

## Dates for the Diary

**Beginning of Year 9 Transition to Upper Academy**  
Monday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2025

**Sports Presentation Event**  
Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2025 - 4pm-5.30pm

**Cultural Fayre**  
Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2025 - 3.30-5pm

**Summer Celebration Presentation Event**  
Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2025 - 4pm-5pm

**Sports Day**  
Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2025

## Student Value of the Term

# LOVE IS LOVE

## House Points - Week Ending 4<sup>th</sup> July



100,893  
SEACOLE



97,541  
ALI



83,793  
AUSTEN



77,133  
HAWKING

## Leadership Message - The Importance of Reading and Literacy

Reading is extremely important to the staff at the Lower Academy as we know that reading opens doors to many different opportunities in life and ensures that no one is disadvantaged from accessing their hopes, ambitions, and dreams. Every student at the Lower Academy is actively encouraged to participate with reading of some form within all their subject areas during the day.

Whether this be in a Maths lesson where they are asked to read a question out loud, or a Catering lesson where they are reading the ingredients needed to complete their cooked dish correctly. All materials are forms of reading, from emails and text messages, to recipes, instructions and leaflets.

Reading is not just books and novels. Everything around us is a form of reading, and we ask that you please support your child with embracing as much reading as possible. We have a motto at the Lower Academy with regards to fostering a passion for Reading which is: 'Reading is not just novels, it is what interests you!'

## Reading Newsletter: Summer Edition

As we approach the Summer Holidays, we are excited to share our Reading Newsletter: Summer Edition, which highlights how we continue to develop a love of reading across the Academy. In this edition, you'll find information about our BA Summer Reading Challenge 2025, which encourages students to engage in fun, meaningful reading activities throughout the holiday—using all kinds of materials that interest them.

The newsletter also includes a range of helpful reading strategies you can use at home to support your child in developing their reading confidence and comprehension skills. Thank you for continuing to support our reading journey—your involvement makes a real difference.

[Click here](#) to explore the Lower Academy Reading Newsletter: Summer Edition

**S.Forecast**  
**Reading Leader**



## 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)

## 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 Lower Academy  
SEND Department



## 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.

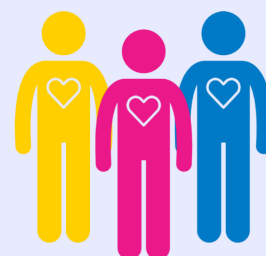
# YOUNG MINDS

## 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.

## Online Safety Hub Recommended Resource of the Week: Top Tips to Protect Your Child's Digital Privacy

Being mindful about sharing personal information, understanding how an app or platform tracks, collects, stores, and uses data, and practising good digital hygiene can go a long way in helping to protect your child's privacy online. [Click here](#) to access information and top tips to help protect your child's digital privacy.

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.





## Royal Navy Workshop Builds Teamwork & Problem-Solving Skills

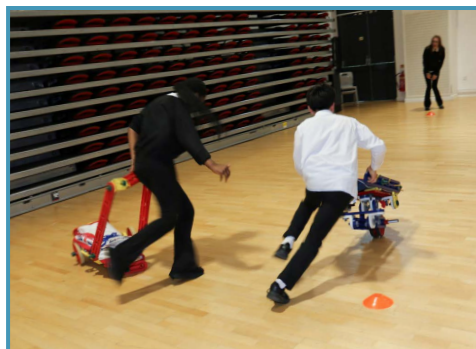
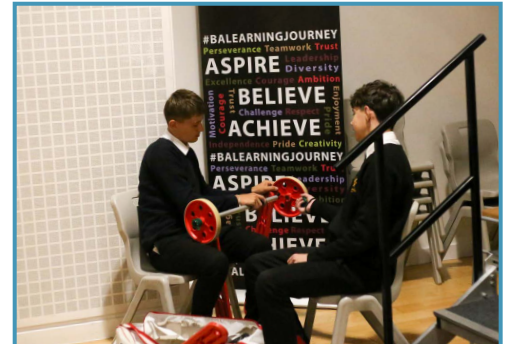
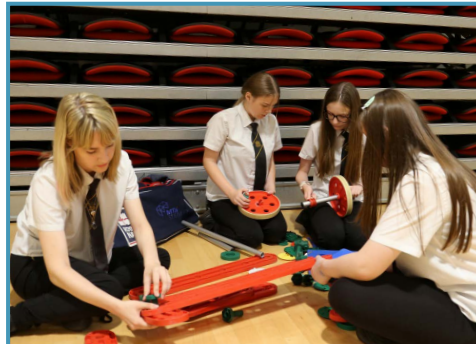
Last week, we were delighted to welcome personnel from the Royal Navy for an engaging day of workshops and activities with our Year 9 students.

Led by Panda Gunner and Chef Charlery, the Royal Navy team delivered a dynamic programme that included memory challenges, mechanical problem-solving, and teamwork tasks.

The day began with a high-energy assembly, during which students learned more about roles within the Royal Navy and how core values like leadership, commitment, and resilience translate into everyday success. They then took part in a memory and response challenge designed to get students thinking on their feet and working together from the outset.

Students were set the challenge of building a vehicle using Meccano-style pieces capable of transporting a weighted bag; testing their communication, creativity, and collaboration under pressure. Each team successfully completed the task, with their vehicles remaining intact during the final races, proving both their engineering skills and teamwork.

The sessions were a great opportunity for students to apply real-world thinking and build confidence in a hands-on learning environment—closely linking to our school's personal development curriculum and STEM learning objectives.



"The activities provided by the Royal Navy last week gave the opportunity for some of our Year 9 students to experience hands-on problem solving. It was great to see such enthusiasm and excellent teamwork by our students. This type of activity can help to build resilience and to keep going when something has not gone right the first time. Hands-on learning opportunities such as this can be crucial for embedding core skills that will serve our learners well for the future. We hope to welcome the Royal Navy team back to the Lower Academy next year." T.Smith - Assistant Headteacher and Personal Development Lead

"I really enjoyed it and would definitely do it again. I've learned a range of skills that I might not have picked up in a classroom. They showed us that you can get paid training for a career in the Armed Services." Martin.J

"We found the task interesting and amusing. It was fun having good teammates who were able to help you, and we understood each other very well, which made the task more enjoyable. The Royal Navy people made this experience very fun." Olivia.H, Rhiannon.E, Lily.S and Greta.D

## Summer Activities for Students

Active Essex's Find Your Active platform helps students and families discover a wide range of free or low-cost sports and fitness opportunities across Basildon, Billericay, and beyond. Whether you're into team sports, dance, walking groups, or gym sessions, the Activity Finder makes it easy to find something fun and local to keep active and support both physical and mental wellbeing over the summer break.



One great local example is the Activity Holiday Camp at Briscoe Primary School & Nursery, which offers fun, engaging sessions for 12–16 year olds – ideal for many of our students at the Basildon Academies.

Click the following link for more information: [findyouractive.activityfinder.net](https://findyouractive.activityfinder.net)

## Recognising Excellence: AP2 Exam Success

Following our recent AP2 exam series, it is clear to see that many of our students have demonstrated exceptional academic performance, and we want to take a moment to recognise and celebrate their hard work and dedication.

These students have shown outstanding commitment to their studies, achieving top results across a range of subjects. Their success is a testament not only to their efforts, but also to the unwavering support from you at home and the guidance provided by our dedicated teachers.

We are incredibly proud of their achievements and hope their success will inspire our entire school community to

**E.Cahill – Deputy Headteacher**



## RHS Level 2 Gardening Award Achieved

We are proud to announce that the Lower Academy has been awarded the RHS Level 2 School Gardening Award, recognising the continued growth and commitment of our students in developing their gardening skills and sustainable practices.

Building on our Level 1 success earlier this year, our students have continued to show outstanding dedication to maintaining and developing the school garden. They've been learning about the benefits of plants, how to grow them effectively, and how to cook with the produce they've harvested; making meaningful connections between gardening, healthy living, and the environment.

As part of the Level 2 award, the RHS has recognised our commitment to low-carbon gardening by providing a dedicated resource book to support our sustainable approach. We've also received seeds and vouchers to help us take the project even further in the coming year.

This award is a reflection of the hard work and enthusiasm of the students involved, as well as the ongoing commitment of staff who support the garden project. We can't wait to see what's next as we continue our journey through the RHS School Gardening Awards!



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.



## Year 9 Students Take Part in Full-Day Science Intervention Workshop

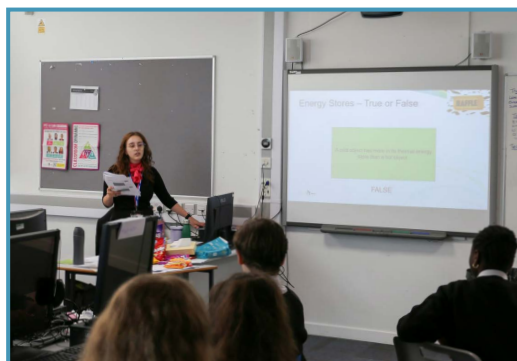
Earlier this term, a group of Year 9 students participated in a full-day science intervention workshop delivered by PET-Xi.

The workshop aimed to reinforce key concepts and boost students' confidence by combining focused revision with interactive learning activities. The day was designed to be engaging and accessible, ensuring that students could deepen their understanding without feeling overwhelmed.

The sessions featured a variety of games and activities related directly to the science topics covered in class, helping to make complex ideas more approachable. Tutors provided personalised support and created an encouraging environment where all students felt comfortable to participate and ask questions.

"The science intervention was really helpful; it helped me understand some topics I was struggling with. The session was very interactive—we played games while working, so it didn't feel overwhelming. It was fun, engaging, and informative. The team were knowledgeable and great at their jobs, so yeah, I loved it." Sammy.B

"It was very interactive with fun games and activities relating to the science topics we covered throughout the day. Although we had already learned these topics, the extra revision made me feel more confident. The tutors were very supportive and understanding. Everyone had a chance to speak, which was great to see. It was a very positive and happy environment, and I was very glad to take part." Rezia.O



## Summer Cultural Fayre - Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> July

We are delighted to confirm that we will be holding our annual Summer Cultural Fayre at the Lower Academy on Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> July. The event is open to all parents, carers, families, and students and will take place from 3:30 – 5pm.

Some of our Lower Academy Students have been working hard in dance rehearsals with a professional choreographer and are excited to perform a selection of their routine. Our choir students will also be performing a funky set of songs to get you in the party mood, and we will also see performances from our school band. The event will see stalls being run by students and staff who have been working diligently to create interactive games and items to sell for the event with donations going to our chosen charity, Unicef. There will also be a raffle, and a BBQ selling hot dogs.

You may wish to make arrangements for your child to stay in school until 5pm, maybe with a little pocket money for donations too.

We look forward to seeing you there in support.



## Love to Ride This Summer

Looking for a fun and healthy way to spend time outdoors this summer? Love to Ride Essex is a free, family-friendly cycling challenge open to all ages!

Simply download the free app, log your cycling adventures, and start tracking your progress. You can set personal goals, compete in fun challenges, and even win prizes—all while enjoying the great outdoors and staying active.

Why not give it a go and see how far you can ride this summer.

Click the following link for more information: <https://www.lovetoride.net/essex>



## Preparing for Year 10: Transition Weeks at the Upper Academy

We're excited to support your child as they prepare to move from Year 9 at the Lower Academy to Year 10 at the Upper Academy this July. To help with this important transition, students will take part in a structured two-week programme from Monday 7<sup>th</sup> – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2025.

Highlights include:

- Taster lessons at the Upper Academy every Tuesday and Thursday.
- Subject-specific drop-down days and normal lessons at the Lower Academy on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, designed to support a smooth transition into Year 10.
- Free lunches provided on Upper Academy days.
- A chance to meet key staff, explore option subjects, and take part in assemblies and activities.
- A BLA leavers' assembly and shirt-signing and assembly at the end of the fortnight.

Please click the link below to read the full letter and key information: [Year 9 Transition Letter](#)



## Year 9 Transition Weeks Timetable

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2025

Date	Location	Information
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> July	Lower Academy	Normal lessons & drop-down curriculum days
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> July	Upper Academy	Taster lessons – Arrive 8:30am, <b>Free lunch provided, PE kit needed</b>
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> July	Lower Academy	Normal lessons & drop-down curriculum days
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> July	Upper Academy	Taster lessons – <b>Free lunch provided, PE kit needed</b>
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> July	Lower Academy	Enrichment & curriculum support
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> July	Lower Academy	Drop-down curriculum day
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> July	Upper Academy	Taster lessons – <b>Free lunch provided, PE kit needed</b>
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> July	Lower Academy	Normal lessons & enrichment
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> July	Upper Academy	Final taster lessons – <b>Free lunch provided, PE kit needed</b>
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> July	Lower Academy	Leavers' assembly & shirt-signing celebration

### Reminders for All Days:

- **Uniform:** Full, correct uniform must be worn each day at both sites.
- **PE Kit:** Bring your kit on **Upper Academy days (Tuesdays & Thursdays)**.
- **Lunch:** A free lunch will be provided on days at the Upper Academy.
- **Start time (Upper Academy):** 8:30am | **Finish:** 3:00pm.






## Transfer Register consent form

Please ensure you have completed the Transfer Register consent form that has been communicated to you. If you do not sign the form, your child may not be offered a place at the Upper Academy. The form can be found here: <https://www.basildonacademies.org.uk/yr9transfer>

# BASILDON ACADEMIES

## WORD OF THE DAY

7<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> July 2025  
Accountability

Monday: World Chocolate Day	<b>Accountability (Noun)</b> അക്കൗണ്ടബിളി in Malayalam Definition: The obligation to accept responsibility for one's actions and to explain or justify them. Example: The manager emphasised the importance of accountability in ensuring that tasks are completed efficiently & honesty	
Tuesday:	<b>Responsibility (Noun)</b> responsabilidade in Portuguese (Portugal) Definition: The state or fact of being accountable or to blame for something. Example: Taking responsibility for one's actions is a key aspect of accountability.	
Wednesday:	<b>Transparency (Noun)</b> прозрачность in Russian Definition: The quality of being open and honest; easily understood or seen through. Example: Transparency in communication is vital for ensuring accountability in any organisation.	
Thursday:	<b>Ethics (Noun)</b> etiek in Afrikaans Definition: Moral principles that govern a person's behaviour or the conducting of an activity. Example: Ethics and accountability go hand in hand in fostering trust and integrity in a community.	
Friday:	<b>Liability (Noun)</b> atebolrwydd in Welsh Definition: The state of being responsible for something, especially by law. Example: Corporations have liability for their environmental impact and must act responsibly.	

## Job of the Week: Stonemason

### What does a Stonemason do?

Stonemasons build and repair stone structures such as piers, walls or arch supports using stones and pieces of rock.

The job entails cutting, shaping, and laying stones to create artistic structures such as monuments, tombstones, and statues.

Stonemasons work with both natural stones (granite, marble, limestone) and artificial stones

### Labour Market Information

- UK jobs: 55,796
- Essex: 1,991
- Kent: 2,192
- Growth -7.7% 69,814 jobs

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

There are no set entry requirements, but employers value experience.

To become a stonemason, you require at least a high school diploma, which allows for entry into a trade school.  
On the other hand, you can enrol for 3-4 year apprenticeship program working as a stonemason

### Let's Talk Money

UK annual median:  
£41,752

There is a real drive to ensure that TAs are highly skilled and deployed effectively to meet the needs of learners. TAs feel well valued and were able to articulate how they are given opportunities to develop their skills through CPD and often receive public recognition through the 'Star of the week'.



Best Practice with  
Teaching Assistants Award

2023-2026

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](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.



Essex

ACTIVate

## Free holiday clubs, fun activities and food across Essex and Thurrock!

- ✓ Specialist SEND, mental wellbeing and youth clubs
- ✓ Sports and games, arts and crafts, cooking and so much more!
- ✓ Nutritious snacks and tasty meals
- ✓ Run by qualified, local club providers
- ✓ Family support, resources and guidance
- ✓ Discretionary paid and paid for spaces

### WHAT IS ESSEX ACTIVATE?

Essex ActivAte is the name for the exciting activity clubs run by Active Essex! During school holidays, local club providers across the county deliver free holiday clubs and fun activities to get eligible primary and secondary children active, as well as support young people to make friendships and learn new skills, helping to enhance their wellbeing.

Please only book your child/ren a space at an Essex ActivAte club if they will attend. If they are booked on and do not attend, other children may miss out on this beneficial opportunity across the holidays.

[www.activeessex.org](http://www.activeessex.org)



@EssexActivAte



Turn this flyer over to read more on how to book a space!

SCAN ME

