# The Basildon Lower Academy Newsletter • 5th October 2026

## Dates for the Diary

**Meet the Tutor - Parent Event**
Monday 5th October 2026: 3.15pm-4.30pm

**Half Term**
Monday 26th - Friday 30th October 2026

**Year 9 AP1 Assessments**
Monday 23rd November - Friday 4th December 2026

**Christmas Fayre**
Thursday 17th December 2026: 3pm-5pm

**Last Day of Autumn Term**
Friday 18th December 2026

Student Value of the Term

## Black Lives Matter

### House Points - Week Ending 2nd October

| Seacole | Hawking | Ali | Austen |
|---|---|---|---|
| 46,921 | 41,461 | 41,391 | 34,157 |

## Celebrating Our Students' Success

Celebrating success is an important part of our Behaviour Curriculum. We have clear rules and expectations for our students, but we also believe it is important to recognise when they make good choices and do well.

Every day, our students work hard, show kindness, make positive choices and contribute to our school community. We want to make sure these positive actions are noticed and celebrated.

We have had a fantastic start to the school year. By 25th September, staff had already recorded more than 126,000 positive events across the school. This is an amazing achievement and shows how many positive things are happening in lessons and around the school each day.

A positive event can be given for many different reasons. This could include:

- Working hard in a lesson
- Making good progress
- Producing a great piece of work
- Not giving up when something is difficult
- Helping or supporting others
- Regularly meeting our school expectations

We want students to understand that their effort, improvement and positive choices matter. Success is not only about achieving the highest results. It is also about trying your best, improving and making good choices every day.

As we continue to develop our Behaviour Curriculum, we are looking at more ways to celebrate students each week. We want rewards and recognition to be a regular and meaningful part of school life.



We are also planning our wider rewards programme, including our end-of-term Christmas celebrations. These will give us another opportunity to recognise students for their hard work and positive choices throughout the term. We will share more information about these celebrations in the coming weeks.

With more than 126,000 positive events already recorded, there is so much to celebrate. We are very proud of the positive start our students have made and look forward to celebrating many more successes throughout the term.

**L.Gray**
**Assistant Headteacher & Respect Champion**

# Welcoming Our Future Year 7 Students



On Thursday, 1st October, the Lower Academy was delighted to welcome prospective Year 7 students and their families to our annual Open Evening.

It was a pleasure to showcase our facilities, introduce visitors to our dedicated staff and give prospective students a taste of the opportunities and experiences available at the Academy. There was a fantastic atmosphere throughout the evening, with visitors taking part in a range of engaging activities across our departments.

Our student volunteers did an outstanding job guiding families around the Academy, proudly showcasing our facilities and sharing their own experiences of lessons and school life. Staff were also on hand throughout the evening to answer questions and speak with parents and students.

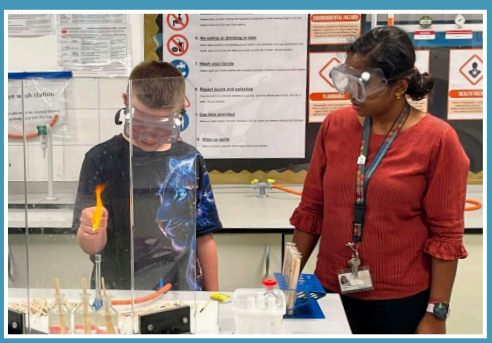
Each department provided interactive activities for visitors to enjoy, including:

- Science – hands-on experiments, including colourful flame tests and electrical circuits.
- Art – visitors were able to paint ceramic gargoyle and monster figures, as well as create monoprints.
- Catering – freshly made pizzas and delicious cinnamon buns prepared and served for our guests.
- English – a mystery object creative writing challenge and a fun Shakespearean insults activity.
- PE – opportunities to try table tennis, badminton and basketball.
- Maths – interactive whiteboard and shopping list challenges to put problem-solving skills to the test.
- Music – visitors had the opportunity to play instruments using movie soundtrack scores.
- SEND and Safeguarding – teams were available to speak with parents and provide guidance and support.




















The evening was a wonderful opportunity for families to experience the sense of community at the Lower Academy, while our students played an important role in helping visitors feel welcome.

We were delighted to receive such positive feedback from families and look forward to welcoming our new Year 7 students to the Academy in September 2027.

# Year 7 Bridge Students Learn About Fairtrade





As part of Fairtrade Fortnight, our Year 7 Bridge students have been learning more about Fairtrade and its importance in supporting farmers and communities around the world.

Students explored where Fairtrade products are produced and learned more about the people and communities behind the products we use every day. They also discussed the importance of fairer trading practices and how Fairtrade can help farmers and producers receive a fairer return for their work.

As part of their learning, students designed and created their own lunchboxes, choosing contents made using Fairtrade-sourced products. They also created Chatterboxes to share their knowledge and understanding of Fairtrade, alongside completing word searches and other activities.

The activities provided a fun and engaging way for students to develop their understanding of Fairtrade and consider how the choices we make can have an impact on communities around the world.

"I really enjoyed the word search challenges and understanding more about Fairtrade." Jayden.N - Year 7

## 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.

## Free October Half Term Clubs with Essex ActivAte

Essex ActivAte half term programmes provide free, fun and engaging activities for eligible children and young people during the October half term break. From sports and crafts to outdoor adventures and more, there are plenty of opportunities to stay active, make friends and try something new, alongside receiving nutritious meals and snacks.




Spaces are limited and can be booked directly with local clubs when they go live, with no Holiday Activities voucher code or referral required.

To find a club near you, visit the Find Your Active Activity Finder on the Active Essex website. Simply select 'Programmes' to view the upcoming half term activities, enter your local area, and book directly with the club using the contact details provided.

## Follow Us

## Essex Sexual Health Service

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/

Essex Sexual Health Service

## 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.

YOUNGMiNDS

# Aspire - Believe - Achieve







## Safeguarding

At the Basildon Academies, keeping children safe and helping them to thrive is at the heart of everything we do.

The Essex Safeguarding Children Board (ESCB) provides information and guidance for parents and carers on a range of safeguarding issues. Their website includes advice and signposts to useful resources to help families understand and respond to concerns relating to children and young people. Parents and carers can access this information at www.escb.co.uk

ESSEX Safeguarding Children BOARD

Please contact our safeguarding team if you have any concerns about your own child or another student at the Academies: www.basildonloweracademy.org.uk/safeguarding

# 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

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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 | ¼ year |
| 90% | 19 days | 4 weeks | 100 lessons | ½ year |
| 80% | 38 days | 8 weeks | 200 lessons | 1 year |
| 70% | 59 days | 12 weeks | 300 lessons | 1½ years |
| 60% | 80 days | 16 weeks | 400 lessons | 2 years |
| 50% | 100 days | 20 weeks | 500 lessons | 2 ½ 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 send 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.




# Attendance: Advice on Childhood Illnesses

If your child is absent due to illness, we will assess the reason given against current NHS guidance. Absences that fall outside of this guidance may not be authorised. For example, common colds and minor illnesses do not usually require children to stay at home and will not normally be authorised as an illness absence.

If your child is absent for a significant length of time or has repeated illness absences, we may ask you to provide medical evidence to support the absence. This could include appointment letters, prescription information, hospital documentation, or evidence from a healthcare professional. Where medical evidence is not provided, the absence may remain unauthorised.

We are committed to supporting families and understand that attendance difficulties can happen for many reasons. If your child's attendance falls below 90%, you may be invited to attend an Early Help Support Meeting. This meeting gives us the opportunity to discuss any barriers to attendance and identify support that may help your child attend school more regularly.

Please remember that a build-up of unauthorised absences can lead to schools following the necessary legal attendance procedures. We want to avoid this wherever possible by working together with families to ensure every student has the best possible access to their education

# What to do

## Advice on childhood illnesses

**Go to school; if needed, get treatment as required**

**Some restrictions for school attendance**

**Don't go to school and see the GP**

| What it's called? | What it's like | Going to school | Getting treatment | More advice |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Asthma flare up** | Worsening of usual symptoms | | Follow your care plan | Stay off school if feeling too unwell |
| **Chicken pox** | Rash begins as small, red, flat spots that develop into itchy fluid-filled blisters | | Pharmacy | Back to school five days after on-set of the rash, or when all lesions are crusted over |
| **Common cold** | Runny nose, sneezing, sore throat | | Pharmacy | Ensure good hand hygiene |
| **Conjunctivitis** | Teary, red, itchy, painful eye(s) | | Pharmacy | Try not to touch eye to avoid spreading* |
| **Flu** | Fever, cough, sneezing, runny nose, headache body aches and pain, exhaustion, sore throat | | Pharmacy | Ensure good hand hygiene* |
| **German measles/ Rubella** | Fever, tiredness. Raised, red, rash that starts on the face and spreads downwards | | GP | Back to school four days after the rash has started, if feeling well enough. Please let the school know, as pregnant members of staff may be affected. |
| **Glandular fever** | High temperature, swollen glands, sore throat; usually more painful than any before | | GP | * |
| **Hand, foot & mouth disease** | Fever, sore throat, headache, small painful blisters inside the mouth on tongue and gums (may appear on hands and feet) | | GP | Attend school while monitoring symptoms |
| **Head lice** | Itchy scalp (may be worse at night) | | Pharmacy | |
| **Impetigo** | Clusters of red bumps or blisters surrounded by area of redness | | GP | Back to school when lesions crust or 48 hours after start of antibiotics |
| **Measles** | Fever, cough, runny nose, watery inflamed eyes, rash | | GP | Back to school four days from on-set of rash, and if feeling well enough |
| **Ringworm** | Red ring shaped rash, may be itchy, rash may be dry and scaly or wet and crusty | | Pharmacy | |
| **Scabies** | Itching rash, commonly between fingers, wrists, elbows, arm | | GP | Back to school after first treatment |
| **Scarlet fever** | Fever, unwell, red tongue, sandpaper rash | | GP | Exclusion period during first 24 hours of antibiotics* |
| **Shingles** | Pain, itching, or tingling along the affected nerve pathway. Blister-type rash | | GP | Only stay off school if rash is weeping and cannot be covered |
| **Sickness bug/ diarrhoea** | Stomach cramps, nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea | | Pharmacy | Contact GP if symptoms persist after 48 hours |
| **Threadworms** | Intense itchiness around anus | | Pharmacy | Ensure good hand hygiene |
| **Tonsilitis/ Strep throat** | Intense sore throat for more than 1 day | | Pharmacy | See GP if temperature lasts more than 48 hours or cannot swallow . Only need to stay off school if feeling too unwell |
| **Whooping cough** | Violent coughing, with a 'whoop' | | GP | Exclusion period during first five days of antibiotics |
| **Covid** | | | | Visit www.nhs.uk for latest guidance |

*Attend school while monitoring symptoms.

This information is a guide and has been checked by health professionals. If you are unsure about your child's wellbeing, we recommend you contact your pharmacy or GP to check.

**Should my child go to school/nursery today?**
**Hertfordshire and West Essex Healthier Together for further information**
**https://www.hwehealthiertogether.nhs.uk/parentscarers**

Working in partnership with

NHS

Essex County Council

# Job of the Week:
## Voice Actor



### What does a Voice Actor do?

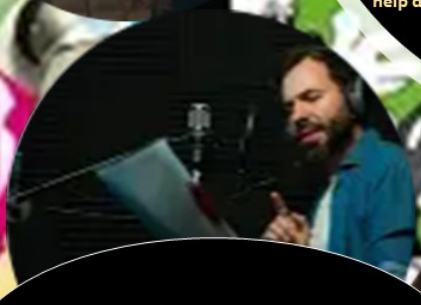
A voice actor is a performer who uses their voice to bring characters, narrate stories, or provide spoken content without appearing on screen.

Key Responsibilities:

- Voice actors work in many areas, including: Animation – voicing cartoon and anime characters.
- Video games – performing character dialogue, battle cries, and emotional scenes.
- Audiobooks – narrating books and often portraying multiple characters.
- Commercials – advertising products or services on TV, radio, and online.
- Documentaries – providing narration.
- Dubbing – replacing dialogue in films or TV shows with another language.
- E-learning and corporate videos – recording training materials and instructional content.

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

- No formal qualifications required for many freelance or entry-level voice acting jobs. GCSEs (or equivalent), especially in English and Drama, can be helpful.
- A-levels or a Level 3 qualification in Performing Arts, Drama, or Media may improve your skills and opportunities.
- A degree in Acting, Drama, Performing Arts, or Theatre is useful but not essential. Professional training through acting schools or voice-over workshops can help develop techniques.



### Labour Market Information

- +0.2% 1,593 jobs
- -5.8% in your region of East of England, a decrease of 4,201 jobs

### Let's Talk Money

UK annual median:
£24,249



# WORD OF THE WEEK

# EXPLORATION

The action of traveling in or through an unfamiliar area in order to learn about it.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LUGANDA (Luganda) | Okunoonyereza | (oh-koo-noon-yeh-REH-za) |
| ROMANIAN (Română) | Explorare | (ex-plo-RAH-reh) |
| PORTUGUESE (Português) | Exploração | (ex-plo-ra-SAUN) |

Different languages, shared understanding. EVERY VOICE MATTERS.

ASPIRE - BELIEVE - ACHIEVE