

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

Saturday 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 13th January



144,265
ALI



135,412
SEACOLE



120,802
AUSTEN



118,276
HAWKING

Leadership Message

At the Lower Academy, students in Years 7, 8 and 9 have shown great maturity and effort as they completed their first set of exams this academic year. For many of them, this was the first time they had taken formal assessments in secondary school. We are pleased to say that they rose to the challenge with focus, determination, and a positive attitude.

Across all three year groups, students worked hard to revise and prepare. Teachers have been impressed by how well they managed their workload and how confidently they approached each subject. These exams help students understand what they already know, what they need to practise, and how they can continue to improve throughout Key Stage 3.

As well as subject exams, students also completed updated reading age tests. These tests help us understand each student's reading level so we can make sure the work they receive in lessons is right for them. Strong reading skills support progress in every subject, not just English, so this information is very valuable. Teachers use reading age results to plan lessons, choose suitable resources, and offer extra support where needed.

We are proud of the progress our students are making so far. Their hard work shows that they are developing good learning habits and growing in confidence. We look forward to seeing how they continue to build on this success during the rest of the year.



T.Smith
Assistant Headteacher & Raising Standards Lead

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.

Parent Drop In - Wednesday 25th February

This week's Parent Drop In will be on Wednesday 25th February between 9.30am and 10.30am.

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. 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.



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

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 Lower
Academy SEND
Department



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.

YOUNG MINDS

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

Online Safety Hub: How to Spot Fake Online Accounts

Rapid tech expansion has brought exciting opportunities to broaden our social networks by enabling us to connect readily with others online. However, the digital landscape also comes with its share of challenges, including fake accounts that aim to exploit and harm unsuspecting and vulnerable individuals, especially children.

[Click here](#) to access information and support relating to the dangers of fake accounts.

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](#)



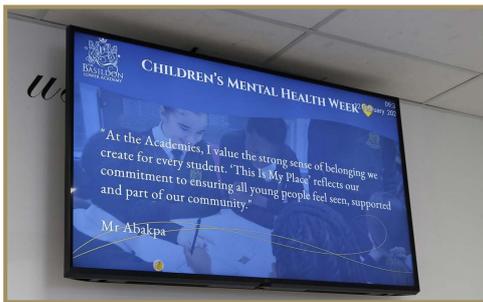
Lower Academy Celebrates Children's Mental Health Week

During the last week of term, students at the Lower Academy marked Children's Mental Health Week 2026, exploring this year's theme, 'This Is My Place'. The focus of the week was to help students reflect on what makes them feel happy, safe and that they truly belong.

During Tutor Time and RSHE lessons, students took part in a range of activities, including designing their own town and islands to support mental health and wellbeing. They also created vision boards, highlighting their future goals, ways to maintain positive mental health and strategies they could use if they encounter setbacks or failure. These creative tasks encouraged them to think about how communities can promote kindness, inclusion and support for everyone.



Display screens around the school also featured staff quotes about what 'This Is My Place' means to them, reinforcing a shared sense of belonging across our school community. The week was a positive and thoughtful way to end term, reminding everyone that the Lower Academy is a place where we belong together.



"Children's Mental Health Week means showing awareness for children who struggle with mental health and may have a hard time coping with anxiety, depression, or other difficult challenges that no one should have to go through."

Emily.C - Year 8



"Children's Mental Health Week is very important because it raises awareness of the struggles children may be going through. It encourages people to help and support them." Nate.H - Year 9

Year 7 Explore Career Pathways During National Apprenticeship Week

As part of National Apprenticeship Week and our school's wider careers programme, Year 7 students have been discovering a variety of exciting career pathways using the Unifrog platform. Through exploring different apprenticeships and matching careers to their individual interests and strengths, students have begun to build an early understanding of their future options. They also enjoyed taking part in interactive, career-themed games that made the experience both fun and engaging.

"The lesson helped our understanding of careers and apprenticeships. It was useful to look at future options." Laisey.D



Year 8 Explore Future Pathways with South Essex College

As part of National Apprenticeship Week, the Lower Academy welcomed Shannon, Schools Liaison Officer from South Essex College, to speak with our Year 8 students.

During the session, students were introduced to the wide range of courses offered at South Essex College, including academic and technical pathways, as well as apprenticeship opportunities. Shannon also explained the differences between the College's five campuses across Essex, helping students to understand the variety of environments and specialisms available.

The talk concluded with an engaging Q&A session, where students took the opportunity to ask questions about courses, entry requirements and future career routes.

The session provided valuable insight as our Year 8 students begin to think more about their options and the many pathways open to them. We thank Shannon for taking the time to visit and support our students during National Apprenticeship Week.

"I thought it was really informative. Shannon told us about college life, courses and different jobs. It made me think about careers I hadn't really considered before, like animation. She went into detail about areas such as construction, medical careers and more." Scarlett.J

"It was a very good workshop and it helped me understand what will happen when I reach that stage of life. I hope to study art at college because it will help me achieve my dream of becoming a film animator. I found it really helpful to learn about the steps I can take for my future pathway." Lacey.W

For further information about South Essex College and the courses available, please visit: <https://www.southessex.ac.uk/>



Celebrating Our Passion for Reading

Students from Key Stage 3 were recognised for their outstanding dedication to reading in their Reading and English lessons.

Their teachers nominated them for enthusiasm, engagement, and commitment to developing their reading skills.

As a result of their hard work, these students have been awarded the prestigious 'Passion for Reading Champion' certificate. This award highlights their exceptional efforts in fostering a love for reading and improving their literary abilities.

We are incredibly proud of the students for their achievements. Well done to everyone who has earned this well-deserved recognition—keep up the fantastic work!



Future Forward Inspires Year 9 Students

Just before half term, our Year 9 students took part in the Future Forward programme, welcoming visiting performers to the Lower Academy for an engaging, careers-focused experience.

Delivered through an interactive and thought-provoking drama performance, the session brought future pathways to life in a way that was both entertaining and informative. Through relatable scenarios and lively discussion, students explored the range of options available to them after school, including A Levels, T Levels and apprenticeships.

The performance encouraged students to reflect on their own strengths, interests and ambitions, while considering what truly matters when making decisions about their future.

"It has taught me to choose what you enjoy after school." Logan.B

"It doesn't matter how good the job is if you're not happy." Khaleesi.A

"What you do after school is up to you – it doesn't matter what others think." Oakley.H

"I've learned the difference between A Levels, T Levels and apprenticeships." Lacie.S

"Everyone gets a choice about what they want to do." Sophie.S

"I'd like to study a T Level in car mechanics." Benas.M



The Essex SEND Local Offer Roadshows for all Schools

We're pleased to share that the Essex SEND Local Offer Roadshows are back, providing a friendly drop in space for parents and carers to learn more about SEND support.

- Tuesday 17th March - 9.30am to 12.30pm
- Wat Tyler, Pitsea Hall Lane, Pitsea, Basildon, SS16 4UH

The roadshows are for parents/carers of children with SEND aged 0-25. No booking needed, just drop in. For further information about what to expect from a roadshow and who will be there visit the [Local Offer Website](#)



Manifesto for Essex Eco-Gathering (Secondary Schools) - Saturday 28th February

The Essex Book Festival is hosting the Manifesto for Essex Eco-Gathering at Chelmsford Theatre Studio, aimed primarily at young people aged 13–25.

The event offers an opportunity to hear about local eco-projects, take part in creative eco-workshops, learn new skills, and connect with like-minded young people who are passionate about climate action, culture and community. Students are encouraged to get involved, share ideas and make a positive difference both locally and beyond.



For more information and to book a place for **FREE**, please visit: <https://www.essexbookfestival.org.uk/event/manifesto-for-essex-eco-gathering/>

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

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



BASILDON ACADEMIES WORD OF THE DAY

23rd - 27th February 2026

| | | |
|------------|---|---|
| Monday: | Resplendent (adjective) košs in Latvian – attractive and impressive through being richly colourful. <i>The resplendent costumes dazzled the theatre audience.</i> |  |
| Tuesday: | Avarice (noun) gobšumas in Lithuanian – extreme greed for wealth or material gain. <i>The king's avarice led to rebellion.</i> |  |
| Wednesday: | Alleviate (verb) erliichtenen in Luxembourgish – to make suffering less severe. <i>The medicine helped alleviate her pain.</i> |  |
| Thursday: | Serendipity (noun) смирение in Macedonian – the occurrence of events by chance in a happy way. <i>Their meeting was pure serendipity.</i> |  |
| Friday: | Conviviality (noun) kemesraan in Malay – the quality of being friendly and lively. <i>The conviviality of the dinner party was unforgettable.</i> |  |

Job of the Week: Tour Guide

What does a Tour Guide do?

Tour guides plan, organise, and conduct tours and expeditions for individuals and groups.

Day-to-day responsibilities include:

- Arranging for tour or expedition details like transport and any access to sites of interest on the way
- Leading individuals or groups to tour site locations and describe points of interest
- If relevant, setting up camps and preparing meals for tour group members
- Promoting your tours online or in-person

Labour Market Information

-4.2% - 30,919 jobs

-3.2% - in your region of East of England, a decrease of 2,360 jobs

What Qualifications do you need to do this job?

There are no set requirements, but the following may help:

- School leaver qualifications, like a high school Diploma, National 5s, GCSEs, or Brevet
- A qualification or completion of a program in travel and tourism or hospitality
- A first aid certificate, the ability to speak a second language (for some jobs)
- An interest in and knowledge of the history and culture of the places you'll be visiting

Let's Talk Money

UK annual median: £26,656

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

Follow The Basildon Lower Academy on our social media channels



Enrichment Clubs Timetable

| Club Name | Day | Room Number |
|---|-----------|-------------|
| Creative Writing Club | Tuesday | B12 |
| Poetry Club | Tuesday | B16 |
| Science Club (Year 7 Only) | Tuesday | O12 |
| Science Club (Year 8 Only) | Tuesday | G12 |
| Science Revision Club (Year 9 Only) | Tuesday | B14 |
| Chess Club | Tuesday | O16 |
| Art Club – Pop Art & Mixed Media (Year 7 Only) | Tuesday | O2 |
| Art Club – Ceramics & Graphics (Year 7 Only) | Tuesday | O1 |
| Scale Model Club | Tuesday | B18 |
| Literacy Leaders (Year 7 Only) | Wednesday | B12 |
| English Revision (Year 9 Only) | Wednesday | B15 |
| Science Club (Year 9 Only) | Wednesday | G10 |
| Science Revision Club (Year 8 Only) | Wednesday | G11 |
| STEM Club | Wednesday | B3 |
| Reading Eggs | Wednesday | O10 |
| Art Club (Years 8 & 9 Only) | Wednesday | O3 |
| Maths Club | Wednesday | B8 |
| Debate Club | Thursday | B12 |
| Reading Club (Year 7 Only) | Thursday | B13 |
| Science Revision Club (Year 7 Only) | Thursday | G16 |
| World Film Club | Thursday | O17 |
| Scratch Club | Thursday | B11 |
| Scale Model Club | Thursday | B18 |

Enrichment sessions take place from 3.00pm–3.30pm.