The Basildon Lower Academy Newsletter • 2nd November 2026

Dates for the Diary

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

Staff Inset - Non Student Day
Monday 4th January 2027

First Day of Spring Term
Tuesday 5th January 2027



House Points - Week Ending 23rd October

Seacole	Hawking	Ali	Austen
74,889	70,230	67,328	57,880

Leadership Message

This academic year we have changed the structure of our lessons based upon research from cognitive science to ensure that we give the best possible structure for students to be successful. They follow a structure of:

· **Retrieval Practice** – beginning each lesson to help students remember past knowledge or skills and support it becoming secure in their long-term memory

· **Learning Intentions** – we share the learning intentions for the lesson so that students know what they are learning, why and the success criteria

· **I Do** – this part of the lesson is where the teacher models their thinking and explains new knowledge or skills in small steps

· **We Do** – the students then have a chance to apply their learning with the support from the teacher

· **You Do** – when the students are ready to practice and apply what they have learnt independently

Before moving through the stages of the lesson, teachers will also use checks for understanding. These could be **Hinge Questions** to see if the class are ready to move on, or if further explanation needs to be given.

We also use **Show Me Boards**, these are mini whiteboards that the students hold up at the same time so teachers can see everyone's answer at the same time. This then supports the teacher in helping individual students who may need a further explanation or show that the whole class need to re-visit a key part of the learning.



Our aim is to build on the students' achievements from Key Stage 2 and to ensure key knowledge and skills are taught through carefully sequenced lessons, to fully prepare them for the challenges of Key Stage 4 and 5 and, develop life-long learners.

S.Szuszkiewicz
Deputy Headteacher

Year 9 Students Enjoy Respect Project Activity Day

A group of Year 9 students recently took part in a Respect Project activity day at Layer Marney Outdoors, an outdoor activity centre run by Essex Boys and Girls Clubs.



The day gave students the opportunity to enjoy new experiences, develop their teamwork and communication skills, and build positive relationships with others in a fun and supportive environment.

Working together to overcome challenges encouraged students to listen to one another, share ideas and support their teammates. The activities also provided opportunities to meet students from another school, make new friends and develop confidence.



The day was part of the wider Respect Project, which aims to help young people develop valuable life skills and positive relationships. Following the success of the activity day, eight of the 15 students involved have been selected to take part in an exciting eight-week Life Skills course. We look forward to sharing further updates as the project progresses.

"I learned a lot from this. I learned how to work as a team, and I made a bunch of new friends from another school. One of the team-building activities involved using wooden panels to cross a pretend lava floor without touching it. We also worked in groups to build a raft using ropes and barrels, which we then took onto the pond." Dexter.B



"I thoroughly enjoyed the Respect Project because we got to do lots of activities. Building rafts was great fun because we all worked together and could laugh along the way. The games also made us think, and we learned to work together and speak nicely to each other. I'm very happy to be taking part and believe others should have the opportunity too." Biff.A

"We built rafts, and then I jumped in the pond! We went rock climbing and played games. It was really fun, and I made friends while learning life skills." Mekhi.S

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.

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

Exploring Creative Writing Through Rap



Year 9 students at the Lower Academy recently welcomed Rob from The Rap School for a series of creative workshops designed to develop their writing skills, creativity and confidence through rap and performance.

A former World Champion rapper, Rob introduced students to the process of turning words and ideas into lyrics. The session began with students suggesting a selection of words, which Rob then demonstrated how to bring together into a poem and rap, explaining techniques such as rhyme, rhythm and freestyle.

Students then had the opportunity to put these skills into practice, working with Rob and supporting one another to structure their own raps. They were encouraged to choose topics they felt passionate about, expressing their interests, experiences and ideas through their writing.

The workshops provided an engaging link to English and creative writing, showing students how language, vocabulary, rhyme and structure can be used in different forms of expression. Students also had the opportunity to perform their own work at the end of the session.

The experience encouraged students to express themselves, experiment with language and build confidence in sharing their ideas with others.













"It's such a good experience. We want Rob to come back. He's very awesome. I performed my rap with him in front of the audience." Masoud.B

"I really, really want Rob to come back. He made me feel confident and comfortable, and he was very helpful and motivational." Reignen.P

"I loved The Rap School. It was the best, and I had so much fun. It helped me express what I like about myself and made me realise I have so much to say about who I am. Rob was so helpful and non-judgemental. He was amazing." Cleo.B

"I found it great. I feel like it inspired creativity and lets people speak their minds, so they're not afraid to do so." Amber.M

Celebrating Our Enrichment Champions

Congratulations to our Enrichment Champions, who have been recognised for their commitment to enrichment clubs at the Lower Academy.

Students who attended 10 or more sessions received a certificate and trophy, while those who attended five or more sessions received a certificate. Both groups were celebrated as Enrichment Champions in recognition of their commitment.

Enrichment clubs give students valuable opportunities to try new activities, develop skills, build confidence and make friends across different year groups.





Later in the school year, students who regularly attend enrichment clubs will also be entered into a raffle, offering the chance to win exciting prizes as an additional way of recognising and rewarding their involvement and commitment.

It is fantastic to see students making the most of these opportunities and showing such enthusiasm beyond the classroom. Well done to all our Enrichment Champions!

Parent Drop In - Focus on Academic Progress



Our next Parent Drop In will be on Tuesday 3rd November between 10.30am and 11.30am.

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 **Academic Progress**.

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.

Online Safety Hub: Understanding Spotify

Spotify is a popular music streaming platform, but some content may include explicit lyrics or themes that are not suitable for younger listeners. Parents and carers can read this guide to learn more about Spotify's features and how to help young people use the platform safely: Spotify – Online Safety Hub

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

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.

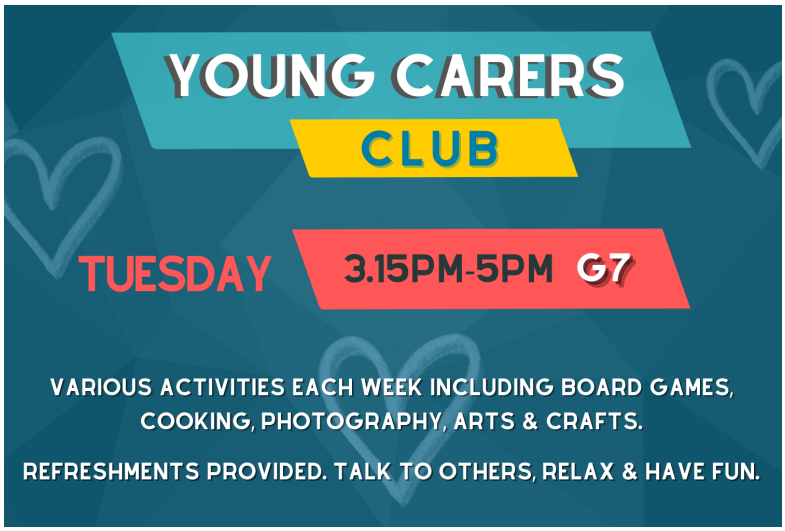
We work closely with a range of services to make sure children and families get the right help at the right time. This may include school nurses, health professionals, counsellors, mentors, family support workers and Children's Social Care.

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

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.





Job of the Week:
Astrophysicist



What does an Astrophysicist do?

An astrophysicist studies the universe and the laws of physics that explain how stars, planets, galaxies, black holes and other celestial objects form, behave and evolve.

Key Responsibilities:

- Researching stars, planets, galaxies and black holes.
- Analysing data from telescopes, satellites and space missions.
- Using computer models and simulations to test scientific theories.
- Publishing research findings in scientific journals.
- Working with international teams on space research projects.
- Presenting findings at conferences and universities.
- Teaching students if working in higher education.

What Qualifications do you need to do this job?

- Most employers will expect you to have a degree in physics, applied physics or a related science or engineering subject. You may also need a relevant postgraduate qualification like an:
- MSc
- MPhil
- PhD
- Mphys

If you don't have a background in science, you could take a one-year foundation course.





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
AESTHETICS

Relating to beauty and the appreciation of beauty, especially in art, design or appearance.



AFRIKAANS
(Afrikaans)
(Afrikaans)

Estetika
(es-te-TEE-ka)



BENGALI
(বাংলা)
(Bangla)

নান্দনিকতা
(non-doh-NEE-ko-tah)



AKAN
(Twi)
(Twi)

Nkwantan
(en-kwan-tan)

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

Follow Us

URBAN MOTION

AGES 10-18 | FREE

Mondays | 4:30pm - 6pm
Basildon Youth Centre
16-20 Southernhay, ***BASILDON***
SS14FN

Thursdays | 4:30pm - 6pm
Arts Outburst, Floor 2,
Thameside Complex,
Orsett Road, ***GRAYS,*** RM17 5DX

Urban Motion is a **youth-led programme for 10–18's** who are ready to **move, create, and try new things**. From parkour and spray painting to hip hop dance, circus skills, music production, DJing, and physical theatre – it's all about urban street energy, creativity, and expression.
And the best part? You're in charge.

Urban Motion was created at our Grays HQ back in 2025. The new Basildon edit is built from their vision **– and now it's your turn to make it your own.**



Get involved **all year** with **weekly sessions**, holiday **drop-ins**, **open studios**, and **public takeovers – where your ideas lead the way.**

NOT JUST A WORKSHOP. IT'S A CREW, A MOVEMENT, FIND YOUR VOICE, BUILD CONFIDENCE AND SHOW WHAT YOU'VE GOT.

Essex County Council
YOUTH SERVICE

Find out more and book online
www.artsoutburst.co.uk/whats-on

arts outburst