# The Basildon Upper Academy
# Newsletter • 2nd November 2026

## Dates for the Diary

**Year 13 AP1 Assessments**
Monday 9th - Friday 20th November 2026

**Christmas Showcase**
Thursday 10th December 2026

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

**Staff Inset - Non Student Day**
Monday 4th January 2027

**First Day of Spring Term**
Tuesday 5th January 2027




## House Points - Week Ending 23rd October

| 45,814 | 42,092 | 41,895 | 38,824 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Seacole | Ali | Hawking | Austen |

# Leadership Message

This academic year we have changed the structure of our lessons based upon research from cognitive science to ensure that we give the best possible structure for students to be successful. They follow a structure of:

· **Retrieval Practice** – beginning each lesson to help students remember past knowledge or skills and support it becoming secure in their long-term memory

· **Learning Intentions** – we share the learning intentions for the lesson so that students know what they are learning, why and the success criteria

· **I Do** – this part of the lesson is where the teacher models their thinking and explains new knowledge or skills in small steps

· **We Do** – the students then have a chance to apply their learning with the support from the teacher

· **You Do –** when the students are ready to practice and apply what they have learnt independently

Before moving through the stages of the lesson, teachers will also use checks for understanding. These could be **Hinge Questions** to see if the class are ready to move on, or if further explanation needs to be given.

We also use **Show Me Boards**, these are mini whiteboards that the students hold up at the same time so teachers can see everyone's answer at the same time. This then supports the teacher in helping individual students who may need a further explanation or show that the whole class need to re-visit a key part of the learning.



Our aim is to build on the students' achievements from Key Stage 3 and to ensure key knowledge and skills are taught through carefully sequenced lessons, to fully prepare them for the challenges of Key Stage 5 and beyond and, develop them as life-long learners.

**S.Szuszkiewicz**
**Deputy Headteacher**

# Logan Wins Prize at Basildon Skills Show

Congratulations to Year 13 student Logan.K, who recently won first place in the quiz prize draw at the Basildon Skills Show.

Logan impressed the organisers with her answer to the tie-breaker question, explaining which stall had inspired her and why. Her efforts were rewarded with a £50 Amazon voucher, presented by Cllr Alex Myers, who visited The Basildon Upper Academy especially to present the prize.

The Basildon Skills Show is an annual event that gives young people the opportunity to explore a wide range of career paths, training opportunities and further education options, helping them consider the possibilities for their future.

Well done to Logan on this fantastic achievement!



# Basildon Academies Sixth Form

## A Level Geography



Geography is unique in that it helps students to see the world as a whole instead of split up into subject boxes. Geography examines the complex interaction of people and their natural environment and helps understand that decisions and actions will have an impact on the world. Geographers study the world at a local level and at an international level and bring together global political decisions, natural events and changes in lifestyles.

Full course information can be found by visiting the following link on our website: A Level Geography

## Supporting Child 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.

Place 2Be Parenting Smart

Explore helpful resources here: https://parentingsmart.place2be.org.uk/

## 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

# Safeguarding



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

We know that family life can sometimes be challenging. If you or your child needs help, support, or advice, we are here. No problem is too big or too small, and we will always support families with kindness, care and without judgement.

We work closely with a range of services to make sure children and families get the right help at the right time. This may include school nurses, health professionals, counsellors, mentors, family support workers and Children's Social

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

## 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




## Aspire - Believe - Achieve



# Extra-Curricular Sports Timetable

| | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Before School**<br>7.30am-8.20am | | | | | Cross Country<br><br>Netball<br>Year 10 & 11 |
| **Lunch Time**<br>12.15pm-12.50pm | Table Tennis | GCSE Badminton | | GCSE Badminton | |
| **After School**<br>3pm-4pm | | Basketball | | Tag Rugby /Rugby Core Skills<br><br>Football | GCSE Netball |

Must Have Full PE Kit - Football Training Requires Shinpads

## School Catering Information




Looking for our latest lunch and break time menus, as well as current prices?

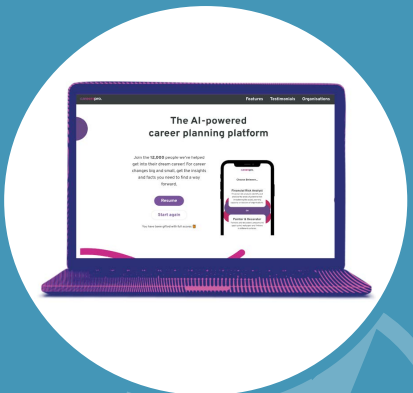
All catering information can be found on our Catering page:

https://www.basildonupperacademy.org.uk/catering

Here you can view:
- Lunch menus
- Break time menus
- Food and drink prices
- Information about our catering provision

We encourage students and parents/carers to check the page regularly for the latest menu options.

## Careers Pro: Helping Your Child Explore Future Pathways




Help your child feel confident about their future with Careers Pro, an interactive online platform that matches young people with careers suited to their interests, skills, and personality.

Through a fun quiz, your child will receive personalised career suggestions and learn what each role involves. They can also add their current skills or experiences, and Careers Pro will highlight where these can be transferred into different career paths.

The platform outlines all the possible routes into each career — from GCSEs, A Levels, and university to apprenticeships, short courses, and work experience — helping you and your child understand every option available.

With Careers Pro, your child can explore their potential and make informed decisions about their future.

Please click the link to access: https://www.careerspro.co.uk/the-basildon-upper-academy

# Absence Procedures

Please let us know as soon as possible if your child is unable to attend school, ideally by 8am, by email to upperattendance@basildonacademies.org.uk or by calling **01268 498882.**




- 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.basildonupperacademy.org.uk/attendance

ARRIVE IN TIME TO BE HERE TO ATTEND 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.




# Online Safety Hub: Understanding Spotify

Spotify is a popular music streaming platform, but some content may include explicit lyrics or themes that are not suitable for younger listeners. Parents and carers can read this guide to learn more about Spotify's features and how to help young people use the platform safely: Spotify – Online Safety Hub

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: Online Safety Hub - The Basildon Academies

# Job of the Week:
## Astrophysicist



### What does an Astrophysicist do?

An astrophysicist studies the universe and the laws of physics that explain how stars, planets, galaxies, black holes and other celestial objects form, behave and evolve.

Key Responsibilities:

- Researching stars, planets, galaxies and black holes.
- Analysing data from telescopes, satellites and space missions.
- Using computer models and simulations to test scientific theories.
- Publishing research findings in scientific journals.
- Working with international teams on space research projects.
- Presenting findings at conferences and universities.
- Teaching students if working in higher education.

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

- Most employers will expect you to have a degree in physics, applied physics or a related science or engineering subject. You may also need a relevant postgraduate qualification like an:
- MSc
- MPhil
- PhD
- Mphys

If you don't have a background in science, you could take a one-year foundation course.





### Labour Market Information

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

### Let's Talk Money

UK annual median:
£55,518

# BASILDON ACADEMIES WORD OF THE DAY

**2nd – 6th November 2026**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Monday: | **Civil Rights Movement (noun) Harakati za haki za kiraia in Swahili**<br>*Definition:* A movement in the 1950s and 1960s in the United States aimed at ending racial discrimination and ensuring equa l rights for African Americans.<br>*Example:* Black History Month commemorates key figures of the Civil Rights Movement, like Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who fought for justice and equality. |  |
| Tuesday: | **Segregation (noun) Kwehlukana in Zulu**<br>*Definition:* The enforced separation of different racial groups in a country, community, or establishment.<br>*Example:* Black History Month reflects on the harmful effects of segregation and celebrates the heroes who fought to dismantle these unjust systems. |  |
| Wednesday: | **Pan-Africanism (noun) Upanafrika in Swahili**<br>*Definition:* The belief that African peoples, both on the continent and in the diaspora, share a common history and destiny and should unite for political, economic, and social progress.<br>*Example:* Pan-Africanism is a key topic during Black History Month, as it highlights the global unity of African descendants. |  |
| Thursday: | **Reparations (noun) Malipo ya fidia in Swahili**<br>*Definition:* The compensation provided to individuals or communities who have suffered harm, particularly in the context of the descendants of enslaved Africans seeking financial or social compensation for the injustices of slavery.<br>*Example:* Discussions about reparations for African Americans often take center stage during Black History Month, highlighting the lasting impact of slavery and systemic racism. |  |
| Friday: | **Patrimony (noun) Patrimoine in Wolof**<br>*Definition:* Patrimony refers to property or assets inherited from one's ancestors or heritage. It can also refer to cultural or historical heritage passed down through generations.<br>*Example:* The museum's collection of ancient artifacts is a testament to the rich patrimony of the region, preserving the traditions and history of past generations. |  |

FOLLOW US

# URBAN MOTION

AGES 10-18 | FREE

**Mondays | 4:30pm - 6pm**
Basildon Youth Centre
16-20 Southernhay, ***BASILDON***
SS14FN

**Thursdays | 4:30pm - 6pm**
Arts Outburst, Floor 2,
Thameside Complex,
Orsett Road, ***GRAYS,*** RM17 5DX

Urban Motion is a **youth-led programme for 10–18's** who are ready to **move, create, and try new things**. From parkour and spray painting to hip hop dance, circus skills, music production, DJing, and physical theatre – it's all about urban street energy, creativity, and expression.
**And the best part? You're in charge.**

Urban Motion was created at our Grays HQ back in 2025. The new Basildon edit is built from their vision **– and now it's your turn to make it your own.**



Get involved **all year** with **weekly sessions**, holiday **drop-ins**, **open studios**, and **public takeovers – where your ideas lead the way.**

NOT JUST A WORKSHOP. IT'S A CREW, A MOVEMENT, FIND YOUR VOICE, BUILD CONFIDENCE AND SHOW WHAT YOU'VE GOT.

Essex County Council
YOUTH SERVICE

**Find out more and book online**
www.artsoutburst.co.uk/whats-on

arts outburst

# School Nurse Drop-in

## Basildon Upper Academy Drop-in:
## Monday Breaks & Lunchtimes Medical Room

### Awkward Topics...

- Sexual Health & Sex Relationships
- Drugs & Alcohol
- Smoking
- Sexuality

### Confidentiality

You can talk to me in confidence at drop-in about things you're worried about, but maybe don't want to talk about with other adults

### Support with

- Emotional & Physical health
- Exam Stress
- Friendship issues

### Just Drop-in at break or lunchtime

School nurse door is open at break and lunchtimes for pupils to drop in

## School Nurse Info...

- Lauren Collins
- NMC Registered Nurse
- Safeguarding Support
- Allan Ersser
- Child and Young Person Practitioner

hcrg Care Group

Believe in children Barnardo's