



The Basildon Lower Academy Newsletter

9th February 2026

Dates for the Diary

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

British Science Week

Friday 6th - Sunday 15th March 2026

Year 7 Parents Evening

Thursday 12th March 2026 - 3.30pm-6.30pm

Student Value of the Term

KINDNESS IS EVERYTHING

House Points - Week Ending 6th February



138,410
ALI



130,272
SEACOLE



116,240
AUSTEN



110,326
HAWKING

A Message from the Safeguarding Team

As we reach the end of this half term, we will be taking part in Children's Mental Health Week, centred around the theme "This Is My Place." This will give students a chance to think about where they feel safe, supported, and able to be themselves. We hope they will feel confident sharing their thoughts as we know that students often share with us that school is a place where they feel safe, listened to and cared for, and we remain committed to strengthening that sense of belonging every day. Throughout the week, we will be encouraging open conversations about mental health and reminding students that their feelings matter. These moments of focus are important, but they also sit alongside the everyday care and attention we give to students' Safety and Wellbeing. We want every child to know that there is always someone ready to listen and offer support.

We will also be spending time talking about Online Safety as part of the Safer Internet Awareness Day, helping students understand how to make safe choices and what to do if something online worries them. While this awareness week gives us a helpful spotlight, online safety is something we weave into school life regularly and is an open topic of conversation for students to share their worries.



As we move into the February half term, we encourage families to keep these conversations going at home. This break can be a good time for rest, connection, and checking in with young people about how they're feeling, who they're spending time with, and how they can keep themselves safe - both in the community and online. If you ever have any safeguarding concerns, or if you're worried about your child's wellbeing in any way, please reach out to us. Our Safeguarding Team will continue to listen, support, and work with you so that every young person feels safe, supported and heard.

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

Online Safety Hub: Is Your Teen Using Tech to Cover Their Tracks?

Young people may use a range of methods, from deleting browser history to using decoy apps or VPNs, to hide their online activity. [Click here](#) to access information and support about how teenagers may conceal their online behaviour.

[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.



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/>

National Apprenticeship Week

National Apprenticeship Week begins on Monday (9th – 15th February) and is a great opportunity for students to explore future career pathways and learn how apprenticeships combine earning, learning, and gaining real-world skills.

We encourage students to start by visiting Amazing Apprenticeships to access events, resources, and inspiration linked to the week:

<https://www.amazingapprenticeships.com/naw/>



Students can also explore career pathways, apprenticeships and local opportunities using Unifrog, an online careers platform that helps students match their interests and strengths to future options. Students can access <https://www.unifrog.org/> by logging in with their school email address.

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/>



NHS Guidance: Is your child too unwell for school?

As seasonal illnesses become more common, the NHS offers clear guidance to help parents and carers decide when children should stay at home and when it is safe to return to school. The advice covers common conditions such as coughs, colds, sickness, diarrhoea and fever.

You can view the full NHS guidance here: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>



Josh Honoured for Outstanding Effort and Progress

We are proud to celebrate Year 9 student Josh.S, who has been awarded a Jack Petchey Outstanding Achiever Award after being nominated by teachers in recognition of his outstanding effort, positive attitude and exceptional progress.

Josh was nominated for his consistently positive approach to learning. Teachers have praised him for always being engaged in lessons and for trying his very best every day. His commitment, determination and resilience have played a key role in the progress he has made.

Through his hard work and dedication, Josh has made significant progress. This milestone reflects both his personal development and his readiness to take on new challenges, supported by staff every step of the way.



Staff highlighted Josh's journey as a strong example of how perseverance, effort and the right support can enable students to thrive. His phased return to mainstream lessons marks an important step in his ongoing progress.

The Jack Petchey Outstanding Achiever Award recognises young people who go above and beyond in their personal development, and Josh is a highly deserving recipient. We are incredibly proud of his achievements and look forward to seeing him continue to grow and succeed.

"I was really surprised and proud to receive the Jack Petchey Outstanding Achiever Award. I've worked hard to get to this point, and it means a lot to know my teachers have noticed. I'm also thinking about how I can use the £300 prize money to share a reward experience with my classmates, as they've supported me along the way." Josh.S – Year 9

Year 7 Students Learn About the Dangers of Smoking and Vaping

Earlier this school year, Year 7 students took part in the Smoking, Drinking and Drug Use among Young People in England (SDD) Survey, commissioned by NHS England.

Following their participation, the school was awarded £150, which was used to purchase detailed lung models. These models, showing healthy lungs alongside lungs damaged by smoking, were then used in lessons to help students understand the serious risks of smoking and vaping.

During the lessons, students also created vibrant posters highlighting the dangers of smoking and vaping. These eye-catching displays are now on show around the school, helping to raise awareness among the school community.



The interactive lessons encouraged collaboration and discussion, giving students a chance to work together while learning about the health consequences of tobacco and vaping products.

"It was interesting learning about smoking because it is bad, kills, turns your lungs black, and can cause cancer." Neidas.M

"Smoking is the most common cause of lung cancer. One in ten heavy smokers will get lung cancer, and in most cases it will be fatal. It is the leading cause of death by cancer because it is difficult to detect and can take 10 years off of your life." Khadijah.S

"Smoking can affect the brain and may cause long-term damage. I liked how people in the classroom were working together on this topic." Blessing.N

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.

New Opportunity for Students: Essex Music Service Youth

We are pleased to share an exciting opportunity from Essex Music Service for students who are interested in music or having their voice heard within their local community.

Essex Music Service is setting up a **Youth Voice session in Basildon**, where young people can share their views and ideas about music opportunities in the area. Their feedback will help shape future music provision and may also lead to the opportunity to join a **county-wide Youth Voice group**, influencing music services at a wider strategic level.

This session is open to all young people with an interest in music, regardless of their level of experience or current involvement with Essex Music Service.

During the session, students will be able to:

- Share their thoughts on current music activities and opportunities
- Suggest what they would like to see more or less of
- Contribute ideas about how youth voice should be represented
- Connect with other young people who share an interest in music

Date: Friday 6th March

Time: 5:00–6:00pm

Location: Southernhay Youth Centre, Basildon, SS14 1FN

If your child would like to attend, please complete the sign-up form to confirm their place: Basildon: [Youth Voice Meeting Sign Up Form](#)



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



Essex Sexual Health Service Webpages Dedicated to Secondary Parents & Carers

The Essex Sexual Health Service has a website dedicated to parents and carers. Parents can find a wealth of resources, including FAQs, insights into RSE, and advice on how to have those important conversations.

www.essexsexualhealthservice.org.uk/parents-and-carers/



NATIONAL PIZZA DAY

Thursday 12th February

To celebrate National Pizza Day on Thursday 12th February, the Dining Hall will be serving pizza during morning breaktime for just 75p a slice.

Pizza toppings available:

- Cheese & Tomato
- Vegetable
- Pepperoni

Delicious



Valentine's Day Treats

Friday 13th February

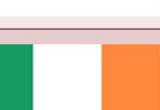
Valentine's Day-themed cakes and biscuits will be available in the Dining Hall at break and lunchtime. Only 75p each.



BASILDON ACADEMIES

WORD OF THE DAY

9th - 13th February 2026

Monday:	<p>Compassion (noun) együttérzés in Hungarian – sympathetic concern for others' suffering. <i>Compassion is central to mental health awareness campaigns.</i></p>	
Tuesday:	<p>Cybersecurity (noun) keamanan siber in Indonesian – the practice of protecting systems and data online. <i>The IT manager gave a talk on cybersecurity to Year 10.</i></p>	
Wednesday:	<p>Prudent (adjective) stuama in Irish – acting with care for the future. <i>It was prudent to begin coursework well before the deadline.</i></p>	
Thursday:	<p>Reticent (adjective) reticente in Italian – not revealing one's thoughts readily. <i>He was reticent about sharing his exam result</i></p>	
Friday:	<p>Amorous (adjective) amatores in Latin – showing, feeling, or relating to love. <i>The poet's amorous verses charmed the audience.</i></p>	

Job of the Week: Fashion Buyer

What does a Fashion Buyer do?

Fashion buyers are responsible for choosing what is sold in stores, aiming to generate the largest possible profits.

Day-to-day responsibilities include:

- Analysing and forecasting trends from consumer data
- Managing product quality and getting customer feedback
- Negotiating prices, orders and delivery dates
- Presenting collections to senior managers
- Tracking sales figures, managing stock levels and keeping to budgets

Labour Market Information

+7.6% 171,912 jobs

+9.3% in your region of East of England, an increase of 18,750 jobs



What Qualifications do you need to do this job?

You'll usually need a degree or college qualification in fashion, retail or business. Some fashion retail experience will also help.

Some companies offer buyer training schemes or management training schemes where you can specialise in buying.

You may also be able to work your way up from the shop floor to the role of buyer's administration assistant, then assistant or junior buyer.

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

ARRIVE BE HERE ATTEND IN TIME TO TO TO 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	1/4 year
90%	19 days	4 weeks	100 lessons	1/2 year
80%	38 days	8 weeks	200 lessons	1 year
70%	59 days	12 weeks	300 lessons	1 1/2 years
60%	80 days	16 weeks	400 lessons	2 years
50%	100 days	20 weeks	500 lessons	2 1/2 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.



EXTRA-CURRICULAR SPORTS CLUBS

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Before School 7.30am-8.15am	Before School 7.30am-8.15am	Before School 7.30am-8.15am		Before School 7.30am-8.15am
• Girls Netball	• Girls Basketball	• Girls Football • Year 7 Boys Football	After School 3.15pm-4pm • Year 7/8 Boys Basketball	After School 3.15pm-4pm • Year 9 Boys Basketball