The Basildon Lower Academy Newsletter • 12th October 2026

Dates for the Diary

Half Term
Monday 26th - Friday 30th October 2026

Year 9 AP1 Assessments
Monday 23rd November - Friday 4th December 2026

Christmas Fayre
Thursday 17th December 2026: 3pm-5pm

Last Day of Autumn Term
Friday 18th December 2026

First Day of Spring Term
Tuesday 5th January 2027

Student Value of the Term

Black Lives Matter

House Points - Week Ending 9th October

Seacole	Hawking	Ali	Austen
57,535	51,713	50,429	42,332

Leadership Message

Every Day Matters, Every Choice Counts

At The Basildon Academies, we want every student to feel safe, happy and proud to be part of our school community. We are working hard to build a school culture where everyone feels respected, learning comes first and every student has the chance to succeed.

Attendance – Every Day Matters

Being in school every day gives students the best chance to learn, grow and achieve their goals. Every lesson matters, and missing school can mean missing important learning, friendships and new opportunities. We know that sometimes there are challenges that make coming to school difficult. We want families to know that we are here to listen, help and work together to overcome these barriers.

School Culture – We All Play a Part

A positive school culture is everyone's responsibility. We have high expectations because we believe every student deserves to learn in a calm, safe and respectful environment. We are continuing to focus on good behaviour, positive relationships and making the right choices. While some students are finding these expectations challenging, we will keep working together to make improvements. We will celebrate those who get it right and provide support and clear consequences when things go wrong. We ask families to support us by talking to their children about the importance of kindness, respect, attendance and taking responsibility for their actions.



Thank you to our families for your continued support. By working together, we can create a school community where students feel they belong, are proud of their achievements and are ready for their futures.

Every day matters. Every choice counts. Every student has a part to play.

E.Huet - Deputy Headteacher

Sporting Success at the Lower Academy

It has been a fantastic few weeks for sport at the Lower Academy, with our students showing skill, determination and teamwork across basketball and football.



Our Year 8 basketball team secured an excellent 40–37 victory over James Hornsby, staging an impressive fourth-quarter comeback.

Meanwhile, our Year 7 boys' football team have made a strong start to the season, recording a convincing 8–1 victory away against Castle View in a friendly before following this up with a 5–1 league win against Mayflower High School. On Friday, the team secured a 7–1 victory over Helena Romanes in the first round of the National Cup, progressing to the next round of the competition.



Behind these performances is a real commitment to improving and developing as athletes. Students are working hard at before-school cross-country club to build cardiovascular endurance, helping to improve their fitness and stamina on the pitch. Strength and conditioning sessions during lunch are also helping students develop muscular strength and endurance, giving them a stronger physical foundation for competition. This dedication to training is helping our teams continue to progress.

Our Year 9 boys' football team have also shown great determination in their league fixture against Harris Academy Wickford, fighting back from behind twice to earn a 2–2 draw. The result means they remain unbeaten in the league after their first two fixtures.



Well done to all our students involved, and thank you to the staff supporting our teams. We look forward to following their progress throughout the season!

Soluna – Mental Wellbeing Support for Young People

Soluna by Kooth is a free, confidential mental wellbeing service for young people aged 10–25, providing support online and through the Soluna app.

Young people can access one-to-one support from qualified practitioners, self-guided tools and resources, and moderated peer-support spaces covering topics such as anxiety, friendships, sleep, identity and exam stress. No referral is needed and there is no waiting list.

Soluna is designed to complement the support already available through school and can be accessed whenever young people need some additional support.

Find out more about Soluna: https://solunaapp.com/uk

Students Raise Awareness of Hate Crime

The Lower Academy is marking Hate Crime Awareness Week 2026, which runs from 10th –17th October, with activities encouraging students to reflect on hate crime, equality and the importance of treating everyone with respect.



Year 7 students have been discussing what constitutes a hate crime, exploring how prejudice and discrimination can affect individuals and communities. Students have also been invited to sign a pledge to stand against hate crime, showing their commitment to creating a more inclusive and respectful environment.

Further discussions and activities will continue throughout the week to help raise awareness and reinforce the message that everyone deserves to feel safe, valued and accepted.

As part of their learning, students shared their thoughts on why tackling hate crime matters:

"Hate crime awareness is important because hating someone because of their race, sex, sexuality or ethnicity is utterly wrong. These are parts of who someone is, and they shouldn't have to change themselves to fit in." Mya.F – Year 7

"Hating someone because of what they believe in, their identity, religion or race is wrong. We should raise awareness and make this world a better place. Equality for all!" Kenzie.E – Year 7

"We are all human and we are all equal. If someone commits a hate crime against you, tell a trusted adult." Joey.B – Year 7

"Hate crime makes people feel like they do not belong, but everyone is special in their own way." Jessica.P – Year 7













Wear Red for Racism – Friday 16th October

On Friday 16th October, students are permitted to wear a red T-shirt or jumper, along with red socks, to show their support for tackling racism.

School trousers and shoes must still be worn as normal.

To find out more about the campaign, visit:
https://www.theredcard.org/wear-red-day/

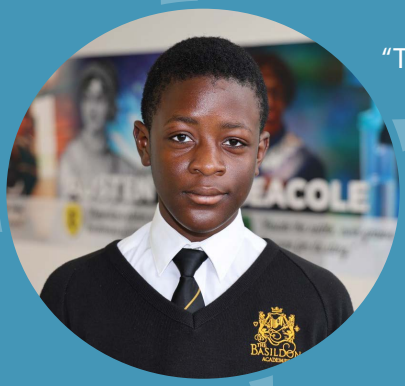


Starting Secondary School with Confidence



"Transitioning from primary to secondary school felt like a big change at the start of the summer. I was leaving behind many of the friends I had grown up with, so I was naturally quite nervous about starting somewhere new. However, when I arrived at The Basildon Academies, I quickly began to settle in and realised there was nothing to worry about. I soon started making new friends, getting to know my teachers and feeling more confident in my new surroundings."

Leja.V – Year 7



"The change from primary school to The Basildon Lower Academy felt comfortable overall. I really like Art and Drama, and I'm looking forward to developing my skills and taking part in drama plays and productions. I also like the calm environment at the Academy. Summer School was so much fun and gave me a great opportunity to get to know the Academy, meet new people and make friends before starting in September."

Habeeb.M – Year 7

Free October Half Term Clubs with Essex ActivAte

Essex ActivAte half term programmes provide free, fun and engaging activities for eligible children and young people during the October half term break. From sports and crafts to outdoor adventures and more, there are plenty of opportunities to stay active, make friends and try something new, alongside receiving nutritious meals and snacks.



Spaces are limited and can be booked directly with local clubs when they go live, with no Holiday Activities voucher code or referral required.

To find a club near you, visit the Find Your Active Activity Finder on the Active Essex website. Simply select 'Programmes' to view the upcoming half term activities, enter your local area, and book directly with the club using the contact details provided.

Parent Drop In - Focus on Enhanced Provision



Our next Parent Drop In will be on Tuesday 13th October between 11am and 12pm.

Each Parent Drop In will now have a specific focus, giving parents an opportunity to find out more, ask questions and speak to staff about the topic. This week's focus will be **Enhanced Provision**.

There is no need to book an appointment, simply sign in at reception and a member of staff will be happy to show you to the venue. If we are unable to answer any questions on the day, we will follow up with you afterwards and share feedback.

Safeguarding



At the Basildon Academies, keeping children safe and helping them to thrive is at the heart of everything we do.

We know that family life can sometimes be challenging. If you or your child needs help, support, or advice, we are here. No problem is too big or too small, and we will always support families with kindness, care and without judgement.

We work closely with a range of services to make sure children and families get the right help at the right time. This may include school nurses, health professionals, counsellors, mentors, family support workers and Children's Social Care.

Please contact our safeguarding team if you have any concerns about your own child or another student at the Academies: www.basildonloweracademy.org.uk/safeguarding

Extra-Curricular Sports Timetable

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Before School 7.30am-8.20am	Rugby All Years	Football Year 8 Basketball Year 9	Football Year 7	Cross Country All Years	Girls Football All Years
Break Time 9.55am-10.15am	Basketball Year 7	Basketball Year 8 & 9	Girls Basketball		Basketball Year 8 & 9
Lunch Time 12.15pm-1pm		Futsal Year 9		Strength & Conditioning	Basketball Year 9
After School 3.10pm-4.10pm		Basketball Year 7 Football Year 9	Football Year 8 Girls Basketball Year 8 & 9	Football Year 9 Girls Football All Years	Basketball Year 9

Online Impersonation – A Guide for Parents and Carers

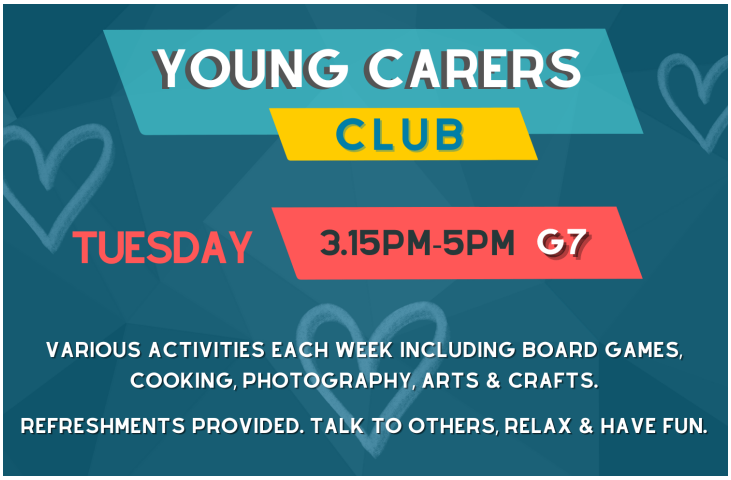


Online impersonation can be a concern for young people, particularly across social media and other online platforms. This helpful guide explains what online impersonation is, the potential risks and what parents and carers can do to support their child in staying safe online.

Click here to access information and practical advice on recognising online impersonation, protecting personal information and knowing what to do if your child's identity or accounts are misused.

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





Student Portal

Within the Student Portal, you will find links to a range of resources and learning platforms that students can access to support their studies. The main page, which provides access to all key links, can be found here: Student Portal

Accessing the Student Portal also enables single sign-on, meaning students do not need any additional passwords for platforms such as SENECA. Students simply log in to the portal in the same way they would when logging in to a school computer.

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 & Lunchtime
Location: The Wellbeing Area
Ground Floor Blue Block



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.

Follow Us

Job of the Week:
Baker



What Qualifications do you need to do this job?

- There are no specific entry requirements to become a baker.
- You may find it useful to have GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A* to C) or equivalent, in subjects like English, maths, science, or food technology
- You could start out by doing a baking course at college, applying to be a trainee in a bakery, or doing a baking apprenticeship.

What does a Baker do?

Bakers prepare bread, cakes, and pastries to sell and serve in shops, cafes, or restaurants.

Key Responsibilities:

- Making sure you have enough supplies
- Measuring out large quantities of ingredients
- Working safely with machinery like power mixers, industrial ovens and production lines
- Making dough
- Working out cooking times
- Keeping production areas clean
- Developing new products and recipes





Let's Talk Money

UK annual median:
£29,117

Labour Market Information

- +7.4% 47,729 jobs
- +11.8% in your region of East of England, an increase of 7,175 jobs

WORD OF THE WEEK

ASTUTE

Having or showing an ability to accurately assess situations or people and to make clever judgments.

RUSSIAN (Русский) (Russkiy)	Проницательный	(pra-nit-SA-tel-nyy)
SPANISH (Español)	Perspicaz	(per-spee-THAHS)
THAI (ไทย) (Thai)	เฉียบแหลม	(châiap-laeom)

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

ASPIRE - BELIEVE - ACHIEVE

ROUTES IN HEALTHCARE: EXPLORING THE HEALTHCARE ASSISTANT ROLE

Take part in a hands-on workshop hosted by the Health & Care Academy in the specialist training ward at Brentwood Community Hospital.

This interactive session will give you a practical introduction to working in health and care through the role of a Healthcare Assistant (HCA).

EXPERIENCE A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A HEALTHCARE ASSISTANT

You will:

- Discover the role of a Healthcare Assistant
- Learn about Infection Prevention and Control, including: Hand hygiene, Using Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), The 5 Moments of Hand Hygiene and Bed-changing skills
- Take physiological measurements and record NEWS observations
- Learn Basic Life Support skills

THIS FUN AND INTERACTIVE WORKSHOP WILL GIVE YOU A REAL INSIGHT INTO LIFE ON A HOSPITAL WARD WHILE HELPING YOU DEVELOP PRACTICAL SKILLS THROUGH REALISTIC CLINICAL ACTIVITIES.

This opportunity is available to students aged 14 – 16 years old.

Date: Tuesday 27th October 2026 or Wednesday 28th October 2026

Time: 10am – 2pm

Venue: Brentwood Community Hospital

APPLY THROUGH THE EXPERIENCE HUB

HTTPS://WORKEXPERIENCE.OURPEOPLEYOURFUTURE.CO.UK/

Essex County Council

YOUTH SERVICE

Join the Young Essex Assembly (YEA) and make a difference!

Are you passionate about making a change in your community?

Do you want to have your voice heard and represent young people across Essex?

Then the Young Essex Assembly (YEA) is the place for you!

What is the YEA?

The Young Essex Assembly is the elected Youth Council for Essex. Every two years, 78 young people from all districts of Essex are elected to join the YEA. Together, they:

- **review priorities:** identify what matters most to young people
- **consult and campaign:** engage with peers, adults, organisations, and decision-makers
- **drive change:** ensure young people's voices are included in decisions at all levels

Why join the YEA?

- **make an impact:** be a part of real change in your community and beyond
- **boost your confidence:** develop public speaking, leadership, and teamwork skills
- **expand your horizons:** gain new experiences and meet people from all across Essex
- **personal growth:** grow your personal and social skills, preparing you for the future

Who can join?

Any young person aged between 11 to 19 or up to 25 if you have additional needs, living or going to school in Essex can stand for election to join the YEA. We want voices from every district to make sure everyone's views are represented.

How to get involved

1. **Stand for election:** Put yourself forward and tell us why you should be part of the YEA.
2. **Vote:** Encourage your friends and peers to vote and make their voices heard.

young ESSEX ASSEMBLY

Contact: yea@essex.gov.uk
or visit our website www.young-essex-assembly.org.uk

Free courses for parents & carers

5th - 16th October 2026

Gain practical **tips and techniques** you can use straight away.

Be around others that 'get it' in our **supportive and friendly** sessions.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
5th October	6th October	7th October	8th October	9th October
	Zones of Regulation Online Live 12:30 - 2:30pm	**Understanding ASC in Children** Online Live 6:30 - 8:30pm **Managing Big Emotions** Online Live 7:00 - 9:00pm	**Understanding Children's Anxiety** Online Live 7:00 - 9:00pm	**Understanding Teens Anxiety** Online Live 9:30 - 11:30am
12th October	13th October	14th October	15th October	16th October
	Family First Aid Online Live 7:00 - 9:00pm		**Family First Aid** Online Live 9:30 - 11:30am	

To book, please visit **aclessex.com** and search the course name or give us a call on **0345 603 7635**.

Essex County Council

Free courses for parents & carers

19th - 30th October 2026

Gain practical **tips and techniques** you can use straight away.

Be around others that 'get it' in our **supportive and friendly** sessions.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
19th October	20th October	21st October	22nd October	23rd October
Managing Anger in Young People Online Live 7:00 - 9:00pm	**Separtation Anxiety (Primary)** Online Live 7:00 - 9:00pm	**Separation Anxiety (Early Years)** Online Live 7:00 - 9:00pm	**Managing Conflict at Home** Online Live 7:00 - 9:00pm	**Building Better Routines** Online Live 9:30 - 11:30am
26th October	27th October	28th October	29th October	30th October

Half Term Week! Visit aclessex.com to see what's starting soon.

To book, please visit **aclessex.com** and search the course name or give us a call on **0345 603 7635**.

Essex County Council