

Dates for the Diary

Bank Holiday

Monday 4th May 2026

Year 8 AP2 Assessments

Monday 11th - Friday 15th May 2026

Year 9 AP2 Assessments

Monday 18th - Friday 22nd May 2026

Half Term

Monday 25th May - Friday 29th May 2026

Year 9 AP2 Assessments

Monday 1st - Friday 5th June 2026

Student Value of the Term

**CLIMATE CHANGE
IS REAL**

House Points - Week Ending 27th March



178,688
ALI



171,494
SEACOLE



157,678
AUSTEN



151,650
HAWKING

Leadership Message - Maintaining Momentum

As we head into the summer term, our students are approaching an important and exciting stage in the school year. All year groups will soon be completing their end of year assessment points. These assessments help us understand students' progress and celebrate the hard work they have shown throughout the year. Teachers will continue to support students in lessons with revision activities, guidance, and opportunities to reflect on their learning.

Alongside assessments, this term is filled with enriching opportunities beyond the classroom. Students will have access to a range of activities designed to broaden their skills and interests—whether through clubs, creative projects, enrichment events, or subject-specific events. We encourage all students to take part and make the most of these experiences during this term.



For our Year 9 students, this is a particularly significant moment as they make their final option choices and prepare for the transition to The Upper Academy. This marks the beginning of their KS4 journey, and we are proud of the mature and thoughtful decisions they have been making about their future pathways. The move to the Upper site is an exciting step, and we will continue to support them throughout this transition.

We look forward to a productive and enjoyable summer term.

S Szuszkiewicz - Deputy Headteacher

Parent Drop in Thursday 16th April

This week's Parent Drop In will be on Thursday 16th April between 9am and 10am.

There will be no need to book an appointment, just sign in at reception and staff will be happy to show you to the venue. There is no set topic for the drop in sessions, if we are not able to answer any specific questions, we will follow up and then feedback to you.



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.

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

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.

The logo for Young Minds, featuring the word 'YOUNG' in yellow and 'MINDS' in grey, with a small yellow dot above the 'i' in 'MINDS'.

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.

Online Safety Hub: Cryptocurrency: The Risks for Teen Traders

Have you heard your teen mentioning 'crypto' or 'Dogecoin', or noticed a sudden interest in Elon Musk's X feed? The number of teenagers exploring cryptocurrency trading is growing, but wellbeing experts are raising concerns about the risks.

For guidance and advice for parents and carers, visit: www.basildonacademies.onlinesafetyhub.uk/parent/articles/cryptocurrency

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](#)



Easter Card Competition Celebrates Creativity and Language Skills

Organised by the Modern Foreign Languages department, the Easter Card Competition invited students to design a creative card with a French twist.

We received a fantastic range of colourful and imaginative entries, showcasing both artistic talent and a real enthusiasm for language learning. Some designs even included Easter-themed jokes in French.

Congratulations to our four winners: Amna.A (Year 8), Koedi.M (Year 7), Skye.B (Year 8) and Shanie.A (Year 8) – who each received a basket of Easter goodies.

Well done to all students who took part and helped make the competition such a great success.



Students Celebrated for Outstanding Commitment to Enrichment Clubs

During the final week of term, a group of students were presented with certificates in recognition of their outstanding commitment to enrichment, having attended 10 or more sessions. Their dedication reflects the growing enthusiasm for activities that take place beyond the classroom.

Students have shared that enrichment clubs provide a great opportunity to socialise and get to know new people, including those from different year groups, helping to build confidence and a stronger sense of community within the school.

Participation in enrichment clubs continues to grow, and it is encouraging to see so many students making the most of the wide range of opportunities available. The awards celebrate not only attendance, but also the effort and positive attitude students bring to these sessions.

As the enrichment programme continues to develop, surveys will be distributed this term to gather student feedback on which clubs they would like to see moving forward. This will help shape future provision and ensure the programme reflects student interests.

Later in the 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.



"The reason I like enrichment time is because the clubs are fun and I get to learn more after school. My favourite club is Science." David.O – Year 8

"I like Maths Club because it helps me complete things I would normally struggle with or revise. Modelling Club keeps you busy and creative and is very fun." Noel.F – Year 8

Celebrating Our World Book Day Competition Winners

On Thursday 26th March presentations were made to the winners and runner ups of 'The Lower Academy World Book Day Quiz Trail' and 'The Agatha Christie Mural' competitions that we ran during this year's World Book Day.

Prize winners in each year group were awarded with an Agatha Christie book and all winners and runners-up received a certificate and celebratory 'Well Done' sweet treat.



Congratulations to all the winners and a huge thank you to everyone who took part in the competitions.

Inspiring Visit from Paul Hannaford

During the last week of term, we welcomed Paul Hannaford to the Lower Academy, where he delivered a series of powerful assemblies to Year 8 and Year 9 students.

Drawing on his own lived experiences, Paul spoke openly about a range of important and challenging issues, including knife crime, addiction, gangs and vaping. His honest and engaging delivery gave students a real insight into the consequences of these choices, as well as the importance of resilience and making positive decisions.

Students found the assemblies both thought-provoking and inspiring, with many reflecting on how Paul's story encouraged them to think more carefully about their own futures. His message reinforced that, no matter the challenges faced, it is always possible to make a change and move forward in a positive direction.

We are extremely grateful to Paul for sharing his experiences so openly and for supporting our students in understanding the realities of these issues in today's society.

"The assembly was inspirational and could really help people who are struggling. It encourages young people to stay away from negative influences." Debbie.A – Year 8

"I found Paul Hannaford's story inspirational and it taught us an important life lesson – not to follow what others do." Ariana.A – Year 8

"It was really helpful to hear about real-life experiences and it made us think about avoiding those same mistakes." Anji.E – Year 8

"It was good because it teaches us about real life." Mekhi.S



Year 8 Bridge Students Explore Dystopian Villains Through Creative Writing

Year 8 Bridge students explored dystopian literature last term as part of a three-week unit in English.

During this time, they focused on the role of the villain or 'enemy' within a story. Students began by designing their own characters, using a range of descriptive adjectives to develop their ideas. They then worked collaboratively in groups to write an extract featuring their villain, bringing their creations to life through imaginative storytelling.

The project showcased excellent teamwork, creativity and engagement, with students producing some fantastic and original ideas.



EXTRA-CURRICULAR SPORTS CLUBS

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	<p>Before School 7.30am-8.15am</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Girls Basketball & Netball 	<p>Before School 7.30am-8.15am</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Girls Football Year 7 Boys Football 	<p>Before School 7.30am-8.15am</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Track Athletics 	<p>Before School 7.30am-8.15am</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 8/9 Boys Football

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 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.



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ASPIRE BELIEVE ACHIEVE

Attendance percentages as Number of days and lessons missed from school. Students are required to attend school for 190 days each year.

Attendance during one school year	Equals days absent	Which is approximately weeks absent	Which means this number of lessons missed	Absence over 5 years
95%	9 days	2 weeks	50 lessons	¼ year
90%	19 days	4 weeks	100 lessons	½ year
80%	38 days	8 weeks	200 lessons	1 year
70%	59 days	12 weeks	300 lessons	1½ years
60%	80 days	16 weeks	400 lessons	2 years
50%	100 days	20 weeks	500 lessons	2½ years

Government (DfE) research suggests that 16 days absence or 92% attendance in any one year equals a full GCSE drop in attainment
How does your attendance compare with this target?

Daily rewards - Daily text messages for 100% attendance are sent via text message or through the MCAS app.

Weekly Rewards - Weekly Student briefings held on Mondays highlight the students who have received 100% attendance and 0 late marks. These students will receive a raffle entry for a £5 lifestyle voucher

Half Termly rewards - Each Half-term 100% attendance postcards are given to students based on the attendance for that half term.

Termly rewards - Students receive a badge and certificate during a celebration event for their term attendance which can be pinned to their tie.



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.

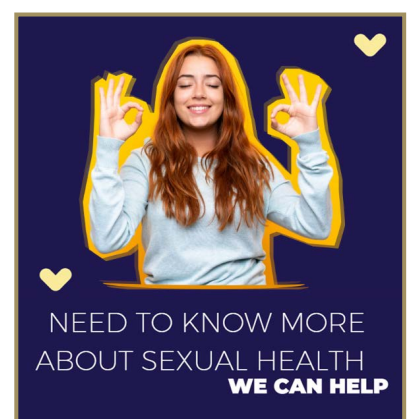
Please remember, the Uniform Exchange shop is located at the Lower Academy, is open from 8am – 3:30pm Monday – Friday and is accessible via the school office.

Supporting Personal Development and Wellbeing

As part of our Personal Development curriculum, the Academies use resources from the Essex Sexual Health Service to support students with age-appropriate information about growing up and development. Students are signposted to a trusted online hub where they can find reliable advice and answers to common questions:






Parents and carers are also encouraged to visit the dedicated Parents and Carers section of the [Essex Sexual Health Service website](https://www.essexsexualhealthservice.org.uk). This provides up-to-date guidance for supporting young people, as well as advice on how to approach and discuss more challenging topics at home.

Asking for a friend: <https://askingforafriend.org.uk/>



BASILDON ACADEMIES WORD OF THE DAY

13th - 17th April 2026

Monday:	Exhilarated (adjective) ke itumetse in Tswana – filled with lively delight. <i>Students felt exhilarated to see friends after Easter.</i>	
Tuesday:	Sagaciously (adverb) bilgece in Turkish – showing wise judgement. <i>She sagaciously avoided distractions before the test.</i>	
Wednesday:	Assuage (verb) заспокоєння in Ukrainian – to make an unpleasant feeling less intense. <i>He tried to assuage his nerves before speaking.</i>	
Thursday:	Fervent (adjective) پرچوش in Urdu – having or displaying passionate intensity. <i>The fervent crowd sang with pride at the match.</i>	
Friday:	Eminence (noun) yuksaklik in Uzbek – fame or recognised superiority. <i>The writer rose to eminence after her award.</i>	

Job of the Week: Professional Driver

What does a Professional Driver do?

A Professional Driver transports goods or passengers safely and efficiently. They may drive lorries, buses, taxis, delivery vans, or private hire vehicles depending on their role.

Key Responsibilities

- Driving safely and following road laws
- Delivering goods or transporting passengers
- Planning routes and meeting schedules
- Checking and maintaining vehicles
- Completing delivery paperwork or logs
- Providing good customer service

Labour Market Information

- +0.1% 1,160 jobs
- +7.1% in your region of East of England, an increase of 8,251 jobs

What Qualifications do you need to do this job?

Typical Entry Requirements:

- Full UK Driving Licence
- Category C or C+E licence (for lorry drivers) Driver CPC (Certificate of Professional Competence)
- Good concentration and awareness
- Time management skills
- Customer service skills

Let's Talk Money

UK annual median:
£26,783

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





Essex County Council
Special Educational Needs
and Disabilities

The Essex Local Offer website

provides information about help available to children and young people (aged 0 to 25) with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

You can also find information on:

- support, groups and activities
- help with learning
- advice for young people
- health and wellbeing
- housing and employment
- financial support

Visit www.send.essex.gov.uk for more information and to sign up to our newsletter

