

## Dates for the Diary

### Bank Holiday

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2026

### Year 8 AP2 Assessments

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> - Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2026

### Year 9 AP2 Assessments

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> - Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2026

### Half Term

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May - Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2026

### Year 9 AP2 Assessments

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> - Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2026

## Student Value of the Term

**CLIMATE CHANGE  
IS REAL**

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



191,427  
ALI



175,342  
SEACOLE



164,870  
AUSTEN



156,651  
HAWKING

## A Clear Focus on Mobile Phones: Supporting Learning, Wellbeing and Culture

As part of our continued drive to strengthen culture and community across the school, we are placing a renewed and explicit focus on our mobile phone expectations.

Our position is simple: **mobile phones should be not seen, not heard during the school day.**

This approach is fully aligned with the direction set by the Department for Education, which has been clear in its guidance to schools: limiting mobile phone use is essential to improving behaviour, safeguarding students, and ensuring classrooms remain focused learning environments.

We appreciate the strong support many of you have already shown in reinforcing this expectation-it is making a real difference.

**Why this matters** - Removing mobile phones from the school day is not about being restrictive-it is about creating the very best environment for young people to thrive. Research and national guidance highlight several key benefits:

- 1. Improved focus and learning** - Mobile phones are one of the biggest distractions for students. Without them, students are more engaged in lessons, able to concentrate for longer, and more likely to achieve their potential.
- 2. Better behaviour and fewer disruptions** - Phones can often be at the centre of low-level disruption and conflict. Removing them helps create calmer classrooms where teachers can teach and students can learn without interruption.
- 3. Safer school environment** - Limiting phone use reduces the risks associated with social media, including online conflict spilling into school, filming incidents, and safeguarding concerns. It allows staff to deal with issues quickly and appropriately.
- 4. Stronger relationships and social interaction** - When phones are away, students talk to each other. We are already seeing more positive interactions, improved friendships, and a stronger sense of community across social times.
- 5. Supporting wellbeing** - Constant notifications and online pressures can impact students' mental health. Time away from phones during the school day provides a valuable break and supports overall wellbeing.

**Working together** - Our expectations are clear and consistent for all students, and we will continue to apply them firmly and fairly. Where phones are seen or heard, sanctions will be applied in line with our behaviour policy.

However, the success of this approach relies on strong partnership with you. You can support us by:

- Ensuring your child understands the school's expectations before they leave home
- Encouraging them to keep phones switched off and out of sight
- Reinforcing the importance of focusing on learning during the school day

If there is a genuine need to contact your child during the day, please do so via the school office-we will always ensure messages are passed on promptly.

## Home Learning

If you have any queries regarding home learning, including access issues or, please visit the [Contact Us](#) page via the Basildon Lower Academy website and select the option for Home Learning/Homework.

## Student Portal

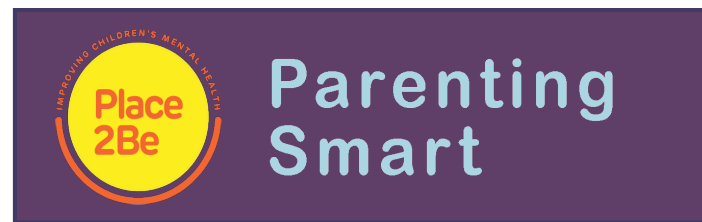
Within the Student Portal, you will find links to a range of resources and learning platforms that students can access to support their studies. The main page, which provides access to all key links, can be found here: [Student Portal](#)

Accessing the Student Portal also enables single sign-on, meaning students do not need any additional passwords for platforms such as SENECA. Students simply log in to the portal in the same way they would when logging in to a school computer.

## 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.



## 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)

## Aspire - Believe - Achieve



## 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 SEND Department - Ground Floor Blue Block



## Online Safety Hub: Dealing With Digital Disobedience

In today's digital world, young people may sometimes ignore rules around screen time, app use, or online behaviour, which can expose them to risks and impact their wellbeing. [Click here](#) to access information and support on managing digital disobedience, including practical advice for setting boundaries and encouraging safe, responsible online habits.

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: [The Basildon Academies Online Safety Hub](#)



## Enhanced Outdoor Dining Facilities Unveiled

We are delighted to announce the expansion of our outdoor dining facilities with the addition of a second Food Pod, an extended paved seating area, and a permanent wooden gazebo.

Building on the success of our existing provision, this latest investment enhances an already popular space, creating a more comfortable and accessible environment for students to enjoy their meals. The two Food Pods are now conveniently located together, complemented by the newly extended picnic and seating area.

The facility provides quick and convenient access to hot food, drinks, and a range of 'grab-and-go' options available at both break and lunchtime.

This development forms part of our ongoing commitment to improving the student experience and reducing queues in the main dining areas, while offering additional space for students to socialise and relax.

We look forward to seeing students make the most of this fantastic new facility.



## Constantin Recognised for Outstanding Effort with Jack Petchey Award

Year 8 student Constantin.T is the latest recipient of the prestigious Jack Petchey Achievement Award, recognising his outstanding effort, resilience, and positive contribution to school life.

Constantin has consistently demonstrated an excellent attitude to learning, showing determination and enthusiasm across all of his lessons. He is a fantastic role model to his peers, always setting a high standard through his behaviour, effort, and willingness to support others.

Having overcome challenges, Constantin's journey is particularly inspiring. He approaches every lesson with a positive mindset, always taking on board feedback from his teachers and using it to make continued progress. His commitment to improvement has seen him become one of the highest achievers in the school for gaining achievement credits.

Beyond the classroom, Constantin is an enthusiastic member of the school's Gardening Club, where he continues to contribute positively to the wider school community.

Speaking about receiving the award, Constantin said:

"The award is really good and I am excited about attending the awards ceremony later in the year where my parents will be super happy to see me receive my award. I want to spend the prize money to help everyone, maybe additional art supplies

Constantin's dedication, resilience and kindness make him a thoroughly deserving recipient of the award. We are incredibly proud of his achievements and look forward to seeing his continued success in the future.



## 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

## Year 9 Take Part in Employability Masterclass

Last week, the Lower Academy welcomed visitors from Young Enterprise to deliver an engaging Employability Masterclass for Year 9 students.

The session began with an icebreaker activity that encouraged students to recognise their skills and personal qualities, helping them understand how to present themselves confidently in future applications.

Students then explored how to build their personal “brand,” identifying strengths, positive traits, and passions through discussion with their peers. This led into a focus on key employability skills, brought to life through real-world examples shared by the visitors, highlighting the importance of adaptability, communication, and initiative in the workplace.

The workshop also provided practical guidance on CV writing. Students considered how to showcase their achievements, responsibilities, and interests effectively, before beginning to draft their own CVs using provided templates.

A session on digital footprint reinforced the importance of managing an online presence, with students learning how social media can influence future opportunities and how to present themselves positively online.

The workshop concluded with an interactive interview skills session, where students took part in role-play scenarios and discussed what makes a strong candidate, before reflecting on their future goals and aspirations.

“I found it interesting and helpful for the future because we saw different types of demonstrations and CV styles. It showed me how to approach challenges and made me think about my goals and how I present myself.” – Victory.A

“They helped us understand what we need to do to achieve our goals. The visitors were very helpful, and I hope many of us benefit from this experience.” – Josh.S

“I think the workshop was helpful and showed me what I will need to do to prepare for a future job interview. I liked hearing about their experiences and how they engaged with us. It was something different from a normal school day and made me feel more prepared for the future.” Annie.F

“I think it was very helpful for what I want to do in the future. I will use it to help me with my CV and interviews. The speakers were engaging, and it was really useful hearing about their real-life experiences. The booklet helped me practise writing my CV and think about my skills and what I need to improve.” – Sonny.O



## Making Dreams Come True at Basildon Police Station

Earlier this school year, Year 7 student James.B had the exciting opportunity to visit Basildon Police Station alongside his dad, fulfilling a very special wish.

James aspires to become a police officer when he is older, and during his visit, he was given a memorable insight into the role. Thanks to the kindness of PC Hope, James was invited to sit in a police car, activate the sirens and blue lights, and explore other vehicles within the police fleet.

The experience brought his ambitions to life and provided a valuable glimpse into the world of policing. It was a moment James will cherish for years to come.

We extend our sincere thanks to Basildon Police and PC Hope for making James’s dream a reality.



## 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)

# 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	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 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
	<p><b>Before School</b> 7.30am-8.15am</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Girls Basketball &amp; Netball</li> </ul>	<p><b>Before School</b> 7.30am-8.15am</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Girls Football</li> <li>• Year 7 Boys Football</li> </ul>	<p><b>Before School</b> 7.30am-8.15am</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Track Athletics</li> </ul>	<p><b>Before School</b> 7.30am-8.15am</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Year 8/9 Boys Football</li> </ul>

# BASILDON ACADEMIES

## WORD OF THE DAY

20<sup>th</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> April 2026

Monday:	<b>Conductive (adjective)</b> thuận lợi in Vietnamese – making a situation likely or possible. <i>A quiet room is conducive to concentration.</i>	
Tuesday:	<b>Jubilant (adjective)</b> gorfoleddus in Welsh – feeling or expressing great happiness. <i>Crowds were jubilant during the celebrations.</i>	
Wednesday:	<b>Sustainable (adjective)</b> luy wáy in Wolof – able to be maintained at a steady level. <i>Sustainable energy is crucial for the future.</i>	
Thursday:	<b>Rhetoric (noun)</b> irhethoric in Xhosa – persuasive or effective speaking or writing. <i>Shakespeare's rhetoric has echoed for centuries.</i>	
Friday:	<b>Epistolary (adjective)</b> epistolar in Romanian – relating to letters or letter-writing. <i>Dracula is an epistolary novel.</i>	

## Job of the Week: Mechatronics Engineer

### What does a Mechatronics Engineer do?

A Mechatronics Engineer designs and develops intelligent systems by combining mechanical engineering, electronics, computer science, and robotics. They help create automated machines and smart technology used in factories, cars, and robotics.

#### Key Responsibilities

- Designing automated systems and robotic machines
- Programming control systems
- Testing and improving mechanical and electronic components
- Troubleshooting technical problems
- Working with software and sensors

#### Labour Market Information

- +41.4% 897,801 jobs
- +40.8% in your region of East of England, an increase of 89,463 jobs



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

#### Typical Entry Requirements:

- Degree in Mechatronics Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, or Electrical Engineering
- Strong maths and problem-solving skills
- Knowledge of programming (e.g., Python, C++)
- Understanding of robotics and automation
- Teamwork and communication skills

### Let's Talk Money

UK annual median:  
£51,110

TA's are deployed according to the needs of the children and TA's are encouraged to use their own interests and strengths. Support in the classroom is effective and pupils spoke about this very positively, "they help explain things better", another pupil articulated, "I feel confident in the classroom, TA's help me to get through school".



Best Practice with  
Teaching Assistants Award

2023-2026

Follow The Basildon Lower Academy on our social media channels



# Enrichment Clubs Timetable

Club Name	Day	Room Number
Creative Writing Club	Tuesday	B12
Poetry Club	Tuesday	B16
Science Club (Year 7 Only)	Tuesday	O12
Science Club (Year 8 Only)	Tuesday	G12
Science Revision Club (Year 9 Only)	Tuesday	B14
Chess Club	Tuesday	O16
Art Club – Pop Art & Mixed Media (Year 7 Only)	Tuesday	O2
Art Club – Ceramics & Graphics (Year 7 Only)	Tuesday	O1
Scale Model Club	Tuesday	B18
Literacy Leaders (Year 7 Only)	Wednesday	B12
English Revision (Year 9 Only)	Wednesday	B15
Science Club (Year 9 Only)	Wednesday	G10
Science Revision Club (Year 8 Only)	Wednesday	G11
STEM Club	Wednesday	B3
Reading Eggs	Wednesday	O11
Art Club (Years 8 & 9 Only)	Wednesday	O3
Maths Club	Wednesday	B8
Debate Club	Thursday	B12
Reading Club (Year 7 Only)	Thursday	B13
Science Revision Club (Year 7 Only)	Thursday	G16
World Film Club	Thursday	O17
Scratch Club	Thursday	B11
Scale Model Club	Thursday	B18

**Enrichment sessions take place from 3.00pm–3.30pm.**