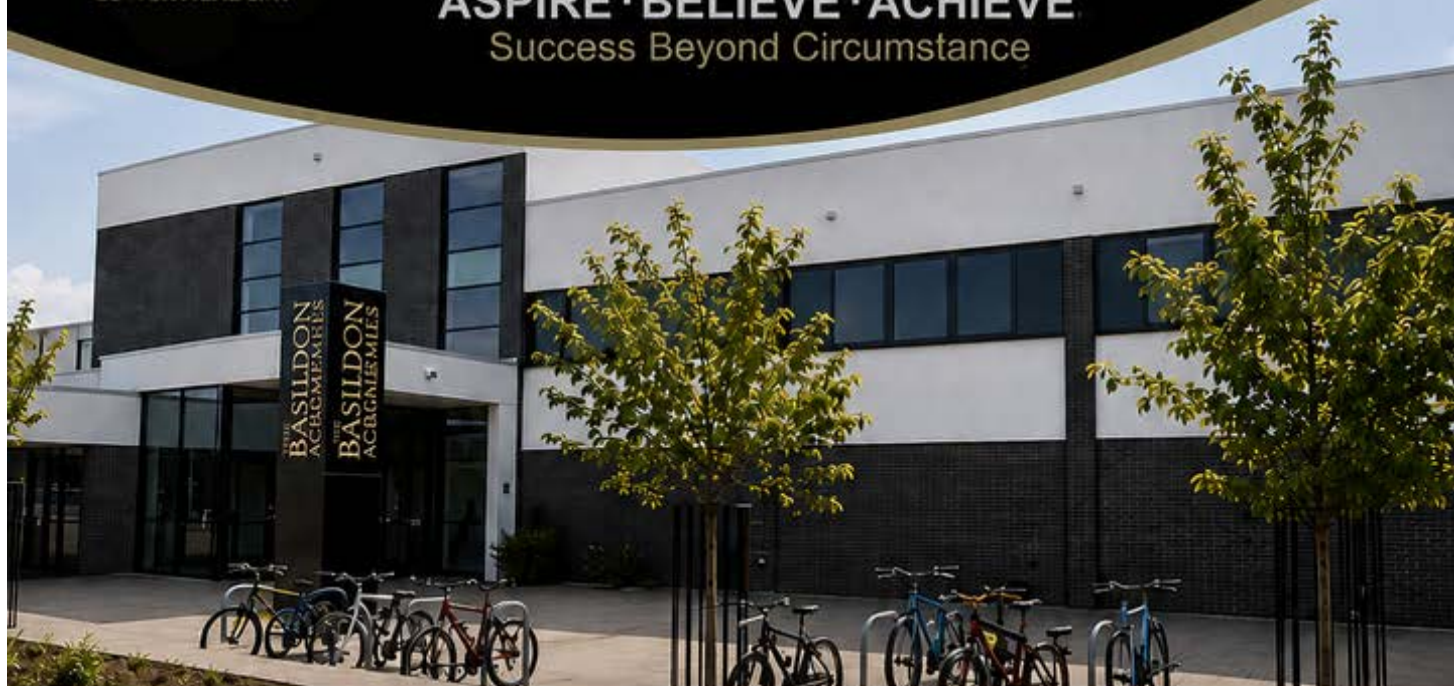
The Online Safety Hub is an online resource with lots of expert advice and guidance to help find out how to keep our young people safe online. You can access it for free here: [Online Safety Hub - The Basildon Academies](#)





THE BASILDON LOWER ACADEMY

ASPIRE · BELIEVE · ACHIEVE
Success Beyond Circumstance



— GREET, MEET & EAT —

YEARS 7-9 PARENTS & CARERS



WEDNESDAY
16 SEPTEMBER
2026



TIME
5:30PM -
6:30PM



VENUE
LOWER ACADEMY
MAIN HALL

— JOIN US TO LEARN ABOUT —



Attendance Expectations



Behaviour & Culture



Curriculum Overview



Assessment & Reporting



Homework Expectations



Enrichment Opportunities



Careers Awareness



Key Dates for the Academic Year



TOGETHER WE CAN ENSURE EVERY STUDENT ACHIEVES
SUCCESS BEYOND CIRCUMSTANCE

YEAR 7 STUDENTS ENJOY ACTION-PACKED SUMMER SCHOOL

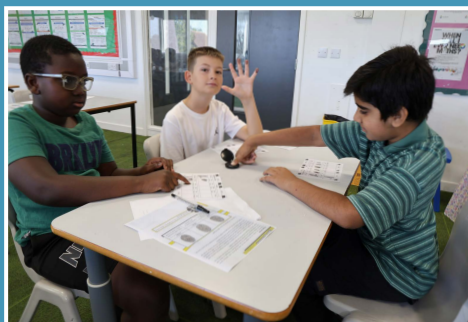
During the six-week holidays, our new Year 7 students enjoyed three fantastic days of activities, challenges and team-building as part of our Summer School programme.

The three-day programme provided a fun and engaging introduction to life at the Lower Academy, with students working together, developing new skills and taking on a variety of challenges.

The first day gave students the opportunity to get to know one another through activities including rounders, creative writing, a Maths Supermarket Challenge, Secret Spy activities and an 'All About Me' task.

Day two continued the fun with a World Football theme. Students worked in teams to tackle a range of football-inspired challenges, quizzes and creative activities, developing their teamwork, communication and determination along the way.

For the final day, students became Detectives for the Day, working together to solve a mystery. They examined evidence, questioned suspects, interviewed witnesses and learned about DNA and fingerprints, putting their problem-solving and investigative skills to the test.



Across all three days, our new Year 7 students showed fantastic enthusiasm, resilience and teamwork. The programme has been a brilliant opportunity for students to build confidence, form new friendships and become familiar with their new surroundings.

"I've loved Summer School so much! I'm really excited to start at the Lower Academy in Year 7." **Tessie.H**

"Summer School was so much fun! I'm really excited to be starting Year 7." **Habeeb.M**

"I loved Summer School. It's helped me get to know more of the school, so I know where I'm going. I can't wait to start in September." **Amelia.S**

REWARDING SUCCESS WITH END OF YEAR INFLATABLE FUN

During the final week of term, students from across all year groups were recognised for their excellent attendance, positive behaviour and outstanding effort with a fun-filled inflatable reward event.

Students who consistently demonstrated our school values and earned high numbers of positive credits throughout the year enjoyed an exciting session of inflatable games and challenges, celebrating their commitment and achievements.

The reward event provided a fantastic opportunity for students to relax, have fun with their friends and mark the end of a successful school year, while recognising the positive choices they have made both in and out of the classroom.



A NEW HOME FOR OUR HISTORIC STEINWAY & SONS GRAND PIANO

Our beautiful Steinway & Sons Grand Piano has begun an exciting new chapter at The Basildon Lower Academy.

The piano has been part of our school's rich history since 1966, when it was first installed at the former Chalvedon School. For decades, it has provided the soundtrack to countless concerts, performances, assemblies and special occasions, becoming a much-loved part of the school's musical heritage.

Having most recently taken pride of place in the Upper Academy Main Hall, the piano has now been carefully transported to its new home in the Lower Academy Atrium. Following its move, the instrument was expertly positioned and professionally tuned, ensuring it is ready to inspire the next generation of young musicians.

To celebrate the occasion, four of our talented students, who receive one-to-one piano tuition through our instrumental lessons programme, were the first to perform on the piano in its new location. Their performances marked the beginning of an exciting new era for this remarkable instrument.



FOLLOW US



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.



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.



Job of the Week: Bricklayer

What does a Bricklayer do?

A bricklayer is a skilled construction worker who builds and repairs walls, houses, chimneys, and other structures using bricks, concrete blocks, and stone.

Key Responsibilities:

- Laying bricks and blocks in rows and patterns
- Mixing and applying mortar
- Reading construction plans and measurements
- Repairing damaged brickwork
- Using tools such as trowels, spirit levels, and cement mixers
- Following health and safety rules on building sites

Labour Market Information

- -7.7% 69,814 jobs
- -7.7% in your region of East of England, an decrease of 6,354 jobs

Let's Talk Money

UK annual median:
£45,021

What Qualifications do you need to do this job?

Many bricklayers start through:

- A college construction course
- An apprenticeship
- On-the-job training with a construction company
- In the UK, useful qualifications include NVQs or City & Guilds construction courses.

WORD OF THE WEEK RHETORIC

The art of effective or persuasive speaking or writing, often used to influence or persuade an audience.



POLISH
(Polska)

Retoryka
(reh-TOH-rye-kah)



TURKISH
(Türkiye)

Retorik
(reh-toh-RIK)



YORUBA
(Nàìjíríà)

Ìjíròrò
(ee-jee-roh-roh)



♥ Different languages, shared understanding. **EVERY VOICE MATTERS.** ♥

ASPIRE - BELIEVE - ACHIEVE