



The Basildon Lower Academy Newsletter

26th January 2026

Dates for the Diary

Holocaust Memorial Day

Tuesday 27th January 2026

LGBT+ History Month

February 2026

National Apprenticeship Week

Monday 9th - Sunday 15th February 2026

Children's Mental Health Week

Monday 9th - Sunday 15th February 2026

Half Term

Monday 16th - Friday 20th February 2026

Student Value of the Term

KINDNESS IS EVERYTHING

House Points - Week Ending 23rd January



125,106
ALI



119,366
SEACOLE



104,008
AUSTEN



96,782
HAWKING

A Great Start to the Assessment Point Exam Weeks at Basildon Lower Academy

We are very proud of our Year 7 students, who have now completed their first exam week at Basildon Lower Academy. For many of them, this was a brand-new experience, and they showed real focus, determination, and maturity. Their teachers were impressed by how well they prepared and how confidently they approached each exam.

Our Year 8 and 9 students are now eagerly awaiting their exam reports. These reports will help them see what they have learned well and which areas they can improve in. For the Year 9 students, the reports are especially important, as they will use them to help make choices about their Key Stage 4 study subjects. This is an exciting step, and we look forward to supporting them as they begin to think about their future pathways.



Well done to all our students for their hard work and positive attitude throughout their respective exam weeks and of course their families and teachers who supported them through this time.

K. Mallinder

Key Stage 3 Head of Faculty: EBacc

School Awarded Plastic Clever Round 1 Completion Certificate

We are pleased to share that the Lower Academy has been awarded a Plastic Clever Award – Round 1 Completion Certificate, marking an important step in our journey to becoming a Plastic Clever School.

This award recognises our ongoing commitment to environmental awareness and reducing plastic waste. As part of our eco-drive, students and staff have worked together to save plastic bottles and crisp packets from bins, promoting responsible recycling across the school.

Our Plastic Clever journey began last year, and this achievement reflects the enthusiasm of our school community to make a positive environmental impact. We look forward to building on this success as we continue working towards a greener future.



The Government Has Strengthened Its National Guidance On Mobile Phone Use In Schools

As a school, we see every day the impact that modern technology—particularly mobile phones—can have on children's learning, behaviour, and wellbeing. For several years, we have operated our "Not Seen – Not Heard" mobile phone policy.

Today, the Government has strengthened its national guidance on mobile phone use in schools. This guidance makes clear that all schools should be phone-free environments for the entire school day.

This includes **lessons, transitions between lessons, breaktimes, and lunchtime.** It also means that **mobile phones should not be used in class** for activities such as calculators or research. In line with the Government guidance, and consistent with our policy, we will continue to **confiscate mobile phones when they are seen or heard on school premises.**

The intention behind this national approach is to remove any ambiguity and ensure that all schools can lead with confidence and consistency. Our own policy already aligns fully with this guidance and is applied fairly across the school. We ask for your continued support in helping us ensure it is upheld.

Part of our role is to set clear boundaries that help students stay focused, feel safe, and make the most of their education. I am grateful for your ongoing support in helping us maintain these expectations.

Thank you, as always, for your partnership and support.

G.Smith - CEO, The Basildon Academies Trust

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

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.



Parenting Smart

Explore helpful resources here: <https://parentingsmart.place2be.org.uk/>

YOUNG CARERS CLUB

TUESDAY

3.15PM-5PM G7

VARIOUS ACTIVITIES EACH WEEK INCLUDING BOARD GAMES, COOKING, PHOTOGRAPHY, ARTS & CRAFTS.

REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED. TALK TO OTHERS, RELAX & HAVE FUN.

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



Celebrating Success: Fair Active Award Achieved

Thanks to the dedication and hard work of our Fairtrade Committee over the past year, our school has successfully achieved the Fairtrade Foundation's Fair Active Award.

To earn the award, students have taken part in a range of Fairtrade-focused activities. These included celebrating Fairtrade Fortnight, creating Fairtrade-inspired products during tutor time, and exploring Fairtrade issues through student briefings. The committee also designed eye-catching Fairtrade displays around the school to raise awareness among the wider community.

In addition, students helped raise funds for the Fairtrade Foundation by supporting the school's Christmas Fayre, further demonstrating their commitment to ethical trade and global responsibility.

Achieving the Fair Active Award highlights the school's ongoing commitment to promoting Fairtrade values and encouraging students to take meaningful action for a fairer world.



Free Half-Term Claymation Workshops

Young people aged 11–16 are invited to take part in free Claymation filmmaking workshops this half term, delivered by Animating Education in partnership with New Waverley Studios. Now in its second year, the project is funded by Screen South and offers a fun, hands-on introduction to stop-motion animation.

Across two creative days, participants will design and sculpt their own characters and props using colourful modelling clay, before learning how to bring them to life through stop-motion animation. With guided support, young people will develop basic sculpting and animation skills and see their creations featured in a short film.

All materials, including clay and tools, are provided.

Dates: Monday 16th & Wednesday 18th February

Time: 10am – 3pm

Age range: 11–16

Location:

Unit 48, The Unity Centre
86 Eastgate Centre, Basildon, SS14 1AF

To find out more and register for a free place, please visit:

www.animatingeducation.co.uk/product-page/basildon-frames-claymation



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:

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

Parents and carers are also encouraged to visit the dedicated Parents and Carers section of the Essex Sexual Health Service website. 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.



Manifesto for Essex Eco-Gathering (Secondary Schools) - Saturday 28th February

The Essex Book Festival is hosting the Manifesto for Essex Eco-Gathering at Chelmsford Theatre Studio, aimed primarily at young people aged 13–25.

The event offers an opportunity to hear about local eco-projects, take part in creative eco-workshops, learn new skills, and connect with like-minded young people who are passionate about climate action, culture and community. Students are encouraged to get involved, share ideas and make a positive difference both locally and beyond.



For more information and to book a place for **FREE**, please visit: <https://www.essexbookfestival.org.uk/event/manifesto-for-essex-eco-gathering/>



EXTRA-CURRICULAR SPORTS CLUBS

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Before School 7.30am-8.15am <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Girls Netball	Before School 7.30am-8.15am <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Girls Basketball	Before School 7.30am-8.15am <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Girls Football• Year 7 Boys Football		Before School 7.30am-8.15am <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Year 8/9 Boys Football After School 3.15pm-4pm <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Year 7/8 Boys Basketball

NATIONAL CROISSANT DAY

Friday 30th January

To celebrate National Croissant Day on Friday 30th January, The Dining Hall will be serving the following items at break time for 50p each;

- Plain Croissant
- Pain au Chocolat
- Savoury Croissant (Ham or Cheese)





SEND School Age Drop-in

**An opportunity to get advice and support
in a relaxed and non judgemental
environment**

Parents and carers of both diagnosed and non-
diagnosed children welcome.

1st Wednesday of the month

12:00 - 13:00

No need to book - Just drop in!

**Northlands Park Family Hub
Davenants, Basildon Essex SS13 1QX**

Essex Child and Family Wellbeing Service

Service comissioned by:



BASILDON ACADEMIES

WORD OF THE DAY

26th – 30th January 2026

Monday:	Candour (noun) <i>vilpittömyys</i> in finnish – the quality of being open and honest. <i>The report was praised for its candour and clarity.</i>	
Tuesday:	Commemoration (noun) <i>siftorde</i> in Fulani – the act of remembering and honouring. <i>The commemoration assembly paid tribute to Holocaust victims.</i>	
Wednesday:	Discerning (adjective) <i>discernant</i> in French – having or showing good judgement. <i>The discerning reader spotted the subtle foreshadowing.</i>	
Thursday:	Esoteric (adjective) <i>ეთოთერიული</i> in Georgian – intended for or understood by only a small group. <i>The philosopher's esoteric ideas baffled many student</i>	
Friday:	Quintessential (adjective) <i>Inbegriff</i> in German – representing the most perfect example. <i>The village green was the quintessential symbol of England.</i>	

Job of the Week: Museum Curator

What does a Museum Curator do?

Museum curators manage museum exhibits. They purchase, maintain, and present to the public items of cultural, scientific, or historical interest.

Day-to-day responsibilities include:

- Selecting, buying or borrowing items
- Organising records, catalogues and indexes
- Making sure exhibits are stored under the right conditions
- Arranging conservation and restoration
- Helping visitors to interpret and enjoy exhibits and collections

Labour Market Information

+17% 436,252 jobs

+19.3% in your region of East of England, an increase of 41,627 jobs



What Qualifications do you need to do this job?

You'll usually need a degree and a postgraduate qualification in a relevant subject like:

- Museum or Heritage Studies
- Archaeology or Ancient History
- Classics
- Natural Sciences
- Anthropology
- Education

Let's Talk Money

UK annual median: £34,237

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!

