The Basildon Lower Academy Newsletter • 19th 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 16th October

Seacole	Hawking	Ali	Austen
66,544	61,130	58,409	49,570

A Positive Start and Looking Ahead

As we approach the end of our first half term, I would like to thank our students and families for the positive start they have made to the academic year. The support shown by parents and carers, alongside students' commitment to their learning, has helped create a strong foundation for success in the months ahead.

While there is much to celebrate from the first few weeks of term, we are also looking ahead to the important assessment points that will take place later in the year. For our Year 9 students, preparations will begin next half term as they work towards their assessment period in November, while students in Years 7 and 8 will have their first formal assessment point in January.

Assessments provide an opportunity for students to demonstrate the knowledge, skills and understanding they have developed throughout their learning. They are also invaluable in helping teachers identify strengths and any areas where additional support may be needed. We encourage all students to develop positive study habits now by completing homework regularly, reading widely, organising their revision materials and taking pride in their classwork each day.



Success is built through consistent effort over time, and the small habits students develop now will have a significant impact on their future achievements. Thank you for your continued support in encouraging high expectations, strong attendance and a positive attitude to learning.

E.Cahill
Deputy Headteacher

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.

Sasha Receives Jack Petchey Outstanding Achiever Award



Year 7 student Sasha.J has been recognised with a Jack Petchey Outstanding Achiever Award in recognition of her hard work, the progress she has made in her Bridge classes and the support she gives to her peers.

Sasha is delighted to have received the award and is looking forward to attending the Jack Petchey Achievement Awards Showcase at Basildon's Towngate Theatre next year. The event brings together fellow award recipients for an evening of celebration, with families invited to share in their achievements.

Sasha is also looking forward to deciding how to spend the £300 award money.

Speaking about her achievement, Sasha said: "I feel really proud to receive the award and have been thinking how to spend the £300 awarded from JP."

Congratulations to Sasha on her achievement and this well-deserved recognition!

A Passion for Art and a Future Career



"From a young age, I have always wanted to become an artist, and I hope to build a career where I can draw, paint, sculpt and create. My time at The Basildon Lower Academy has helped me work towards this ambition by giving me opportunities to put my creativity into practice.

I have been able to design posters for school and community events, as well as create bags and cards that have been sold to raise money for charity. The support and encouragement I have received from staff has also helped me to develop my skills and confidence.

I love creating, making and building things. Painting and drawing make me feel peaceful and happy, and I hope to continue developing my creativity as I work towards my future career as an artist."

Scarlett.J – Year 9

Perfect Attendance Wins Ryan-McKenzie Pumpkin Festival Tickets



Year 9 student Ryan-McKenzie.W was the lucky winner of the Lower Attendance Raffle, drawn at random from students who had achieved 100% attendance and recorded zero late marks so far this term.

Ryan-McKenzie won five free tickets to the Pumpkin Festival at The Green Barn Farm Shop in Benfleet, along with a £20 voucher to spend at the event. The prize can be used for either the daytime Pumpkin Festival or the Pumpkins After Dark event.

Congratulations to Ryan-McKenzie, and thank you to all our students for their continued commitment to excellent attendance!

Showing Our Support for Show Racism the Red Card

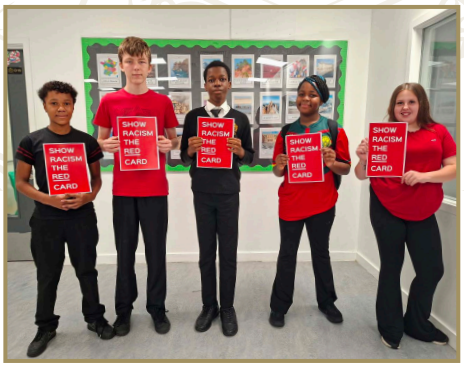
On Friday 16th October, students and staff were invited to wear red to show their support for Show Racism the Red Card and its work to tackle racism.

Some students and staff also featured in a montage video shared on our social media channels, holding up red cards to demonstrate their support for standing against racism.










Safeguarding

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

The Essex Safeguarding Children Board (ESCB) provides information and guidance for parents and carers on a range of safeguarding issues. Their website includes advice and signposts to useful resources to help families understand and respond to concerns relating to children and young people. Parents and carers can access this information at www.escb.co.uk

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

Year 8 Students Learn About Hate Crime Awareness







Last week, as part of Hate Crime Awareness Week, our Year 8 students took part in a thought-provoking performance by a local theatre company, exploring the impact of hate crime and the importance of challenging prejudice and discrimination.

The session was supported by Grace Jeffery, Hate Crime Officer from Essex Police, who helped students understand how a crime can become a hate crime, the consequences for victims and how incidents can be reported.

Through real-life scenarios, students were encouraged to consider how they would respond in different situations, whether an incident should be reported and how hate crime can particularly affect vulnerable individuals. The session also highlighted how prejudice can be based on assumptions about people and groups, and how these perceptions can be misguided.

An interactive quiz encouraged students to consider different examples and explore the distinction between unacceptable behaviour and criminal offences. Students also learned why some victims may feel ashamed or embarrassed about reporting incidents, and why it is important for the police to take reports seriously, recognising the impact hate crime can have on those affected.

The session provided a valuable opportunity for students to develop their understanding of hate crime, the importance of reporting incidents and the role everyone can play in promoting respect and challenging discrimination.

"It was very good because the play showed us some of the impacts of hate crime and what it feels like for people who are victims of it. We also learned how to report it if we feel unsafe or worried." Cayden.H

"The performance and assembly showed me how to properly report a hate crime, even if I didn't think it was a big deal. It still matters. The acting and play were very good." Riley.k

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.

Follow Us





Aspire - Believe - Achieve



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

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 IN TIME TO BE HERE TO ATTEND 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 send 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.



Attendance: Advice on Childhood Illnesses

If your child is absent due to illness, we will assess the reason given against current NHS guidance. Absences that fall outside of this guidance may not be authorised. For example, common colds and minor illnesses do not usually require children to stay at home and will not normally be authorised as an illness absence.

If your child is absent for a significant length of time or has repeated illness absences, we may ask you to provide medical evidence to support the absence. This could include appointment letters, prescription information, hospital documentation, or evidence from a healthcare professional. Where medical evidence is not provided, the absence may remain unauthorised.

We are committed to supporting families and understand that attendance difficulties can happen for many reasons. If your child's attendance falls below 90%, you may be invited to attend an Early Help Support Meeting. This meeting gives us the opportunity to discuss any barriers to attendance and identify support that may help your child attend school more regularly.

Please remember that a build-up of unauthorised absences can lead to schools following the necessary legal attendance procedures. We want to avoid this wherever possible by working together with families to ensure every student has the best possible access to their education.

What to do

Advice on childhood illnesses



Go to school; if needed, get treatment as required



Some restrictions for school attendance



Don't go to school and see the GP

What it's called?	What it's like	Going to school	Getting treatment	More advice
Asthma flare up	Worsening of usual symptoms		Follow your care plan	Stay off school if feeling too unwell
Chicken pox	Rash begins as small, red, flat spots that develop into itchy fluid-filled blisters		Pharmacy	Back to school five days after on-set of the rash, or when all lesions are crusted over
Common cold	Runny nose, sneezing, sore throat		Pharmacy	Ensure good hand hygiene
Conjunctivitis	Teary, red, itchy, painful eye(s)		Pharmacy	Try not to touch eye to avoid spreading*
Flu	Fever, cough, sneezing, runny nose, headache body aches and pain, exhaustion, sore throat		Pharmacy	Ensure good hand hygiene*
German measles/ Rubella	Fever, tiredness. Raised, red, rash that starts on the face and spreads downwards		GP	Back to school four days after the rash has started, if feeling well enough. Please let the school know, as pregnant members of staff may be affected.
Glandular fever	High temperature, swollen glands, sore throat; usually more painful than any before		GP	*
Hand, foot & mouth disease	Fever, sore throat, headache, small painful blisters inside the mouth on tongue and gums (may appear on hands and feet)		GP	Attend school while monitoring symptoms
Head lice	Itchy scalp (may be worse at night)		Pharmacy	
Impetigo	Clusters of red bumps or blisters surrounded by area of redness		GP	Back to school when lesions crust or 48 hours after start of antibiotics
Measles	Fever, cough, runny nose, watery inflamed eyes, rash		GP	Back to school four days from on-set of rash, and if feeling well enough
Ringworm	Red ring shaped rash, may be itchy, rash may be dry and scaly or wet and crusty		Pharmacy	
Scabies	Itching rash, commonly between fingers, wrists, elbows, arm		GP	Back to school after first treatment
Scarlet fever	Fever, unwell, red tongue, sandpaper rash		GP	Exclusion period during first 24 hours of antibiotics*
Shingles	Pain, itching, or tingling along the affected nerve pathway. Blister-type rash		GP	Only stay off school if rash is weeping and cannot be covered
Sickness bug/ diarrhoea	Stomach cramps, nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea		Pharmacy	Contact GP if symptoms persist after 48 hours
Threadworms	Intense itchiness around anus		Pharmacy	Ensure good hand hygiene
Tonsilitis/ Strep throat	Intense sore throat for more than 1 day		Pharmacy	See GP if temperature lasts more than 48 hours or cannot swallow . Only need to stay off school if feeling too unwell
Whooping cough	Violent coughing, with a 'whoop'		GP	Exclusion period during first five days of antibiotics
Covid				Visit www.nhs.uk for latest guidance

*Attend school while monitoring symptoms.

This information is a guide and has been checked by health professionals. If you are unsure about your child's wellbeing, we recommend you contact your pharmacy or GP to check.

Should my child go to school/nursery today?
Hertfordshire and West Essex Healthier Together for further information
https://www.hwehealthiertogether.nhs.uk/parentscarers

Working in partnership with

NHS

Essex County Council

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



Job of the Week:
Meteorologist



What does a Meteorologist do?

Meteorologists collect and study data to make weather forecasts.

Key Responsibilities:

- Collect data from satellite images, radar, remote sensors and weather stations
- Measure air pressure, wind, temperature and humidity
- Predict the weather by analysing information and using computer programmes
- Give weather information and reports to customers
- Study weather patterns and climate change
- Improve computer predictions
- Use research to predict floods
- Study how the weather affects the spread of pollution or disease

What Qualifications do you need to do this job?

- You'll usually need a degree in a related subject like:
  - physics
  - maths
  - environmental studies
  - geography
  - computer science
- You might also need a postgraduate qualification.





Labour Market Information

- +41.4% 897,801 jobs
- +40.8% in your region of East of England, an increase of 89,463 jobs

Let's Talk Money

UK annual median:
£55,518

WORD OF THE WEEK

ASTOUNDING

Extremely surprising or impressive; causing great wonder or astonishment.

UKRAINIAN (Українська) (Ukrayins'ka)	Вражаючий	(vra-zha-YOO-chyy)
URDU (اردو) (Urdu)	حیران کن	(hai-RAAN kun)
HUNGARIAN (Magyar) (Magyar)	Lebilincselõ	(leh-bil-in-chel-Ő)

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

Aspire - Believe - Achieve

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