

Dates for the Diary

Year 8 AP1 Assessments

Monday 1st - Friday 5th December 2025

Presentation Event - Invitation Only

Monday 8th December 2025: 3.30pm-4.30pm

Year 9 AP1 Assessments

Monday 8th - Friday 19th December 2025

Christmas Fayre

Thursday 18th December 2025: 3pm-5pm

Last Day of Autumn Term

Friday 19th December 2025 - *Students finish at 12:30pm*

Student Value of the Term

**NO HUMAN
IS ILLEGAL**

House Points - Week Ending 28th November



89,983
ALI



84,873
SEACOLE



72,596
AUSTEN



67,068
HAWKING

Leadership Message

As we approach the end of the autumn term, I want to take a moment to reflect on and celebrate the hard work and dedication shown by our Lower Academy students.

This time of year marks an important milestone—the first assessment points of the academic year. This term our students have embraced challenges, grown in confidence, and demonstrated resilience every step of the way.

Now, as they prepare for these first assessments of the academic year, we must remember that these are not just a measure of knowledge; they are an opportunity to showcase progress and the skills that students have worked so hard to develop. There are revision sessions held after school and during some lunchtimes too for students to benefit from.

Our Year 8 Assessment Point 1 exam week starts the week commencing **1st December**.

Our Year 9 Assessment Point 1 will begin the week commencing **8th December**. For Year 9, this is your moment to shine! These AP exams are also a valuable chance to demonstrate your progress before we begin the **Options Process for Key Stage 4** study at the Upper Academy.



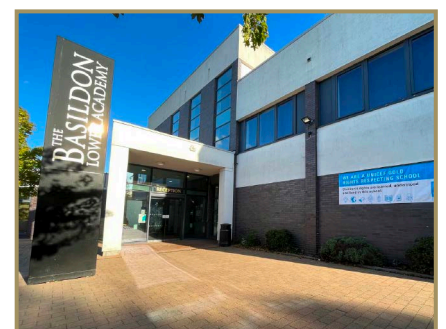
We are proud of your efforts and look forward to celebrating your achievements together.

T.Smith
Assistant Headteacher
Raising Standards Lead

Parent Drop In - Wednesday 3rd December

This week's Parent Drop In will be on Wednesday 3rd December 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. Please note, if your matter is of a confidential nature, we kindly ask that you call the school to arrange a separate appointment, as parent drop-in sessions are not intended for one-to-one discussions.



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

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).



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



Aspire - Believe - Achieve

Online Safety Hub: Cryptocurrency - The Risks for Teen Traders

Have you heard your teen mentioning 'crypto' and 'Dogecoin' or noticed they've developed a sudden interest in Elon Musk's X feed? The number of teens entering the world of cryptocurrency trading is on the rise; however, some wellbeing experts are starting to raise concerns about this growing trend.

For more information on the risks of teen cryptocurrency trading and guidance 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: 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.



Exploring Democracy: UK Parliament Week at the Lower Academy

Last week, Lower Academy students took the opportunity to actively engage in UK Parliament Week, a national week-long event that helps young people learn about how Parliament works and why democratic participation matters.

As part of our focus on British Values, students explored the importance of democracy, the right to vote, and how individuals can influence decisions within a society that promotes freedom and equality.



Candy Cane Lane Christmas Fayre

Thursday 18th December - 3pm-5pm

Get ready to step into the festive spirit at The Lower Academy's Candy Cane Lane Christmas Fayre, taking place on Thursday 18th December from 3pm-5pm. Families are warmly invited to join us for an afternoon of festive fun and community spirit.

Preparations are already in full swing, with students hard at work creating exciting games and imaginative stalls, all in friendly competition to raise the most funds! Every penny raised will go towards supporting our chosen charity, the Fairtrade Foundation.

Enjoy live performances from The Lower Academy Choir throughout the event, while you tuck into BBQ hot dogs and hot chocolate, and take part in our fantastic raffle with prizes to be won. Don't miss our 'Photo Corner', a great spot to snap some festive photos and capture the Christmas magic!



Christmas Jumper Day – 19th December

All students are invited to take part in this year's Christmas Jumper Day on the last day of term, Friday 19th December.

The Basildon Academies are raising money for Save the Children, and we ask that all students taking part make a small donation. Staff will be at the front door with collection buckets to greet students as they arrive.

Please note that this is not a non-uniform day. Students are expected to wear full school uniform, with the option to add a festive jumper in place of their school jumper or blazer.



English Breakfast Day

Tuesday 2nd December

To celebrate English Breakfast Day
the Dining Hall will be serving
All Day Breakfasts as the main meal
option on Tuesday 2nd December



Vegetarian option

Students Take Part in National Health Survey

Earlier this year, our Lower Academy students proudly participated in the Smoking, Drinking and Drug Use among Young People in England (SDD) Survey, commissioned by NHS England and delivered by Ipsos. This important national study gathers anonymous data on young people's behaviours and attitudes towards smoking, vaping, alcohol, and drug use.

By taking part, our students have played an essential role in shaping future health and education policies. The information collected will help government departments, local authorities, and charities plan services that improve young people's lives.



As a thank you for our involvement, Ipsos will provide us with a personalised report about our students' responses. This report will arrive by September next year; it may seem a long wait, but that's because the survey is conducted nationwide, and we were among the first schools to take part!

We are delighted to share that all participating students have recently received their certificate of recognition. This certificate acknowledges their contribution and serves as evidence of their role in informing national health and education policies.

We look forward to using this insight to support our students' wellbeing and continue promoting positive choices.



Do you like learning about energy stores and pathways?

You could be a/an...

Vehicle mechanic



Josh **maintains and repairs** hydrogen-powered buses.

Career route Apprenticeship or on the job training

Salary range £25,000 - £42,000

Data analyst



Imisi **studies data** from electric cars to help them become more energy efficient.

Career route Degree or degree apprenticeship

Salary range £23,000 - £60,000+

Mechanical engineer



Sama **designs** safe and thrilling rollercoasters.

Career route Degree

Salary range £26,000 - £52,000

Energy industry consultant



Edris **helps companies** understand how they could use renewable energy resources.

Career route Degree

Salary range £27,000 - £90,000



You don't need a degree to be a scientist!

You can take a different career route including an apprenticeship, degree apprenticeship or by training on the job.

Which job would you like to do?



www.energisingfutures.co.uk

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.

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](#)

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>



EXTRA-CURRICULAR TRAINING PROGRAMME

Winter Term 2025

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Before School 7.30am-8.20am <small>*Gates open and close at 7.30am sharp. Please manage your timekeeping accordingly</small>	Year 7,8,9 Boys Rugby Year 7,8,9 Girls Netball	Year 7,8,9 Girls Basketball	Year 7,8,9 Boys Football Year 7,8,9 Girls Football		Year 7,8,9 Boys Football
After School	Fixtures *	Fixtures *	Fixtures *	Fixtures *	Fixtures *

* Fixtures will vary week-by-week. To be eligible for selection, you must attend before-school training.

Important Notice: Smoke and Vape-Free Policy

The Basildon Academies is a smoke and vape free organisation. This prohibits the use of all tobacco products and e-cigarettes on, or in, any Basildon Academy property. This is in place to protect staff, students, and visitors from the effects of second-hand smoke in its buildings and grounds.

Please be reminded that parents and visitors are not permitted to use any smoking products on the grounds of the academies, this includes in our carparks.



Channels of communication are clear on an individual and collective level. The weekly newsletter is carefully crafted to keep parents informed and updated and the school website, which has recently been redesigned, is a well organised rich source of key information for parents.



Leading Parent Partnership Award

2023-2026

BASILDON ACADEMIES

WORD OF THE DAY

1st - 5th December 2025

Monday:	Beneficent (adjective) buannachdail in Scottish Gaelic – generous or doing good. <i>The beneficent sponsor provided free meals for the event.</i>	
Tuesday:	Inexorable (adjective) неумољив in Serbian – impossible to stop or prevent. <i>Time's inexorable march brought exam season closer.</i>	
Wednesday:	Advocacy (noun) difesa in Sicilian – public support for a cause or policy. <i>Her advocacy for disability rights changed school policy.</i>	
Thursday:	Melancholy (noun) melancholia in Slovak – a feeling of deep sadness. <i>The melancholy song captured the nation's grief</i>	
Friday:	Integrity (noun) celovitost in Slovenian – the quality of being honest and having strong moral principles. <i>His integrity made him a trusted school leader.</i>	

Job of the Week: Farmer

What does a Farmer do?

Your day-to-day tasks will vary depending on the type of farm and the time of year, but may include:

- Working with animals (transporting, milking, feeding, mucking out, and caring for sick or newborn livestock)
- Ploughing fields, sowing seeds, spreading fertiliser, crop spraying, and harvesting
- Operating farm machinery
- Maintaining and cleaning farm buildings and machinery
- Laying and trimming hedges
- Digging and maintaining ditches
- Erecting and mending fences

Labour Market Information

- UK jobs: 297,337
- 7,573 in your local area of Essex
- +7.8% 29,404 jobs
- +16.9% in your region of East of England, an increase of 4,710 jobs

What Qualifications do you need to do this job?

There are no set requirements, but the following may help you get into this career:

- Experience and knowledge of farm work, for example through growing up on a farm or volunteering on a farm
- Training or experience in handling a herd and operating milking machinery (to work on a dairy farm) – or you could learn on the job
- A degree in agriculture, agribusiness, or a relevant subject like sustainability or a science

Let's Talk Money

UK annual median:
£34,146

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 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



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!





Christmas Dinner

Thursday 18th December

Main Meal Options

Roast Turkey & Pigs in Blankets
Quorn & Roasted Vegetable Wellington

Served with: Roast Potatoes, Carrots, Peas,
Brussel Sprouts, Yorkshire Puddings,
Stuffing & Gravy

Dessert Options

Christmas Pudding
Mince Pies
Chocolate Yule Log
Festive Meringues
Jelly

Christmas Dinner comes with
Fruit Juice & a Christmas Cracker

Christmas Dinner is free to all of our students



The 12 Safety Tips for Christmas

Presented by 'The 2 Johns'



"I Know them"



The Johns would like to invite you to join a complimentary online event. This will provide you with an introduction to a world that we, as adults, did not grow up in but your children are fully embracing.

They will give you tips on: -

The Internet Express	Gaming	The Exploiters
WhatsApp & Snap Chat	Screen time	Cliff Top Parenting
What to do if it goes Wrong	Sexploitation	Where can I Get Help
Indecent Images of Children	Stranger Danger	The Power of Influence

The two Johns, yes, they are both named John and have spent many years working in the police in various overt and covert roles tackling online and offline child exploitation. They are regarded as experts in their field and annually work in hundreds of primary and secondary schools interacting with thousands of children, teachers and parents. They also regularly deliver lunch and learn sessions to parenting networks in the private sector.

Over the past fifteen years, the two Johns have been key speakers at numerous major events throughout the country. In Essex they are regularly commissioned by the Safeguarding Children's Board, Community Safety Partnerships and schools to deliver both staff training and bespoke sessions for large numbers of children. This includes their highly successful 'Walk Online Roadshow' which is delivered to many thousands of children annually.

The 2 Johns



'Keeping Children Safe'

Thursday 11th December
at 20:00hrs

(Scan the QR code to register)



EST E Safety Training

www.esafetytraining.org



@JohnsThe2