



# The Basildon Upper Academy Newsletter

2<sup>nd</sup> February 2026

## Dates for the Diary

### Year 12 AP1 Assessments

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> - Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2026

### Children's Mental Health Week

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> - Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2026

### National Apprenticeship Week

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> - Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2026

### Year 13 AP2 Assessments

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> - Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026

### Half Term

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> - Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2026

## Student Value of the Term

**KINDNESS IS EVERYTHING**

## House Points - Week Ending 30<sup>th</sup> January



78,070  
SEACOLE



77,838  
AUSTEN



68,116  
HAWKING



65,313  
ALI

## Leadership Message - Sixth Form Updates and Key Milestones

Our Year 12 Sixth Form students have made an excellent start to their academic journey. This week marks an important milestone as our Advanced Pathway students begin their first experiences of A Level examinations. These assessments provide a valuable opportunity for students to showcase the progress they have made since joining the Sixth Form and to reflect on the skills and knowledge they are continuing to build.

We are also looking forward to our upcoming **UCAS University and Apprenticeship Fair in London on 23<sup>rd</sup> March**. This event is always a significant part of the Sixth Form calendar, encouraging students to think carefully about their future destinations and the next steps in their academic or professional pathways.

Meanwhile, our Year 13 students are entering the final stages of their courses. Their final formal assessment point begins on **9<sup>th</sup> February** and takes place over two weeks, with half term in between. These assessments will give a clear indication of their current progress and provide every opportunity for them to refine their understanding and close any remaining gaps in their learning. We are incredibly proud of their continued determination and wish them every success during this important period.



A reminder that **Sixth Form applications remain open**, and we strongly encourage students to submit their applications promptly to secure their interview. Applications can be completed online.

The Sixth Form team wishes all our students the very best as they continue their journey towards future success.

**K.McCarthy - Assistant Headteacher Key Stage 5**

## Parent Drop In - Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February

This week's Parent Drop In will be on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February between 10.30am and 11.30am.

There will be no need to book an appointment, just sign in at reception and staff will be happy to show you to the venue. There is no set topic for the drop in sessions, if we are not able to answer any specific questions, we will follow up and then feedback to you. Please note, if your matter is of a confidential nature, we kindly ask that you call the school to arrange a separate appointment, as parent drop-in sessions are not intended for one-to-one discussions.



## Students of the Week

Congratulations to the following students who have been awarded Student of the Week for week commencing 19<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

- ★ Year 10 - Declan.P (R10U1)
- ★ Year 11 - Boglarka.B (R11E1)
- ★ Sixth Form - Olaoluwa.E (R1213)

## 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.basildonupperacademy.org.uk/safeguarding](http://www.basildonupperacademy.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 Upper Academy website and select the option for Home Learning/Homework.

## Online Safety Hub: Demystifying the Dark Web

In an increasingly digital world, young people may come across online terms and spaces that can be confusing or concerning. It is important that parents and carers understand what the dark web is, how it differs from the surface and deep web, and the potential risks associated with it. [Click here](#) to access information and guidance to help demystify the dark web.

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](#)

## Spotlight on: NCFE Level 1 Early Years Practitioner



If you are interested in pursuing a career which involves working with other people, whether this is within a Hospital and Healthcare setting, then this is the course for you!

It develops the knowledge and awareness of the types of provision in the Health, Social Care and Children's and Young People's sectors. It includes the roles played by workers, from principles and values through to health and safety and working with others. The content is also aligned with the knowledge and skills required for the Adult Care Worker and Healthcare Support Worker roles and pathways

Full course information can be found by visiting the following link on our website: [NCFE Level 1 Early Year Practitioner](#)

# Aspire - Believe - Achieve



## Important Notice: Smoke and Vape-Free Policy

The Basildon Academies is a smoke and vape free organisation. This prohibits the use of all tobacco products and e-cigarettes on, or in, any Basildon Academy property. This is in place to protect staff, students, and visitors from the effects of second-hand smoke in its buildings and grounds.

Please be reminded that parents and visitors are not permitted to use any smoking products on the grounds of the academies, this includes in our carparks.



# Year 11 Build Skills and Confidence Through PET-Xi Intervention Week

Last week, the Upper Academy welcomed PET-Xi to deliver a series of targeted intervention workshops for Year 11 students in English, Maths and Science.

Throughout the week, students worked closely with PET-Xi's expert tutors, taking part in focused sessions designed to strengthen understanding of key topics. Tutors used a range of engaging teaching methods, including interactive activities and subject-related games, to support learning and build students' confidence in a positive and supportive environment.

The intervention sessions gave students the opportunity to revisit challenging areas, ask questions and consolidate their knowledge ahead of upcoming assessments. Student feedback highlighted how the workshops were both informative and enjoyable, helping to make complex topics clearer while reducing exam-related stress.



"I found the intervention really helpful because they were taught at a good pace and had a great balance between work and fun. I now feel like I'm on track to achieve my target grade, or higher, in Chemistry." Rebecca.B

"The PET-Xi session was engaging and enjoyable. I learned things that I didn't fully understand before, but now the topics make sense. The tutors explained everything really clearly, and the games were fun and helped me to understand Chemistry better." Esther.N

"The sessions were really good. The tutors were kind and helpful, and I liked how they explained everything in detail while also making it more understandable. They included small jokes linked to the subject, which made it fun. I would recommend them to other schools because they make learning easy, engaging and not stressful." Victoria.S

"The intervention was useful because they helped me understand areas of Science that I didn't know before, while still being fun and engaging. The tutors were enthusiastic and very knowledgeable about the subject." Amy.A

## The Importance of Securing Year 10 Work Experience

The Work Experience process for our current Year 10 students has officially begun. All key information, guidance, and forms can now be found on our website: [www.basildonupperacademy.org.uk/year-10-work-experience-2026](http://www.basildonupperacademy.org.uk/year-10-work-experience-2026)

We strongly encourage parents and students to review the details together and begin the process of securing a placement as early as possible. Early preparation ensures a smoother experience and increases the likelihood of obtaining an ideal placement.



## Recognising Achievement in Work Experience

On Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January, Year 11 students were presented with certificates to recognise and celebrate the commitment, responsibility and skills they demonstrated during their Year 10 work experience placements last school year. The placements provided students with valuable exposure to real working environments, helping them to develop key employability skills such as communication, teamwork, time management and professionalism.

During the presentation, certificates were awarded to students who fully participated and met the expectations set by their placement providers. Mr Williams, Careers Leader, congratulated the students on their achievements and highlighted the importance of work experience in preparing for further education, apprenticeships and future employment.

The certificate presentations served as a positive reinforcement of students' efforts and encouraged them to continue developing the skills gained from their work experience.



## Criminology Students Gain Insight from Metropolitan Police Officer

Year 12 and Year 13 Criminology students recently welcomed a Detective Constable from the Metropolitan Police, who spoke about his 27-year career within the force and policing more broadly.

During the session, the visiting officer shared insights into the wide range of roles he had undertaken throughout his career, as well as the realities of working in policing. He spoke openly about his experiences, including the process of handling crime scenes and the challenges faced by officers in the line of duty.



Students were given the opportunity to ask questions and explore different aspects of policing and criminal investigation. The discussion encouraged curiosity and critical thinking, with the detective answering questions wherever appropriate and providing an honest and engaging account of life in the police service.

Mrs Butler, Criminology Teacher, who organised the visit, praised students for their attentiveness and the quality of their questions, and expressed her gratitude to the Metropolitan Police officer for taking the time to visit and share his experiences.

"I liked the insight he gave of what it's like to be a police officer." Micah.M – Year 12

"I really enjoyed the story of the judge with his formal attire in court tackling a defendant who was trying to abscond from court." Ani.G – Year 12

"I thought he was very honest about his experiences, especially the fact that you never get used to things, but just get on with it." Tayo.A – Year 12

# Year 12 AP1, commencing 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2026

AM (9.00am start)

PM (1:30pm start)

Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February	Chemistry	1 hr 30		Accountancy	1 hr 30
	Engineering	1 hr 30			
	English Literature	1 hr 30			
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> February	Computer Science		2 hr 30	Maths Paper 2	1 hr 15
					Biology Paper 1
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> February	Psychology		2 hr	3D Design	2 hr
	Physics Paper 1		2 hr		
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> February	Maths Paper 1		2 hr	3D Design	
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> February	ICT		2 hr		
	Sociology		2 hr		

## 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](mailto: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](http://www.basildonupperacademy.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	1/4 year
90%	19 days	4 weeks	100 lessons	1/2 year
80%	38 days	8 weeks	200 lessons	1 year
70%	59 days	12 weeks	300 lessons	1 1/2 years
60%	80 days	16 weeks	400 lessons	2 years
50%	100 days	20 weeks	500 lessons	2 1/2 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.



# BASILDON ACADEMIES

## WORD OF THE DAY

2<sup>nd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Monday:	<b>Astuteness</b> (noun) οξύωσις in Greek – sharpness and shrewdness. <i>Her astuteness made her an excellent debater.</i>	
Tuesday:	<b>Ebullient</b> (adjective) bouyan in Haitian Creole – cheerful and full of energy. <i>The ebullient crowd cheered for their team.</i>	
Wednesday:	<b>Solidarity</b> (noun) ka lokahi in Hawaiian – unity or agreement of feeling or action. <i>The community showed solidarity in supporting the charity run.</i>	
Thursday:	<b>Inefficiency</b> (noun) אִינְעִילָה in Hebrew – failure to make the best use of resources. <i>The committee was criticised for its inefficiency.</i>	
Friday:	<b>Conciliatory</b> (adjective) मिलाप करनेवाला in Hindi – intended to pacify or bring reconciliation. <i>She adopted a conciliatory tone to ease the tension.</i>	

## Job of the Week: Marine Engineer

### What does a Marine Engineer do?

A marine engineer designs, builds, and maintains the mechanical systems used on ships, boats, and other marine vessels. They work on everything that keeps a vessel running smoothly

#### Day-to-day responsibilities include:

- Shipbuilding, boat-building and repair
- Working in the leisure boat industry
- Designing, building and operating offshore gas and oil platforms
- Marine surveying
- Making sure engines, instruments and systems work safely

#### 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?

You'll usually need an HNC, HND or degree in an engineering subject to get into this career.

#### Relevant subjects include:

- Marine Engineering
- Marine Technology
- Naval Architecture

#### You could also:

train as an engineering technician with the Merchant Navy or Royal Navy, studying for a degree while on the job or get into this career through a marine engineering technician apprenticeship



### Let's Talk Money

UK annual median:  
£48,776



There are a wide range of clubs and opportunities for pupils to contribute to the school and local community, for instance as charity ambassadors. This develops pupils' self-confidence. Well-chosen visitors help pupils learn how to keep themselves safe and healthy.

Follow The Basildon Upper Academy on our social media channels





# 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  
Ersler**

**Child and  
Young Person  
Practitioner**