

Dates for the Diary

Bank Holiday

Monday 5th May 2025

Year 9 AP2 Assessments

Monday 12th - Friday 16th May 2025

Year 8 AP2 Assessments

Monday 19th - Friday 23rd May 2025

Half Term

Monday 26th - Friday 30th May 2025

Year 7 AP2 Assessments

Monday 23rd - Friday 27th June 2025

Student Value of the Term

**CLIMATE CHANGE
IS REAL**

House Points - Week Ending 25th April



76,700
SEACOLE



74,442
ALI



61,645
AUSTEN



56,621
HAWKING

Leadership Message - Supporting Our EAL Students

EAL stands for English as an Additional Language, meaning that it includes all students who speak a home language other than English. EAL students make up 25% of our student cohort at the Basildon Lower Academy.

We strive to ensure that all of our EAL students feel included in school life and have the same opportunities as those who are native English speakers. New EAL students are offered a buddy within their class to ensure that they can navigate the school site with ease and ask them for help. Our EAL Ambassadors are also available to give tours to new EAL students and help them settle into school life at the Lower Academy.

Our goal is to ensure that students with English as an Additional Language (EAL) can fully participate in their education alongside native English speakers.

To support this, EAL students attend weekly intervention sessions designed to improve their English across the four key skills: reading, writing, listening, and speaking. During these sessions, students use a combination of grammar workbooks and the language learning platform LanguageNut to develop their skills further.



Where needed, students are also supported by translators to help them access the curriculum as their English improves. These tailored interventions and translation support help EAL students make rapid progress with their language development, allowing them to thrive across all subjects and achieve their full potential.

If you have any questions regarding EAL support that may be available to your child, please do not hesitate to contact me: EAL@basildonacademies.org.uk

D.Middleton - EAL Support Coordinator

Young Minds

[Young Minds](https://www.youngminds.org.uk/) 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.

YOUNGMiNDS

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

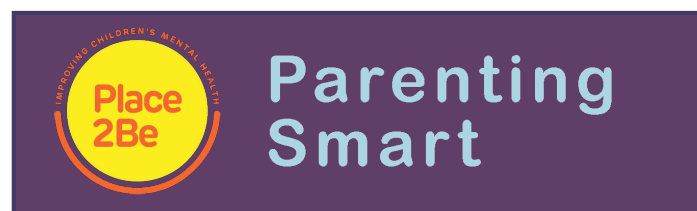
Safeguarding our students is at the forefront of everything we do. Parents and carers can access information via the following link www.escb.co.uk which offers guidance and signposts to resources on various safeguarding issues. Please contact our safeguarding officers if you have any concerns about your own child or another student at the Academies.

www.basildonloweracademy.org.uk/safeguarding

Supporting Your Child's Wellbeing with Parenting Smart

Parenting Smart, created by the children's mental health charity Place2Be, offers practical tips and guidance to support your child's wellbeing.

From managing screen time to handling big emotions, the website provides short, easy-to-follow articles and videos designed to help parents navigate everyday challenges with confidence.



Explore helpful resources here: <https://parentingsmart.place2be.org.uk/>

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

Every Thursday
Breaktime

Location: The Lower
Academy SEND
Department



Free Fruit at Breaktime



Students can choose an item of fruit from the till area in the Dining Hall at breaktime each day.

Online Safety Advice: 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.

For more information please visit: <https://basildonacademies.onlinesafetyhub.uk/parent/articles/navigating-social-media-and-gaming-apps-safely>

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](#)



Uniform Exchange Scheme

If you have uniform that your child has outgrown, please bring it in and see if there is something in the exchange shop that has been donated that you can simply swap your item for. We are still gratefully receiving donations of jumpers, shirts, trousers and PE kits that are in pre-loved condition and these can be donated via the reception office on either site.

Please remember, the Uniform Exchange shop is located at the Lower Academy, is open from 8am – 3:30pm Monday – Friday and is accessible via the school office.



Garden Project Flourishes

The Lower Academy's garden and allotment project has continued to flourish, thanks to the dedication of students and staff. Since the last update, an incredible 80 students have taken part in growing and maintaining the space, making it a true community effort.

New additions to the garden include grapevines, a cherry tree, rhubarb, strawberries, peas, kale, cabbage, tomatoes, and citrus trees—a diverse and exciting range of plants. The potatoes have also begun to sprout, and two brand-new greenhouses have been installed, expanding the growing potential even further.

This incredible project has not gone unnoticed. The school has received nationally prestigious awards, including the RSPB Wild Challenge Award and Plastic Clever Schools recognition, highlighting our commitment to sustainability and environmental responsibility.



The wider community has also shown its support, with generous donations of garden equipment, seeds, and plants from local organisations, including The Basildon Round Table. Their contributions have helped make this project even more successful.

"Gardening is fun because it gets us outdoors, keeps us active, and lets us connect with nature in a fun way."
Chantelle.T – Year 9



HMS President Visit

On April 23rd, a group of our talented art students had the incredible opportunity to take part in a unique art workshop aboard HMS President, led by renowned artist Jan Erika.

Ten students were carefully selected for the trip in recognition of their dedication to the subject and the outstanding effort they have demonstrated throughout the year. During the workshop, each student designed their own ship crest — a creative piece they were able to take home as a memento of the day.

We're proud to share that several of our students received special recognition:

- Suzie-Lou.G was awarded Best Piece
- Isaac.S received the prize for Best Understanding of the Brief
- Evie.W was honoured for her Resilience and Creativity



Their conduct throughout the day was exemplary. Not only did they impress the visiting Navy officers, but they also stood out among the other participating schools. Staff aboard HMS President praised our students for both their artistic ability and their impeccable behaviour — a true credit to our school. I am incredibly proud of them all!

Mrs Chapman – Teacher of Art

Geography Drop Down Day: Exploring Sustainability Together

As part of our recent Geography Drop Down Day, students took part in a range of activities focused on sustainability, tying in with this half term's student value: Climate Change is Real.

It was a fantastic opportunity for students to learn about environmental issues and explore practical ways to make a difference. One highlight of the day was seeing students actively planning improvements to our community space, showing real commitment to creating a greener future.



The Generation Juice Drinks Hub - Available Now!



Sustainable Hydration

97% reduced plastic

Multiple Flavours!
No Added Sugar

Immune Boosting



Free monthly open mic for Young Musicians

The monthly event is an opportunity for young musicians, rappers and bands, plus those interested in technical skills like sound, to harness their skills in front of a supportive and safe live audience.

Collect a flyer from Miss Stoddard or Miss Child for more details

DROP The MIC!

FREE MONTHLY OPEN MIC FOR YOUNG MUSICIANS



Important Notice: Smoke and Vape-Free Policy

The Basildon Academies is a smoke and vape free organisation. This prohibits the use of all tobacco products and e-cigarettes on, or in, any Basildon Academy property. This is in place to protect staff, students, and visitors from the effects of second-hand smoke in its buildings and grounds.

Please be reminded that parents and visitors are not permitted to use any smoking products on the grounds of the academies, this includes in our car parks.



**NO SMOKING
NO VAPING**

BASILDON ACADEMIES

WORD OF THE DAY

28th April – 2nd May 2025

Monday:	Choreography (Noun) chorégraphie in French Definition: The composition of dance sequences or movements. Example: International Dance Day celebrates the art of choreography and the creativity of dance.	
Tuesday: <i>International Dance Day</i>	Rhythm (Noun) Rhythmus in German Definition: A strong, regular, repeated pattern of movement or sound. Example: Rhythm is a key component of the dances performed on International Dance Day.	
Wednesday:	Kinetics(Noun) kinetik in Swedish Definition: The study of the effects of forces on the motion of bodies. Example: Understanding kinetics helps dancers enhance their movements on International Dance Day.	
Thursday: <i>May Day</i>	Solidarity (Noun) dayanışma in Turkish Definition: Unity or agreement of feeling or action, especially among individuals with a common interest. Example: May Day represents solidarity among workers around the world.	
Friday:	Labour (Noun) 노고, 수고 in Korean Definition: Work, especially physical work done for wages. Example: May Day is a celebration of the labour movement and the rights of workers.	

Job of the Week: Naval Architect

What does a Naval Architect do?

Your day-to-day tasks may include:

- coordinating the work of engineering design teams
- making sure that designs are safe, seaworthy and cost-effective
- preparing design plans using computer software

Labour Market Information

- UK jobs: 383,043
 - Essex Jobs: 8,415
 - Growth: +41.4%
- Top 5 LEAs: 1. Hampshire (11,941) 2. Lancashire (9,111) 3. Essex (8,415) 4. Surrey (8,334) 5. Hertfordshire (8,186)

Let's Talk Money

UK annual median: £46,761

What Qualifications do you need to do this job?

You'll usually need a degree or postgraduate qualification in naval architecture, ocean, offshore or marine engineering, or ship science that's recognised by The Royal Institution of Naval Architects (RINA).

You'll need: engineering skills, excellent IT and computer-aided design (CAD) skills, sound judgement and leadership and management skills.

The schools support for mental health and wellbeing is well led and the school have invested significantly in training and additional staff within their wellbeing centres and wider pastoral teams over recent years to build capacity and expand what they can offer.



Wellbeing Award
for Schools

2022-2025

Follow The Basildon Lower Academy on our social media channels



Absence Procedures

To report a student absence please visit the [Contact Us](#) page via the Basildon Lower Academy website and select the option for Attendance.

- 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

Did you know? **90%** of young people with attendance **BELOW** **85%** fail to get good grades.

MISSING **1** DAY A WEEK



LOSING **ONE YEAR** OF SCHOOL LIFE.

Good attendance means:

Being in school at least **97%** of the time, that's at least **184** days a year.

Target **97%+**



175

days are **NOT** spent in school each year.*

* Plenty of time for shopping, holidays & appointments.

143

Days of education

75%

47 days absent

152

Days of education

80%

38 days absent

162

Days of education

85%

28 days absent

171

Days of education

90%

19 days absent

184

Days of education

97%

6 days absent

190

Days of education

100%

0 days absent

SERIOUSLY WORRIED

Very poor attendance has a serious impact & reduces life chances.

VERY CONCERNED

Poor attendance gives less chance of success.

WELL DONE

Good attendance gives the best chance of success.

THE RT HON RICHARD HOLDEN MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Basildon Lower Academy
Timberlog Close
Basildon
Essex
SS14 1UX

Our Ref: MC/RI07053

10 April 2025

Dear Kaci, Gracie, and Members of the Lower Academy Fairtrade Committee,

Thank you so much for your brilliant letters — they were absolutely packed with passion, facts, and a lot of heart. What brilliant work you're doing in your Committee. I was really impressed by how clearly you explained why Fairtrade matters and how we can all play a part in making the world fairer. And please thank your teacher, Miss Barnard, from me for sending your lovely letters to my office.

You're absolutely right — it's unfair that the people who grow, pick, and produce the food we eat often don't get a fair reward for their work. I think you've done a fantastic job highlighting how choosing Fairtrade can help change that. I can tell how much you care about fairness and kindness, and it's clear that you've deeply considered how to make a difference.

I love that you're putting smiles on people's faces by taking action — and I promise I will do my bit, too. I'll certainly look out for Fairtrade items when I go out shopping. I'll also be sharing what you've told me with others and encouraging other MPs in Parliament to follow your brilliant example.

Keep up the fantastic work. You are already making a difference, and I do not doubt that the future is in excellent hands with young people like you leading the way.

Yours sincerely,

The Rt. Hon. Richard Holden, M.P.
Member of Parliament for Basildon & Billericay

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR BASILDON & BILLERICAY

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