



LOWER ACADEMY

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UPPER ACADEMY

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Wednesday 1st October 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Last week, our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and I met with groups of students to hear their views on how their return to school has been and to gather feedback on what is working well and where we can improve.

We are pleased to share the following updates based on their input:

- Students are **positive about the new school day**, especially the shorter lessons and Tutor Time.
- They **value in-person assemblies**, recognising them as an important part of building our school community.
- Many students **praised the support they receive from teachers**, particularly during lessons.
- **Sixth Form students requested more time with teachers rather than independent study**, and we are pleased to have been able to make this change—which has been very well received.
- The "**Mindful Minute**", a key part of our lesson structure, is appreciated for promoting wellbeing and helping students to reset and focus.
- Students are pleased with the **additional outdoor food area**, and we continue to work on reducing queue times further.
- Students in Years 10, 11 and 13 have offered to speak to Year 9 students at The Basildon Lower Academy about the importance of the start of their GCSE journey and the options process. They are keen to remind them that "every minute counts."
- Year 10 students described the **transition from the Lower to Upper Academy as smooth and supportive** and have recommended we retain the same approach this year.
- While some students suggested introducing a **juice bar** in the outdoor food area, this is not currently feasible due to low demand. However, we will continue to monitor interest.
- There were **requests for faster computers**, and students have noted their appreciation for the newer devices particularly in French lessons. Our ongoing IT upgrade programme will continue to address this.
- Students have asked for **more charity events and tangible rewards**, which we are actively exploring with their input.
- They also requested **greater consistency in lessons**, and we are supporting staff to ensure clear and consistent routines are in place across the school.
- One of the most encouraging developments has been the impressive number of **reward credits** students are earning. These now also recognise learning characteristics such as being **ready, responsible, and resilient**, and it is fantastic to see so many students being acknowledged for their positive attitudes and behaviour.
- At the Lower Academy, we have introduced a **student services area**, and we are looking to implement a similar yet tailored version at the Upper Academy to support students with concerns such as uniform.

By listening to our students and acting on their feedback, we continue to embed a strong sense of community and a supportive school environment where every student feels heard, valued, and empowered.

Yours sincerely

R Rees
Headteacher The Basildon Upper Academy

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