

Dates for the Diary

Last Day of Spring Term

Friday 27th March 2026 - Students finish at 12:30pm

Easter Holidays

Monday 30th March - Friday 10th April 2026

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

Student Value of the Term

**WOMEN'S RIGHTS
ARE HUMAN RIGHTS**

House Points - Week Ending 20th March



172,773
ALI



165,439
SEACOLE



152,918
AUSTEN



146,001
HAWKING

Leadership Message - Online Safety: Working Together to Keep Our Children Safe

As part of the school's safeguarding team, I often attend meetings with other professionals and educators. We talk about the issues affecting children today and how we can best support them. One topic that comes up again and again is the impact of social media—something we see regularly in school.

One medical professional used a phrase that really stood out: **"warn and inform."** It perfectly describes how we can help young people learn to enjoy the online world safely.

What does "warn and inform" mean? We "warn and inform" children about:

- Disinformation and misinformation – online content that is wrong or misleading.
- Conspiracy theories – stories that can confuse or worry young people.
- How to report inappropriate content or messages on different platforms.
- Where to get help if they feel upset, anxious, or scared by something they've seen online.



Why children sometimes don't tell adults

One of the main reasons children avoid reporting harmful content is because they're worried their device will be taken away. Although this is a natural reaction, simply removing devices doesn't stop the problem. Instead, it can make children hide future issues.

What helps most is teaching children how to use technology safely and responsibly and letting them know they can always talk to us.

How school helps

Our **"Not Seen and Not Heard"** policy for devices ensures that children can focus on learning and socialising at school. This also protects them from harmful messages or content during the school day.

Working together

Safeguarding is always a partnership between home and school. Keeping your children safe online is something we can do best when we work together.

You can find lots of expert advice and guidance on [The Basildon Academies Online Safety Hub](#), including information on free apps for parents/carers.

Together, we can help our children navigate the online world with confidence and understanding.

S.O'Neill - Senior Student Development Leader & Designated Safeguarding Lead

Home Learning

If you have any queries regarding home learning, including access issues or, please visit the [Contact Us](#) page via the Basildon Lower Academy website and select the option for Home Learning/Homework.

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.

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.



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

Aspire - Believe - Achieve



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 SEND Department - Ground Floor Blue Block



Online Safety Hub: Support for Families Relating to Predators on the Internet

In the digital age, predators use the internet to groom and sexually exploit children through coercion and manipulation, making any child with online access a potential victim. [Click here](#) to access information and support relating to predators on the internet, including guidance on staying safe and recognising risks.

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: [The Basildon Academies Online Safety Hub](#)



Cooper and Riley Celebrate Success in the Basildon Respect Project

Two of our Year 9 students recently celebrated the completion of their participation in the Basildon Respect Project, run by Essex Boys and Girls Clubs.

Cooper and Riley attended a special Presentation Evening organised by the charity to recognise the achievements of the young people who took part in the programme. Families of the group were invited to celebrate alongside representatives from the school; Year 9 Leader Miss Head and Student Development Champion, Mrs King.

Throughout the project, the students participated in a variety of workshops designed to build important life skills. These sessions explored topics such as emotional wellbeing, community issues and overcoming personal challenges, helping students develop confidence, resilience and a stronger understanding of the world around them.

As part of the programme, Cooper and Riley were also selected to take part in an exciting residential trip to the Lake District. During the residential, students took part in a range of outdoor and team-building activities including a 24-hour expedition, walking challenges and other land-based adventures. All activities were supervised by qualified instructors, with students encouraged to support one another and work together throughout the experience.

"The workshops were fun and gave us the chance to meet new people and prepare for the challenges we would face on the residential. During our visit to the Lake District, we climbed mountains and hills, played games and made new friends. Some parts were tough, but it helped us build resilience and keep going even when things felt challenging." Cooper.R

"The Lake District was fun and exciting. From the top of the mountains you could even see as far as Scotland. Climbing together and taking part in the activities helped us work as a team, and we made lots of new friends. It was a really great experience." Riley.D

Following their positive experience on the programme, both students are now considering volunteering with Essex Boys and Girls Clubs in the future, with the opportunity to take part in another residential trip in Wales as part of the organisation's continued youth development programmes.

The Lower Academy is incredibly proud of Cooper and Riley for their commitment and enthusiasm throughout the project, and for representing the school so positively.



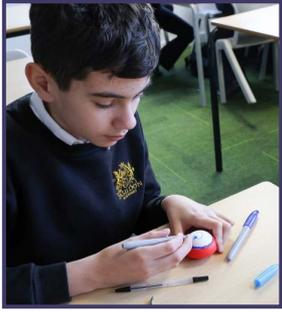
Parent/Carer Updating Contact Information

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.

Lower Academy Gets Laughing for Comic Relief

Last week, students came together to support Comic Relief, embracing the spirit of this year's theme: "Do something funny for money."

Students took part in a range of fun, laughter-filled activities designed to raise both smiles and awareness for important causes.



Students put their general knowledge to the test in a series of Red Nose Day quizzes, while creativity was on full display as they designed their own comical red noses, showcasing imagination and humour in equal measure.

One of the highlights of the week was the whole-school joke competition, which saw students competing to deliver the funniest punchline. The winning joke came from Year 7 student Elidio.K, whose winning joke got plenty of laughs.

"What did the train conductor say to the kangaroo... hop on."



We are incredibly proud of everyone who took part and contributed to making the event such a success. Their energy, creativity, and kindness truly captured the spirit of Comic Relief.

"Helping the charity is important because some people need support, whether that's with money or opportunities. It can make a real difference to people's lives, including children in poorer communities." Bella.C - Year 7

"Fundraising for Comic Relief matters because it helps provide essential support for people who need it most. It can improve lives in so many ways and make opportunities more accessible for everyone." Aminah.I - Year 7



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.



Students Explore Careers in Policing

Students at the Lower Academy recently had the opportunity to learn more about careers in policing as part of the Academies' Careers Taster Programme.

The school welcomed a serving officer from the Metropolitan Police, who delivered an engaging workshop for students interested in law enforcement and related careers. During the session, students gained insight into the wide range of roles available within policing and learned more about the responsibilities involved in protecting communities and enforcing the law.

The workshop also explored the many specialist areas within the police service, including frontline response, traffic policing, detective work and specialist units. Students were particularly interested to learn about the different skills required for these roles and how officers work together to keep the public safe.



Throughout the session, students asked thoughtful questions about careers in policing, including how the police work alongside the armed forces, the role of criminologists within investigations, and the types of situations officers may encounter while on duty. The session provided a valuable insight into the profession and helped students better understand the pathways available to them.

"This was really interesting. I would still like to join the police, and the workshop gave me a lot of insight into what can actually happen in the role." Patrick.I – Year 8

"I found this really helpful because I want to study Criminology and possibly work as a detective, so I learned a lot today." Amber.M – Year 8

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.



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

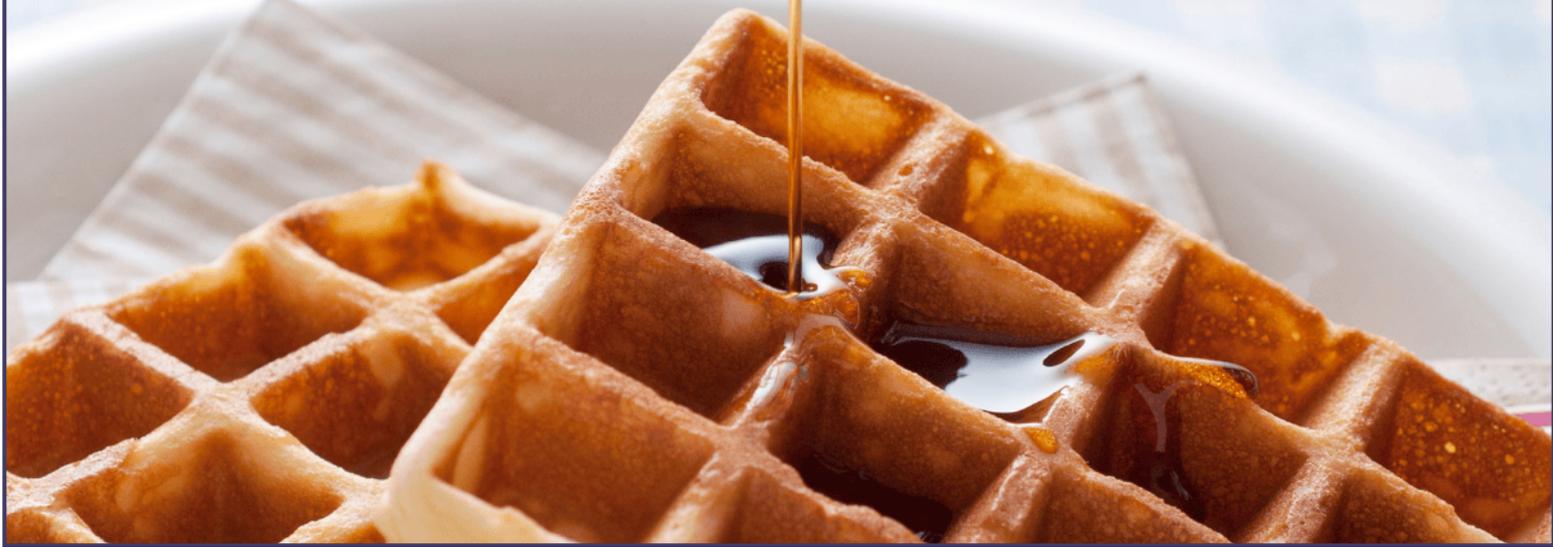


EXTRA-CURRICULAR SPORTS CLUBS

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	Before School 7.30am-8.15am • Girls Basketball & Netball	Before School 7.30am-8.15am • Girls Football • Year 7 Boys Football	Before School 7.30am-8.15am • Track Athletics	Before School 7.30am-8.15am • Year 8/9 Boys Football

WAFFLE DAY

TO CELEBRATE INTERNATIONAL WAFFLE DAY THE DINING HALL WILL BE SERVING WAFFLES IN ADDITION TO THE REGULAR DESSERT MENU ON WEDNESDAY **25TH MARCH**



EASTER TREATS



On Friday 27th March the Dining Hall will be serving a selection of Easter themed cakes & biscuits at breaktime

Each item will be 75p

BASILDON ACADEMIES WORD OF THE DAY

23rd March - 27th March 2026

Monday:	Impartial (adjective) imparcial in Spanish – treating all rivals fairly and equally. <i>Judges must remain impartial in their decisions.</i>	
Tuesday:	Eminent (adjective) maarufu in Swahili – famous and respected within a profession. <i>The eminent scientist visited the school for a lecture.</i>	
Wednesday:	Tenacious (adjective) envis in Swedish – holding firmly onto something. <i>Her tenacious grip on her dream carried her through.</i>	
Thursday:	Credible (adjective) น่าเชื่อถือ in Thai – able to be believed; convincing. <i>The journalist presented a credible account of events.</i>	
Friday:	Festive (adjective) iniongo in Tiv – cheerful and celebratory. <i>The hall was filled with a festive atmosphere before the holiday.</i>	

Job of the Week: Roofers

What does a Roofer do?

A Roofer builds, repairs, and replaces roofs on houses, offices, and other buildings. They make sure roofs are weatherproof, safe, and long-lasting.

Key Responsibilities

- Installing new roofs (tiles, slates, metal sheets, flat roofing)
- Repairing damaged or leaking roofs
- Measuring and cutting materials
- Installing insulation and waterproof layers
- Working safely at height
- Following health and safety regulations

Labour Market Information

- -7.7% 69,814 jobs
- -7.7% in your region of East of England, a decrease of 6,354 jobs

Let's Talk Money

UK annual median:
£45,021

What Qualifications do you need to do this job?

Typical Entry Requirements:

- Apprenticeship in Roofing or Construction
- NVQ Level 2/3 in Roofing (UK)
- Good physical fitness
- Ability to work at heights
- Practical and problem-solving skills
- Teamwork and reliability

TA's are deployed according to the needs of the children and TA's are encouraged to use their own interests and strengths. Support in the classroom is effective and pupils spoke about this very positively, "they help explain things better", another pupil articulated, "I feel confident in the classroom, TA's help me to get through school".



Best Practice with
Teaching Assistants Award

2023-2026

Follow The Basildon Lower Academy on our social media channels



Enrichment Clubs Timetable

Club Name	Day	Room Number
Creative Writing Club	Tuesday	B12
Poetry Club	Tuesday	B16
Science Club (Year 7 Only)	Tuesday	O12
Science Club (Year 8 Only)	Tuesday	G12
Science Revision Club (Year 9 Only)	Tuesday	B14
Chess Club	Tuesday	O16
Art Club – Pop Art & Mixed Media (Year 7 Only)	Tuesday	O2
Art Club – Ceramics & Graphics (Year 7 Only)	Tuesday	O1
Scale Model Club	Tuesday	B18
Literacy Leaders (Year 7 Only)	Wednesday	B12
English Revision (Year 9 Only)	Wednesday	B15
Science Club (Year 9 Only)	Wednesday	G10
Science Revision Club (Year 8 Only)	Wednesday	G11
STEM Club	Wednesday	B3
Reading Eggs	Wednesday	O11
Art Club (Years 8 & 9 Only)	Wednesday	O3
Maths Club	Wednesday	B8
Debate Club	Thursday	B12
Reading Club (Year 7 Only)	Thursday	B13
Science Revision Club (Year 7 Only)	Thursday	G16
World Film Club	Thursday	O17
Scratch Club	Thursday	B11
Scale Model Club	Thursday	B18

Enrichment sessions take place from 3.00pm–3.30pm.