

## Dates for the Diary

### Year 8 & Year 9 Progress Review Event

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2026: 3.30pm-6.30pm

### Holocaust Memorial Day

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2026

### Children's Mental Health Week

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> - Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2026

### National Apprenticeship Week

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> - Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2026

### Half Term

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> - Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2026

## Student Value of the Term

**KINDNESS IS  
EVERYTHING**

## House Points - Week Ending 16<sup>th</sup> January



118,620  
ALI



113,211  
SEACOLE



98,055  
AUSTEN



90,226  
HAWKING

## Leadership Message - National Year of Reading 2026

2026 is the National Year of Reading and to support this, The Lower Academy are continuing our pledge to encourage every student to engage with reading in some form. This can be a novel, a science book, a car manual or a recipe for cooking a meal; these are all forms of reading to help your child to widen their vocabulary and prepare them more extensively for the future.

All reading teachers have been provided with material for students to take home, to help them engage more with reading. Please encourage your child to collect these from their teachers to complete at home with you.

We will also be engaging with more reading tasks later in the year when we celebrate World Book Day. To celebrate, we have purchased some new books for the students to borrow from the library ranging from Stephen Hawking to Lewis Hamilton. The idea behind these books is to boost their confidence with reading and broaden their knowledge in different areas as well as widening their vocabulary skills.

Our online reading programme 'Reading Eggs' is available now for all Key Stage 3 students and we will shortly be presenting several students with their Reading Champion Certificates, the first for 2026!

As you can see, '2026 The Year of Reading' is an exciting time for everyone at the Lower Academy with lots of different activities for students, parents/carers and staff to engage with.

Thank you for your continued support with this important reading initiative for our students, please remember that our motto at the Lower Academy is '*Reading is not just novels, it is what interests you!*' **S.Forecast - Literacy Leader**



## Polite Notice: After School Site Access

We want all our students and families to know that keeping everyone safe at the Academies is really important to us. We love seeing students get involved in clubs and after school activities, and we encourage them to take part whenever they can.

However, **these organised activities are the only times students are allowed to stay on site after 3:00pm, unless they are attending a detention.**



To help everyone stay safe and ensure the site can be properly closed, students are expected to leave the school promptly at the end of the school day unless they are taking part in an organised after school activity. We ask that students do not wait around on site outside of these times.

Thank you for your support.

## 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](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)

## 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.



**Aspire - Believe - Achieve**

## Online Safety: Understanding the Risks of Snapchat

Social media platforms are a regular part of many young people's lives, and it is important that parents and carers are aware of the potential risks they may present. The Children's Society has published a helpful article highlighting some of the risks Snapchat can pose to children and young people, along with guidance to support safe and informed conversations at home.

For further information, please click here: <https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/what-we-do/blogs/the-risks-snapchat-poses-to-children>



## NHS Guidance: Is your child too unwell for school?

As seasonal illnesses become more common, the NHS offers clear guidance to help parents and carers decide when children should stay at home and when it is safe to return to school. The advice covers common conditions such as coughs, colds, sickness, diarrhoea and fever.

You can view the full NHS guidance here: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>



# Students Embrace a Wide Range of Enrichment Opportunities

The Lower Academy Enrichment Programme continues to go from strength to strength this school year, offering students a wide range of clubs and activities that support personal development, wellbeing, and learning beyond the classroom. The current timetable includes opportunities such as sports, debate and science clubs, creative writing, music, literacy leaders, and a variety of art-based clubs; giving students the chance to explore interests, develop skills, and work alongside peers in a supportive environment.

Before Christmas, students took part in enrichment activities dedicated to supporting the planning and preparation of our successful Christmas Fayre. These sessions helped students develop teamwork and organisational skills and contributed to raising over £1,000 for the Fairtrade Foundation, a fantastic achievement.

"I have been to football, netball, basketball, the Christmas Fayre, debate and science clubs. My favourite club is football because I have had extra training and developed my skills." Ariana.A - Year 8

"Creative Writing Club has been fun and has allowed me to use my imagination. We get a lot of help and support." Lucas.S - Year 7

"I really like Debate Club, as I like to get my point across." Fathia.K - Year 8

"Football club in the morning is great as it helps me get prepared for the day ahead." Ersa.T - Year 8



Participation in enrichment clubs continues to grow, and we are pleased to recognise a group of students who have already received an award for attending 10 or more enrichment sessions. Later in the year, students who attend enrichment clubs will also be entered into a raffle with exciting prizes, helping to celebrate their commitment and engagement.

## 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](mailto:admin@basildonacademies.org.uk) with the updated information.

## Reading Eggs Club Supports Reading Confidence

Our Reading Eggs Enrichment Club provides students with a fun and supportive space to build their reading confidence through engaging online activities, personalised lessons, and interactive games.

Each week, students strengthen key skills such as phonics, comprehension, and vocabulary, while progressing at their own pace. The club helps students develop reading accuracy and fluency, while encouraging a genuine enjoyment of stories and learning in a positive, nurturing environment.

The Reading Eggs Club runs every Wednesday from 3.00pm to 3.30pm in Room O11, led by L.Jacob, and is open to Key Stage 3 students who would like to further develop their reading skills.

Congratulations to our first Reading Eggs award winners:

Ruoxuan.L(Year 7)

David.O (Year 8)

A fantastic achievement and well deserved.



## Essex Family Forum - Family Impact Survey

Essex Family Forum are conducting their annual Family Impact Survey to measure levels of parental satisfaction with local services for SEND Families. The data collected will be compared with previous surveys. Your voice really does make a difference! If you are the parent carer of a child or young person with SEND, please take the time to complete this survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YRMGD8Q>



# VEGANUARY MONTH

Throughout January the Dining Hall will  
be serving a Vegan Dish of the Day

# No EXPERIENCE? No PROBLEM.

## Find student jobs, events and training near you.

### #CreateYourFuture!



- Local and online opportunities
- Work experience
- Internships
- Apprenticeships
- Graduate schemes
- First jobs
- Careers events
- CV workshops
- Youth Friendly Employers
- AND MORE!



[youthemployment.org.uk/createyourfuture](http://youthemployment.org.uk/createyourfuture)



## Educational Psychology Parent Helpline

Essex County Council are pleased to announce the launch of their new support offer for families.

The EP Parent Helpline offers advice, support, and signposting for parents and carers. It is a confidential, safe, and private service, and no referral is needed — just book an appointment in advance.



**Easy to Access:** The booking is designed to provide an easier and more convenient experience.

- Available on alternating Mondays and Tuesdays
- 1:00pm – 5:00pm
- 25-minute appointments bookable via MS Teams
- No more waiting – instant booking confirmation

For booking details and further information, please visit: [EP-Parent-Helpline](http://EP-Parent-Helpline)

Further information is available on the Essex County Council Local Offer pages: <https://schools.essex.gov.uk/special-educational-needs-and-disabilities-send/send-services-and-support/essex-local-offer-website>

## Mind - Mental Health Charity

If you or someone you know needs support with mental health, the charity Mind provides helpful information, advice, and practical tips for looking after your wellbeing. For more information please visit: [www.mind.org.uk](http://www.mind.org.uk)



# BASILDON ACADEMIES

## WORD OF THE DAY

19<sup>th</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2026

Monday: <i>Martin Luther King Day</i>	<b>Copious (adjective)</b> rigelige in Danish – abundant in supply or quantity. <i>She took copious notes during the lecture.</i>	
Tuesday: <i>World Religion Day</i>	<b>Lucubration (noun)</b> lucubratie in Dutch – study or meditation, especially late at night. <i>His lucubration before the exam left him exhausted.</i>	
Wednesday:	<b>Idiosyncrasy (noun)</b> iseärasus in Estonian – a distinctive or peculiar feature of behaviour. <i>Her idiosyncrasy was humming while she worked.</i>	
Thursday:	<b>Voraciousness (noun)</b> nutsuqudu fe nuwɔna in Ewe – an eagerness for great quantities of something. <i>His voraciousness for knowledge impressed his teachers.</i>	
Friday: <i>International Day of Education</i>	<b>Intrepid (adjective)</b> matapang in Filipino – fearless and adventurous. <i>The intrepid explorers crossed the frozen terrain.</i>	

## Job of the Week: Social media specialist

### What does a Social media specialist do?

Social media specialists monitor and update an organisation's social media channels.

#### Day-to-day responsibilities include:

- Updating social media sites
- Writing blogs, articles and posts
- Responding to social media posts and developing discussions
- Checking online for company mentions and customer feedback
- Searching for interesting posts, news and articles to attract site visitors



Media Specialist



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

There are no set requirements, but some employers may expect you to have a degree. Relevant subjects include:

- Advertising
- Media and Communications
- Digital Marketing
- Journalism
- Public Relations
- Business Management

### Labour Market Information

+17% 436,252 jobs

+19.3% in your region of East of England, an increase of 41,627 jobs

### Let's Talk Money

UK annual median: £53,703

Leadership and management of TAs is well organised and they play a very important role within Basildon Academy. Teaching and non-teaching staff work closely together on a day-to-day basis, "It is teamwork, we do it together" a teacher commented.



Best Practice with  
Teaching Assistants Award

2023-2026

Follow The Basildon Lower Academy on our social media channels



## 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)

**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.