

Dates for the Diary

LGBT+ History Month

February 2023

Children's Mental Health Week

Monday 6th - Sunday 12th February 2023

Safer Internet Day

Tuesday 7th February 2023

Year 7 & 8 Progress Review Event

Wednesday 8th February 2023 - 3:30-6:30pm

Half Term

Monday 13th - Friday 17th February 2023

Fairtrade Fortnight

Monday 27th February - Sunday 12th March 2023

Student Value of the Term

**KINDNESS IS
EVERYTHING**

House Points - Week Ending 3rd February



20,118
AUSTEN



20,094
ALI



19,792
HAWKING



18,091
SEACOLE

Students Embrace LGBTQ+ Project

A group of Year 8 students recently took part in a project to promote and raise awareness of LGBTQ+ rights. The project was part of their RSHE lesson.

"I loved this project on awareness and rights of the LGBTQ+ community. It really helped me appreciate their journey through discrimination and how far they have come. The project has made me aware of how a simple act of kindness pushes us further towards equality." Annie. R

"I loved this project, especially because of its importance to spread awareness against prejudice to people in the LGBTQ+ community." Rhys.C

"I think that it is important to learn about LGBTQ+ because everyone has the right to be respected. I really enjoyed this topic because it raised awareness of LGBTQ+ and how everyone deserves to be respected and loved." Boglarka.B

"It is important to learn about LGBTQ+ so we do not repeat mistakes of the past." Lee.M

"This project was really fun and interesting. The main aim of this project was to increase our own knowledge of LGBTQ+ rights and to help spread awareness." Izza.H

"It is very important to learn about LGBTQ+ because we need to respect and know about its community and, what it stands for." Archie.B



Free Afterschool Teatime Club - Years 7 & 8

In order to support families with the cost of living, we are delighted to offer an after-school Tea Time Club **free of charge** to our Year 7 & 8 students.

The club is available from 3.30pm – 5.30pm (Mon-Fri) and will provide students with **Active Fun**, enrichment activities including drama and cooking. **Each student will receive free hot food and refreshments.**

Spaces are limited and the club will only be able to accommodate students who are pre-booked. This allows us to staff accordingly, and to provide enough hot meals for each student.

Each week, you will be able to log into your ParentPay account and book the days you require your child to access the club for the following week.



If you wish to utilise this club for the week ahead, please log into your ParentPay account and follow the steps listed below.

1. Log into [ParentPay](#)
2. Click on 'pay for other items'
3. Click 'view' next to the Teatime Club payment item (this is a free club, no payment is actually required)
4. Tick the consent box and click on 'Book Meals and Places'
5. Select the drop down 'After School' and the date of the week you wish to book for
6. Scroll down the page and click on 'Book a session' for each date you wish to book and it will turn green. You will need to scroll right to reveal the whole week
7. Scroll down and click 'Confirm bookings'
8. Your bookings have been confirmed

If you need to cancel a session please go back to step 6 and click on 'clear day' on the dates that you wish to cancel and save your changes.

French & Humanities Ambassadors

Congratulations to Year 7 & 8 students for becoming French & Humanities Ambassadors. Each of our new ambassadors received a certificate & badge for their outstanding effort & continual improvement in lessons and their assessment grades.



Stakeholders recognise they have a clear voice, and they are listened to. There are strong processes in place through forums and surveys and these lead to practical change, examples of which students and staff were able to articulate.



Wellbeing Award
for Schools

2022-2025

Cost of Living Information

The Cost of Living Parent Factsheet recently sent to our parents & carers is available to download on our website:

www.basildonloweracademy.org.uk/cost-of-living-information

The factsheet details information of what support is available to help parents/carers & their families get through the cost-of-living crisis.

Year 9 Options Process & Transition to the Upper Academy

Over the course of term 1, Year 9 have been working hard beginning their first foundation GCSE content whilst getting ready for the options selection process. The information below is intended to provide an overview timeline of the activities which students will engage in to support their transition to the Upper Academy.

February 2023	Options Information Sessions delivered by subject teachers during lessons
March 2023	Options Selection
May 2023	Parent/Student 1:1 Meetings
June & July 2023	Year 9 End of Year Assessments
w/c 10th July 2023	Year 9 Transition to Upper Academy - Options Tasters

The Government has an ambition for all students to complete the English Baccalaureate (EBacc) as research shows that this suite of subjects provides support for English & Maths achievement, creates greater opportunities post-18 and supports routes into higher education. Year 9 students will be selecting a Humanities subject and 2 further options to complement their compulsory suite of English Language, English Literature, Maths, Combined Science, French, Core PE, PSHE & Enrichment.

Please do continue to encourage students to complete tasks at home using online platforms on a regular basis. Our remote learning team continue to provide support via remoteteaching@basildonacademies.org.uk Please do not hesitate to contact them if you need any advice, guidance or support in accessing out of hours learning.

We will be in touch in the coming months regarding the Options Selection process, which will include an opportunity for you to meet with a member of the leadership team 1:1 to discuss your child's options selection and link to post-18 ambitions.

Multiply in Essex

As you may be aware, this month a new campaign has been launched to promote [Multiply in Essex](http://www.essexopportunities.co.uk/multiply/). This is a programme managed by the DfE to increase adult numeracy skills, providing learning opportunities for adults aged 19+ who do not already have a GCSE at grade C (or equivalent) in maths. The programme will offer free and flexible courses, which can be used in everyday life, such as managing finances, helping children with their schoolwork, accessing employment and progressing at work.

If you are a Parent or carer and wish to find out more and sign up to a course, please visit www.essexopportunities.co.uk/multiply/



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).

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

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.

School 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 Wellbeing Centre

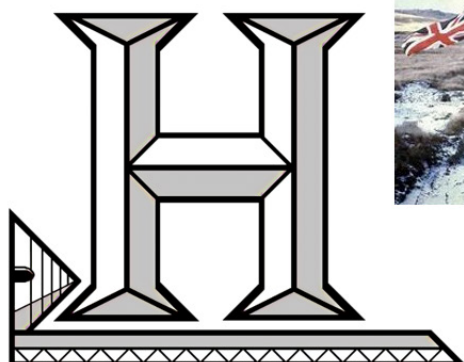


SEND Department Coffee Afternoons Every Wednesday 2:30pm – 3:30pm

We are delighted to offer our parents/carers the opportunity to meet with members of our SEND Department to discuss your child's progress. Coffee afternoons are held at the Lower Academy from 2:30 - 3:30pm every Wednesday.



To book an appointment please visit the [Contact Us](#) page via the Basildon Lower Academy website and select the option for General Enquiries.



History Club
Every Tuesday
3:30pm to
4:30pm
D5, Middle
Floor, Blue
Block



Lower Academy sports clubs timetable

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
After School: 3.30 - 4.30pm Archery (sign up required) Year 7 Football Boys Girls Football (all years) Trampolining (all years)	Before School: 7.30 - 8.15am Trampolining (all years) After School: 3.30 - 4.30pm Boys Basketball (all years)	After School: 3.30 - 4.30pm Badminton (all years)	After School: 3.30 - 4.30pm Netball (all years) Year 8 and 9 Football

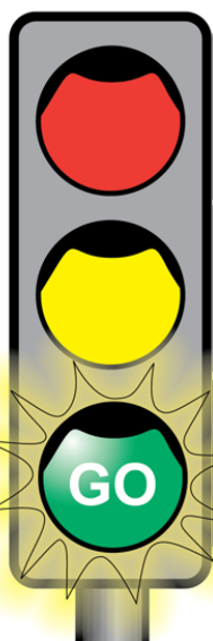
Attendance Expectations

There is a clear link between academic success and attendance and as such our expectations for attendance are that:

- Parents have a legal duty to ensure their child attends regularly.
- Students should have 100% attendance each year.
- Students with attendance below 95% are of concern.

ATTENDANCE

Every Minute Counts!



89% & below

Drastic effect on academic achievement

95-99%

Less chance of success. Harder to make progress

100-96%

Good chance of success and progress

Absence from school

Children are required by law to attend school 190 days per year. The government states that every child's attendance should be above 95%.

How do YOU measure up?

Attendance	Days Absent	Weeks Absent	Lessons Missed
95%	9 Days	2 Weeks	50 Lessons
90%	19 Days	4 Weeks	100 Lessons
85%	29 Days	6 Weeks	150 Lessons
80%	38 Days	8 Weeks	200 Lessons
75%	48 Days	10 Weeks	250 Lessons
70%	57 Days	11.5 Weeks	290 Lessons
65%	67 Days	13.5 Weeks	340 Lessons

Absence Procedures

To report a student absence please visit the [Contact Us](#) page via the Basildon Lower Academy website and select the option for Attendance.

- Parents/carers should 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.
- Parents/carers must provide medical evidence to support all absences due to illness or medical appointments.
- Wherever possible parents/carers should make appointments outside of school hours but if this is unavoidable students should attend school before and after the appointment.
- If no appropriate medical evidence is provided then the Academies cannot authorise an absence. (ie. medical appointment card, prescription, doctor's letter.)

For further information and guidance regarding attendance and absence please visit our website:



Year 7 Students of the Week

Mathematician of the Week	Sofia D
English Scholar of the Week	Maya C & Logan W
Super Scientist of the Week	Olivia D
Musician of the Week	Brooke C
Chef of the Week	Amelia L
French Linguist of the Week	Chloe G
Engineer of the Week	Chloe G & Martin J

Year 8 Students of the Week

Mathematician of the Week	Serah G
English Scholar of the Week	Andrew J
Scientist of the Week	Caitlyn R
Historian of the Week	Kayden T
Geography Genius of the Week	Bradley C.G
RE Expert of the Week	Lexi T.J
Chef of the Week	Teady J
French Linguist of the Week	Tjay G
Performer of the Week	Molay T
Computer Scientist of the Week	Tyler M
Engineer of the Week	Levi M

Year 9 Students of the Week

Mathematician of the Week	Pawel R
English Scholar of the Week	Dominic W
Scientist of the Week	Prince B
Historian of the Week	Cory W
Geography Genius of the Week	Jayden W
Chef of the Week	Alfie J
French Linguist of the Week	Jayden A
RSHE Champion of the Week	Ace W

Follow The Basildon Lower Academy on our social media channels





NATIONAL PIZZA DAY



FEBRUARY 9TH

To celebrate National Pizza Day on Thursday 9th February the Dining Hall will be serving pizza during morning breaktime for just 50p per slice

Pizza toppings available:
Cheese & Tomato
Vegetable
Pepperoni



Free school lunch for all students

We are delighted to announce that a free lunch will be available to all students every Monday & Friday between now & February Half Term 2023

A free school lunch is a hot meal or sandwich/baguette/roll and a dessert



Aspire - Believe - Achieve

National Online Safety

The online world is posing an ever-increasing risk to children, and it is important that schools, parents and carers work together to take an active role in teaching children about online dangers. Learning how to act safely when using the internet is an incredibly important part of safeguarding our children.

We are therefore delighted to announce that we have shown our commitment to protecting students online by working with National Online Safety- providing resources for all parents and carers. The resources include Parents & Carers courses, online video resources and weekly guides covering a huge range of topics, including:

- Online Relationships
- Fake Profiles & Social Bots
- Online Bullying
- Online Grooming
- Child Sexual Exploitation
- Sexual Harassment & Violence
- Sexting
- Live Streaming
- Online Identity
- Screen Addiction
- Online Challenges
- Overspending
- Social Media Platforms
- Online Gambling
- Radicalisation, Terrorism & Extremism
- Age Inappropriate Content
- Copyright & Ownership
- Hacking
- Fake News
- Online Fraud
- Online Reputation
- Personal Data
- Pornography
- Targeted Adverts & Pop-Ups
- The Dark Web
- Games & Trends



**National
Online
Safety®**

Download your Free Online Safety App for Parents & Carers

The image shows a collection of colorful, illustrated guides and a smartphone. The guides include topics like 'XBOX SERIES X/S', 'PLAYSTATION 5', 'FORTNITE', 'TROLLING & ONLINE ABUSE', and 'HIDDEN PHOTO APPS'. The smartphone displays the National Online Safety app, which features a grid of icons for different age groups and topics, and a video of a woman speaking. The NOS logo is also visible on the phone screen and as a separate icon to the right.

Be #OnlineSafetySavvy

Keep up with the latest apps
games and tech your children
are using, with the worlds
most comprehensive online
safety app for parents.

To create your account, please follow <https://nationalonlinesafety.com/enrol/basildon-academies> and complete your details. When you're set up, you'll be able to set 'Parent/Carer' as your user type.

You can access National Online Safety online via any device- including via the brand-new smartphone app.

To download the app, please go to:

<https://apps.apple.com/gb/app/national-online-safety/id1530342372>

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=uk.co.nationaleducationgroup.nos>