

## Dates for the Diary

**Academic Progress Information Event**  
Monday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2025: 3.30pm-4.30pm

**Half Term**  
Monday 27<sup>th</sup> - Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2025

**Year 8 AP1 Assessments**  
Monday 1<sup>st</sup> - Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2025

**Year 9 AP1 Assessments**  
Monday 8<sup>th</sup> - Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2025

**Winter Wonderland Christmas Fayre**  
Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2025: 3.30pm-4.30pm

## Student Value of the Term

**BLACK LIVES  
MATTER**

## House Points - Week Ending 17<sup>th</sup> October



49,951  
ALI



49,570  
SEACOLE



42,143  
AUSTEN



38,472  
HAWKING

## Leadership Message - Inclusive Support Through Our Enhanced Provision

Our Enhanced Provision at the Lower Academy provides wrap around support for students who may need a different approach or environment to learn. This can be for a number of reasons including emotional anxiety concerns or because they are finding it hard to regulate their behaviour. It is also available for students who may have been out of school for a period of time and need the support the EP can offer, to enable them to re-engage in learning in a smaller group setting with one member of staff, who will support their needs.

The Enhanced Provision gives support to students by:

- Working in small groups to support engagement.
- Having an adult key worker, to build a positive, supportive relationship with who will model emotional regulation.
- Working on the Core Strength Programme and therapeutic sessions which will focus on resilience, respect, affiliation and attachment.
- Reintegration timetables that meet the needs of the students with a clear path for successful progression.
- A programme that allows students to realise that they are able to return to the mainstream setting when they are ready, with knowing that they can return for further support from the EP if needed.



At the point of return to mainstream lessons, we hope our students are better equipped to engage in their lessons, to be able to communicate with their peers and staff, to express how they feel and to be confident in their ability to learn, following the time they have spent being supported in the EP.

We provide an inclusive school environment where both students and their parents/carers also feel involved. We are grateful for the continued support of our parents and carers as this plays a vital role in our success.

**N. Hullyer - Senior Student Development Leader - Enhanced Provision**

## 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. <https://parentingsmart.place2be.org.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](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)

## 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 Mi MINDS

## Young Carers Club

Tuesdays

3:15pm-5pm

Venue:

Ground Floor Green Block  
Opposite the Drama Room



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

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

## Free Fruit at Breaktime



Students can choose an item of fruit from the till area in the Dining Hall at breaktime each day.

# Aspire - Believe - Achieve

## Online Safety Advice: Navigating Social Media and Gaming Apps Safely

With so many social media and gaming apps available, it's important for parents to understand potential risks and how to keep children safe online. This guide provides practical tips on privacy settings, screen time, online interactions, and age-appropriate content to help you support your child's digital wellbeing.

For more information please visit: <https://basildonacademies.onlinesafetyhub.uk/parent/articles/navigating-social-media-and-gaming-apps-safely>



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.



# Year 7 Crowned District Basketball Champions

## Year 7 District Basketball Tournament Report:

One of the highlights of the year: the discovery of a fresh cohort of young academy learners and the emergence of their talents, personalities and uniqueness. This collective, like of all year groups, hasn't disappointed - overflowing with passion, enthusiasm and dedication.

Our Year 7 basketball team have been setting their alarms, rooting themselves in rock-solid discipline rather than ephemeral motivation, and getting themselves to before-school basketball training for 7.30am with metronomic consistency.



The District Tournament prep cycle opened with a baptism of fire, a 29-2 hammering at the hands of an experienced St John Payne side with multiple club players, us with none. All beginners. In case the challenge level was insufficient, an even more formidable foe awaited the next day. Our team fell 47-3 to an absolute force of nature in the St Thomas More Year 7 side, who had probably the best Year 7 player I've ever seen. Fears were faced. Lessons were learned. Resilience was instilled. The prep cycle was then closed out with a 42-0 loss to a class outfit in Riverside School, a basketball academy with 2 full-time basketball coaches and what could easily have passed as a team of Year 9s. 'To be the best you must beat the best' - well whilst we couldn't quite beat the best at this early stage in our 5-year basketball development journey here at the Academies, at least we could stand toe-to-toe with the best. The improvement arc of our stellar 7's was exceptionally steep. But would they possess the resilience and fortitude to bounce back and perform in the tournament?



As we boarded the bus, a team comprised only of boys that had attended training earlier that same week, the lads were excited and focused. Maybe even a little nervous too. Warming up with poise, concentration and unity, the growth of the group since starting basketball only a matter of weeks before was evident. Again, up against opponents with club players, us with none, we could lean only on our hard work and dedication to date.

The first game against Beauchamps ended in a scoreless draw in the tournament-friendly 5-minute game format. What? The boys were surprised, even rattled. They had hoped to get off to a winning start and now needed to dust themselves down, recalibrate and refocus on the task at hand: a contest against local rivals, De La Salle. In a great show of teamwork and togetherness, the boys fought for a 4-2 victory. Back on track!

Up next were a bigger and more physically imposing Billericay side. Against all odds, our boys triumphed in what would end up being the biggest victory of the entire tournament, winning 6-0. Now, in the final game of the day, the only way of keeping our championship hopes alive was to defeat a strong Bromfords team. In a truly gripping back and forth, end-to-end game, we found ourselves 3-2 down with 1 minute to go. Was it all over? Enter Iwinosa. The Young Lion leaked out in transition, weaved through a couple of defenders, took it to the rack and laid the ball up. Bucket - and game! And so it was that our boys would be crowned District Tournament champions, bringing home our first sporting title at The Academies in 9 years. To sweeten this victory further, our team also secured a spot to compete in District Division 1 for this season.

What a group. What strength of character. To bounce back from 3 tough losses and then galvanise and claim victory in a tournament laden with drama is nothing short of outstanding. It is a stark reminder that on the other side of sacrifice and struggle is success and satisfaction. The only route to success is to embrace the failure which comes before it. Our team embodied our basketball mantra: obsession beats talent.

Who knows what untold prosperity awaits around the corner for our Year 7s, our school sport teams and The Academies as a whole...

The future is bright.

Yours in basketball,  
**Mr Prentice - Sports Studies Leader**





## Hate Crime Awareness Week: Raising Awareness and Celebrating Kindness

As part of this year's Hate Crime Awareness Week, students took part in RSHE lessons exploring the impact and consequences of prejudice, discrimination, and hostility towards others.

They learned how hate crimes can target individuals because of their race, religion, sexual orientation, disability, or gender identity, and reflected on the importance of respect and inclusion.

To show their support, students created posters and hand-shaped cut-outs featuring positive messages, which will be displayed around the school to promote kindness and awareness.

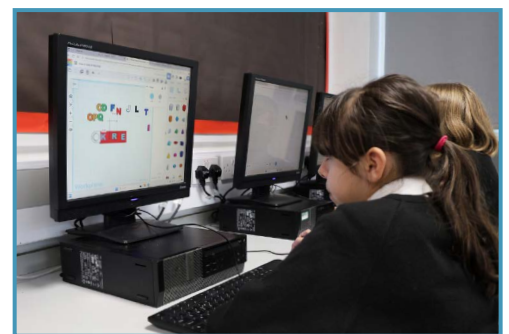
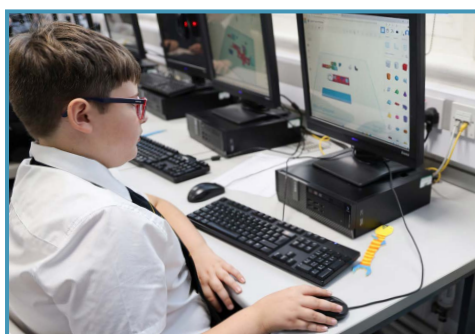
"Hate crime is bad because it can make people depressed and lose confidence." Olly.R – Year 7



## Year 7 Explore 3D Design

Year 7 students have been embracing innovation and creativity in their Design and Technology lessons through the use of Tinkercad, a beginner-friendly 3D design platform.

Students have been learning the fundamentals of 3D modelling by creating their own digital designs, developing both technical skills and creative confidence. This hands-on experience with industry-standard software is introducing them to the exciting world of design and engineering while laying the foundations for future STEM learning.





## Year 9 Students Take on Royal Navy Challenge

Last week, Year 9 students took part in interactive assemblies and workshops led by the Royal Navy Youth Engagement Team, gaining an insight into the Navy's global role in conflict prevention, humanitarian assistance, and international partnerships.

Students learned about the wide range of career opportunities available, from engineering and technical roles to the Royal Marines, as well as the Navy's strong focus on diversity, inclusion, and education.

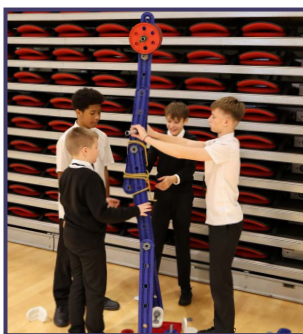
In the practical workshops, students worked in teams using Meccano-style kits to build a freestanding transmission tower capable of restoring communications to a hurricane-hit island. The challenge tested their teamwork, creativity, and problem-solving before each tower was put to the test under "hurricane conditions."

The sessions offered an exciting opportunity for students to develop real-world skills while linking to the school's focus on STEM learning and personal development.

"I appreciate the Royal Navy team for taking their time to join us. They taught us a lot about teamwork and working under pressure, and we also learned about career options. I hope the Navy continues to serve our country proudly." Agata.O

"The workshop was great fun, especially the teamwork exercise. My friends and I worked very well together. Overall, it was a very enjoyable experience, and I really appreciate the Royal Navy team for coming to our school." Martyna.K

"Thanks to the Royal Navy, we had the chance to take part in a super fun workshop. We were given a team-building challenge to build a communication tower with a satellite link. My team won, and we worked well together!" Kai.R





# EXTRA-CURRICULAR SPORTS CLUBS

| Monday                                                                                                                                              | Tuesday                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Wednesday                                                                                                                                                                | Thursday                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Friday                                                                                               |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Before School: 7.45 – 8.15</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trampolining</li> <li>• Boys Year 7 Rugby (7.30 start)</li> </ul> | <p><b>Before School: 7.45 – 8.15</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Boys Year 7 Basketball (7.30 start)</li> <li>• Girls Football</li> <li>• Boys Year 8 &amp; 9 Football</li> </ul> <p><b>After School: 3.00 - 3.30</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Year 7 Fitness</li> </ul> | <p><b>Before School: 7.45 – 8.15</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Boys Year 8 &amp; 9 Basketball (7.30 start)</li> <li>• Boys Year 7 Football</li> </ul> | <p><b>Before School: 7.45 – 8.15</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Girls Basketball</li> </ul> <p><b>After School: 3.30 - 4.30pm</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Year 8 &amp; 9 Fitness</li> </ul> | <p><b>Before School: 7.45 – 8.15</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Netball</li> </ul> |



## Creepy, crawly, cool careers for Halloween!



**Radiographers**

use x-ray and other machines to see inside our bodies.

**Entomologists**

are insect scientists. Some work on insect farms, growing insects for us to eat.

**Astronomers**

study the Universe including the planets, stars and moons.

**Special effects make-up artists**

use materials to create realistic-looking wounds and terrifying monster faces!

**Phlebotomists**

collect blood samples from patients to detect diseases.

Top essential skill

Which job would you like to do?

For more about essential skills see [skillsbuilder.org](https://skillsbuilder.org)

### 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](mailto:admin@basildonacademies.org.uk) with the updated information.



CELEBRATING

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH

OCTOBER 2025

TO CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH, EACH WEDNESDAY IN OCTOBER WE WILL BE SERVING AUTHENTIC DISHES IN THE DINING HALL

DISHES FOR WEDNESDAY 22ND OCTOBER



JAMAICAN JERK CHICKEN



CHICKEN YASSA



COCONUT CAKE  
WITH LIME GLAZE



## BOO-TIFUL FOOD



TO CELEBRATE HALLOWEEN, THE DINING HALL WILL BE SERVING SPOOKY CAKES & BISCUITS FOR 50P EACH AT BREAK & LUNCHTIME ON FRIDAY 24TH OCTOBER!



### Free Online Counselling Service

[www.kooth.com](http://www.kooth.com) is a free, confidential, safe and anonymous way for young people, aged 11-18, 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).

**Aged 11-18?**

**Need someone to talk to?**

**kooth**

How are you feeling today?

I'm feeling stressed...

Free, safe and anonymous online chat, advice and support for young people.

**kooth.com**



# BASILDON ACADEMIES

## WORD OF THE DAY

20<sup>th</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> October 25  
Black History Month

|            |                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                     |
|------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday:    | <b>Audacious (adjective)</b> akokodurufo in Akan – showing a willingness to take surprisingly bold risks.<br><i>The audacious plan shocked even his closest friends.</i>  |  |
| Tuesday:   | <b>Irascible (adjective)</b> gōth in Dinka – easily angered.<br><i>The irascible coach often shouted during matches.</i>                                                  |  |
| Wednesday: | <b>Astounding (adjective)</b> Iyanu in Yoruba – surprisingly impressive or notable.<br><i>The astounding artwork drew crowds to the gallery.</i>                          |  |
| Thursday:  | <b>Prodigious (adjective)</b> Maduong' in Luo – remarkably or impressively great in extent or size.<br><i>The prodigious talent of the young musician amazed critics.</i> |  |
| Friday:    | <b>Concord (noun)</b> kasatta in Kanuri – agreement or harmony between people or groups.<br><i>The treaty brought concord after years of conflict.</i>                    |  |

## Job of the Week: Botanist

### What does a Botanist do?

Your work will vary depending on your role, but could include:

- Identifying, classifying, recording and monitoring plant species and biodiversity
- Ecological consultancy work, including surveys and environmental impact assessments
- Managing a botanical collection
- Searching for new species
- Studying the effects of pollution on plant life
- Identifying and purifying chemicals produced by plants for use in products like drugs, food, fabrics, solvents and building materials
- Presenting research results in journals, books and at academic conferences

### Labour Market Information

- UK jobs: 97,714
- Essex jobs: 1,751
- Growth +41.4% 897,801 jobs



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

You'll usually need a degree in a relevant subject, like:

- Botany
- Ecology
- Environmental Science
- Plant Biology
- Plant Science

You'll also need a postgraduate qualification, like an MSc or PhD, to work in teaching or research.

### Let's Talk Money

UK annual median:  
£40,347



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

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](mailto: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](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.

**190**

Days of education

**184**

Days of education

**171**

Days of education

**162**

Days of education

**152**

Days of education

**143**

Days of education

**75%**

47 days absent

**80%**

38 days absent

**85%**

28 days absent

**90%**

19 days absent

**97%**

6 days absent

**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 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](http://www.send.essex.gov.uk) for more information and to sign up to our newsletter

