

## Dates for the Diary

### Year 8 AP2 Assessments

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> - Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2026

### Year 9 AP2 Assessments

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> - Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2026

### Half Term

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May - Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2026

### Year 9 AP2 Assessments

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> - Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2026

### Year 7 AP2 Assessments

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> - Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2026

## Student Value of the Term

**CLIMATE CHANGE  
IS REAL**

## House Points - Week Ending 8<sup>th</sup> May



199,076  
ALI



181,867  
SEACOLE



172,196  
AUSTEN



163,056  
HAWKING

## Leadership Message

As we move into a busy and important part of the school year, we would like to take this opportunity to highlight just how valuable this period is for all our KS3 students. The coming weeks provide a key opportunity for students to demonstrate their learning, build confidence and develop the strong study habits that will support their AP2 success.

We are extremely proud of the effort, commitment and positive attitudes shown by students across Years 7, 8 and 9. To recognise this, we are pleased to share that a range of rewards and celebrations will take place to acknowledge success during this period. These will celebrate not only academic achievement, but also effort, resilience, attendance and excellent behaviour for learning. Further details will be shared with students in due course.

We also ask families to continue reinforcing our school expectations, particularly around punctuality and attendance. Missing even small parts of lessons can quickly add up to significant gaps in learning, making it harder for students to keep up and feel confident. Being on time and attending all lessons consistently are vital habits that help students stay engaged, make progress and enjoy their learning.



By working together, we can ensure all students remain supported, motivated and ready to succeed during this important part of the year.

**L.Gray**  
Assistant Headteacher

## Parent Drop In - Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May

This week's Parent Drop In will be on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May between 8.30am and 9.30am.

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.



## Home Learning

If you have any queries regarding home learning, including access issues or, please visit the [Contact Us](#) page via the Basildon Lower Academy website and select the option for Home Learning/Homework.

## 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.

## 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](http://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](http://www.basildonloweracademy.org.uk/safeguarding)

## Aspire - Believe - Achieve

## 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 SEND Department - Ground Floor Blue Block**



## Online Safety Hub: Navigating the Need for Parental Controls

In the digital age, children have easy access to technology, and it's essential for parents to ensure their online experiences are safe, positive, and age-appropriate. Staying informed and using the right tools can make a big difference in protecting children online. [Click here](#) to access helpful information regarding parental controls.

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](#)



## 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 MiMINDS

## YOUNG CARERS CLUB

TUESDAY

3.15PM-5PM G7

VARIOUS ACTIVITIES EACH WEEK INCLUDING BOARD GAMES, COOKING, PHOTOGRAPHY, ARTS & CRAFTS.

REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED. TALK TO OTHERS, RELAX & HAVE FUN.

## Medical Mavericks Inspire Future Healthcare Professionals

Recently, students at the Lower Academy were given a fantastic opportunity to develop their knowledge and understanding of medical science as part of the academy's ongoing careers programme.

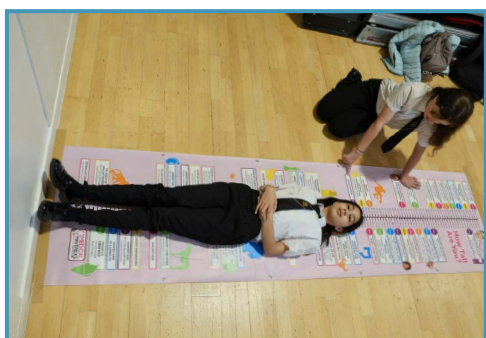
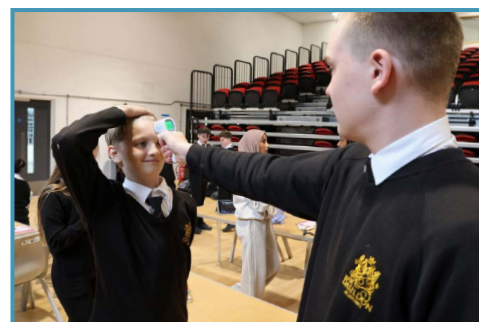
We were delighted to welcome guests from the Medical Mavericks team, who delivered highly interactive workshops focused on careers within the healthcare sector. The team provided valuable insight into the wide range of roles available in the medical profession, helping students to broaden their awareness of future career pathways.

Throughout the sessions, students took part in a variety of engaging, hands-on activities using real medical technology and equipment. These included recording ultrasound scans, carrying out their own ECG tests, and experiencing what it is like to perform keyhole surgery using a specialist training device similar to those used by surgeons.

The workshops were fully interactive, ensuring that every student had the chance to use the equipment and immerse themselves in the experience. It was an inspiring and informative day, helping to bring medical careers to life and spark interest in the next generation of healthcare professionals.

"I enjoyed the workshop as all of the medical equipment was really fun to use. We could draw blood from a fake arm, which was very realistic, and I also liked using the double vision goggles.

If you are interested in a career in the medical profession, the workshop is amazing as it includes lots of medical equipment. The person leading the workshop was very kind and explained everything clearly." Harper.M – Year 7



# 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](mailto: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](http://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
		<b>Before School 7.30am-8.15am</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All Years Athletics – Throws</li> </ul> <b>After School 3pm-4pm</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All Years Athletics – Jumps</li> </ul>	<b>After School 3pm-4pm</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All Years Athletics – Track</li> </ul>	

# BASILDON ACADEMIES

## WORD OF THE DAY

11<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> May 2026

Monday:	<b>Reclusive (adjective)</b> 隱居的 in <b>Mandarin Chinese</b> – avoiding the company of others. <i>The reclusive poet rarely left his home.</i>	
Tuesday:	<b>Ameliorate (verb)</b> kuboresha in <b>Swahili</b> – to make something better. <i>The reforms aimed to ameliorate working conditions.</i>	
Wednesday:	<b>Mindfulness (noun)</b> sati in <b>Thai</b> – maintaining awareness of thoughts and feelings. <i>Mindfulness exercises helped students stay calm before exams.</i>	
Thursday:	<b>Equanimity (noun)</b> samādhāna in <b>Sanskrit</b> – calmness in difficult situations. <i>She faced the exam with equanimity.</i>	
Friday:	<b>Luminous (adjective)</b> ‘ālohilohi in <b>Hawaiian</b> – bright or glowing. <i>The luminous moon lit the path home.</i>	

## Job of the Week: Agricultural Engineer

### What does an Agricultural Engineer do?

Agricultural engineers make and maintain agricultural, horticultural and forestry machinery and equipment.

#### Key Responsibilities

- Assessing the environmental impact of agricultural production methods
- Supervising construction projects, like land drainage, reclamation and irrigation
- Solving engineering problems, like designing all-terrain vehicles to move over uneven ground in different weather conditions
- Testing and installing new equipment, like harvesters and crop sprayers
- Using GPS, weather data and computer modelling to advise farmers and businesses on land use
- Planning service and repair programmes for machinery

#### Labour Market Information

- +3% 20,747 jobs
- +4.2% in your region of East of England, an increase of 2,817 jobs



### What Qualifications do you need to do this job?

#### Typical Entry Requirements:

You'll need a foundation degree, HND or degree in: Agricultural Engineering, Environmental Engineering Electrical or Mechanical Engineering.

If you've got a further education qualification in a land-based engineering subject, or relevant experience, you could start as an agricultural engineering technician. You'd then complete further study to qualify as an engineer.

### Let's Talk Money

UK annual median:  
£44,843



Partnership and engagement with parents and the wider community is now seen as a strength of the school and has enhanced the school's reputation. Clear evidence of this is in the rising roll, migration into the school & the enhanced reputation of the school within the local community & wider education community.



Leading Parent  
Partnership Award

2023-2026

Follow The Basildon Lower Academy on our social media channels



# DOUGHNUT WEEK

Monday 18th – Friday 22nd May



To celebrate National Doughnut Week the Dining Hall will be serving a selection of Jam & Ring Doughnuts.

All Doughnuts are 75p each & will be available throughout the week at break & lunchtime.



Do you enjoy learning about **respiration**?

You could be a/an...



**Fermentation microbiologist**



Yusef **improves the fermentation process** of biomass waste, creating a sustainable alternative to palm oil, thereby reducing deforestation.

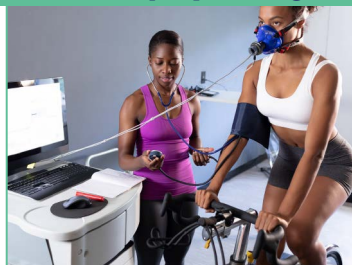
**Career route** Degree

**Salary range** £23,000 – £45,000

**Top essential skill**



**Exercise physiologist**



Zoe measures blood pressure, heart rate and muscle strength at rest and during exercise **to improve fitness or reduce disease progression.**

**Career route** Degree

**Salary range** £23,000 – £50,000

**Top essential skill**



**Bioprocess engineer**



Emma works with microbes such as bacteria and fungi **to develop new antibiotics** in huge quantities.

**Career route** Degree

**Salary range** £54,500 – £96,500

**Top essential skill**



**Distiller**



Ben **maintains the fermentation equipment** that produces alcoholic drinks such as spirits and beer.

**Career route** Work experience, personal interests or degree

**Salary range** £27,500 – £42,500

**Top essential skill**



You don't need a degree to be a scientist!  
You can take a different career route including an **apprenticeship, degree apprenticeship** or by **training on the job.**



**Which job would you like to do?**

SWi

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is the perfect time to grab everything you need.



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