

Dates for the Diary

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

Start of Year 9 Transition to Upper Academy

Monday 30th June 2025

Student Value of the Term

**CLIMATE CHANGE
IS REAL**

House Points - Week Ending 2nd May



78,543
SEACOLE



77,463
ALI



65,005
AUSTEN



59,071
HAWKING

Leadership Message

As we begin the summer term, I would like to take this opportunity to wish our Lower Academy students the very best as they undertake their final assessments for the academic year. This presents a great opportunity to show the progress made from their first exams. I have visited many Year 9 lessons on my learning walks and seen our students working hard towards their upcoming assessment point 2, which will start the week beginning 12th May.

Saturday School Revision

In order to give our students as much support as possible in preparing for the APs, I am delighted to announce that we will be running a Saturday School revision opportunity for Year 9.

The Year 9 Saturday Revision will take place between 9:30-11:30am at the Lower Academy on Saturday, May 10th. The revision sessions being covered are for the core subjects: Maths, English and Science.

You do not need to sign your child up for these sessions; they can simply arrive at the Lower Academy at 9:30am, where registers will be taken.



We are committed to giving our students the very best opportunities and these extend beyond the normal school day (and week!). I hope as many of you as possible to take advantage of this opportunity for additional support with revision.

T.Smith
Assistant Headteacher

Essex Dance Theatre for Secondary Schools

Essex Dance Theatre offers AQA GCSE Dance on a Sundays. This is a choreographic/contemporary dance course run by Allana Kraszewska. To register interest & enrol contact: debbie.holme@essex.gov.uk

EDT also provides Vocational dance training, following the ISTD syllabi, and students get the opportunity to join the touring County Youth Dance Company – Essex Dance Theatre. Their timetable includes a free boy's night and dance inclusion class every Friday. Please visit the website for more information: www.essexdancetheatre.co.uk



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

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 Online Counselling Service

www.kooth.com is a free, confidential, safe and anonymous way for young people, aged 11-26, to ask for help from a team of highly qualified and experienced counsellors and support workers.

Kooth is a well-established, award winning online counselling agency and is accredited by The British Association of Psychotherapy and Counselling (BACP).

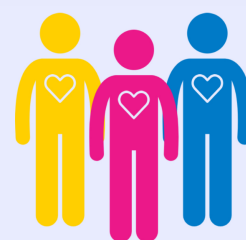


Young Carers Club

Tuesdays

3:30pm-5pm

Venue: Learning Support
Centre



Various activities each week including board games, cooking, photography, arts & crafts.

Refreshments provided. Talk to others, relax & have fun.

Aspire - Believe - Achieve

Online Safety Advice: Unlocking the Lid on Loot Boxes

With gaming now a big part of many young people's lives, it's important for parents to understand the risks that can come with it—especially when it comes to loot boxes. These in-game purchases can have both financial and emotional impacts. This helpful article explains what loot boxes are, how they work, and how you can support your child's safe gaming habits: <https://basildonacademies.onlinesafetyhub.uk/parent/articles/unlocking-the-lid-on-loot-boxes-1>

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: <https://basildonacademies.onlinesafetyhub.uk/>



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.



Year 8 and 9 History Students Step Back In Time At WWI Trench Experience

History students in Years 8 and 9 recently took part in a powerful educational visit to a reconstructed World War I trench system in Kent, where they explored what life was like both on the front line and back home during the war.

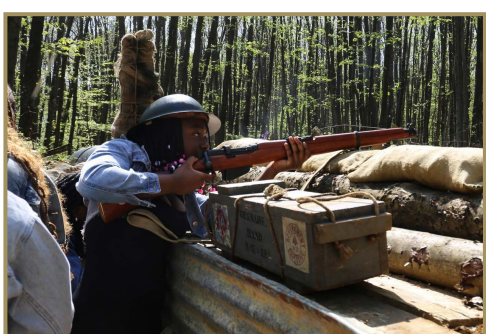
Set within woodland, the 200-metre-long trench network includes authentic British and German lines, divided by 25 metres of no man's land complete with barbed wire and shell craters. This immersive setting offered students a striking sense of the harsh conditions faced by soldiers in the trenches.

Expert guides brought the experience to life with informative and engaging talks covering a range of wartime topics—from trench warfare and battlefield injuries to the wider impact of the war on British society. Students also discovered how women stepped into roles traditionally held by men, supporting the war effort in factories, farms, and emergency services. The trip also explored the concept of the home front and how Britain prepared for a potential invasion.

Some students took part in hands-on demonstrations, helping to deepen their understanding of key historical themes, including their GCSE History 'Medicine Through Time' topic.

"It was really fun to learn about both of the World Wars. I learned a lot about what people went through, and I also experienced what the trenches were like. It was awesome." Rafiat.M - Year 8

"I think the day was great! The trenches were the best part because you could go in them and see what it was like. It was also interesting to see inside the huts and living quarters." Sophie-Jo.C - Year 8



Year 7 Careers and Aspirations Workshop

Year 7 students recently took part in a thought-provoking Careers and Aspirations Workshop led by Andrea from the Department for Work and Pensions. The session encouraged students to think about their future goals, the paths they might take, and the skills they'll need to succeed.

Students reflected on their hobbies, interests, personal qualities, and what they see themselves doing in the future. Andrea guided them through key life skills, helping them understand what steps they can take to turn their goals into reality.

A strong message throughout the workshop was the importance of communication – asking for help, supporting one another, and being open to feedback. Andrea also reminded students that being patient with themselves, allowing time to grow, and celebrating their own and their peers' achievements is a great way to stay motivated.

The workshop ended with a valuable piece of advice: mistakes are not failures if you learn from them. Students were encouraged to be resilient, stay confident, and always be true to themselves as they move forward on their journey.

"The workshop was good because it made me think about my goals and how I can achieve them. It really helped me." Ayesha.T

"I thought it was really helpful – it got me thinking about where I want to travel, where I might live in the future, and what kind of job I'd like to do." Vanessa.G



Celebrating Student Success

A huge well done to all the students who achieved 100% attendance, zero lates, and showed consistently positive behaviour around the school last week. What a fantastic start to the term – it's great to see so many of our students setting the bar high!

We're looking forward to Ice Cream Friday this week as we continue to celebrate those who demonstrate a positive attitude and maintain 100% weekly attendance. Keep up the great work!



The schools approaches to SEND provision and managing behaviour have been adapted to be consistent with the underlying principles of supporting wellbeing first. This is reflected in the schools' policies and the practice seen across both sites.



Wellbeing Award
for Schools

2022-2025

BASILDON ACADEMIES

WORD OF THE DAY

6th - 9th May 2025

Screen-Free Week

Monday: BANK HOLIDAY	Detoxification (Noun) إزالة السمية in Arabic Definition: The process of removing toxic substances or habits from one's life. Example: Screen-Free Week encourages digital detoxification by promoting activities that do not involve screens.	
Tuesday:	Engagement (Noun) 投入程度 in Mandarin Definition: The act of being involved or committed to something. Example: Screen-Free Week promotes engagement in real-world activities like reading or outdoor play.	
Wednesday:	Stimulation (Noun) incentivo in Spanish Definition: Encouragement of something to increase activity, development, or interest. Example: Screen-Free Week encourages mental stimulation through creative and educational offline activities.	
Thursday:	Mindfulness (Noun) consapevolezza in Italian Definition: A mental state achieved by focusing one's awareness on the present moment. Example: Screen-Free Week is an opportunity to practise mindfulness and reconnect with the world around us.	
Friday: Europe Day	Integration (Noun) scalanie in Polish Definition: The process of combining or coordinating different elements to form a unified whole. Example: Europe Day commemorates the ongoing integration of European nations to ensure peace and unity.	

Job of the Week: Optometrist

What does an Optometrist do?

Your day-to-day tasks may include:

- Using a range of precision instruments
- Using vision measuring and testing tools
- Diagnosing and giving advice
- Prescribing, fitting and supplying glasses or contact lenses

Labour Market Information

- UK jobs: 208,661
- Essex Jobs: 4,401
- Growth: +7.2%
- Top 5 LEAs: 1. Birmingham (5,358) 2. Kent (4,922) 3. Hertfordshire (4,517) 4. Essex (4,401) 5. Lancashire (4,386)

What Qualifications do you need to do this job?

You'll usually need:

- A degree in optometry
- Paid, supervised work experience with a registered optometrist (sometimes referred to as a 'residency')
- Registration with a relevant professional body (like the Canadian Association of Optometrists, or the General Optical Council in the UK)

Let's Talk Money

UK annual median: £44,751

The range of opportunities for parents to be involved and/or get involved is constantly growing and at all levels the school are actively seeking to develop the opportunities they provide for families to be involved in the life of the school.



Leading Parent
Partnership Award

2023-2026

Follow The Basildon Lower Academy on our social media channels





National DOUGHNUT WEEK

Monday 12th – Friday 16th May

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

All Doughnuts are 50p each and will be available throughout the week at break & lunchtime.

**50p
Each**



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



GOOD TIMEKEEPING



What to do the night before:

Get everything you need for school ready



Set your alarm allowing plenty of time

Make your lunch and drink if you bring a packed lunch to school



Turn off devices half an hour before bedtime

Have a good night's sleep - a minimum of eight hours!

