

Dates for the Diary

Non-uniform/Christmas Jumper Day
Wednesday 20th December 2023

Last Day of Autumn Term
Wednesday 20th December 2023 - *Students finish at 12:30pm*

First Day of Spring Term
Monday 8th January 2024

Year 10 AP1 Assessments
Monday 15th - Friday 26th January 2024

World Religion Day
Sunday 21st January 2024

Student Value of the Term

**NO HUMAN
IS ILLEGAL**

House Points - Week Ending 15th December



9,600
ALI



8,438
AUSTEN



8,215
SEACOLE



7,070
HAWKING

Leadership Message

Pausing for a holiday allows time for reflection. Taking time out of our busy lives to enjoy the festive season gives us time to consider our own impact on those around us. Personally, it has given me the opportunity to recall the work of celebrated creative souls such as Benjamin Zephaniah who sadly passed this month. His poetry and music are a wonderful legacy and with that in mind I have included his ode to the festive season below; a poem about turkeys that highlights an alternative perspective on a traditional Christmas.

I wish you all a happy holiday and a wonderful start to 2024.

R.Rees - Headteacher

Talking Turkeys

by Benjamin Zephaniah

Be nice to yu turkeys dis christmas
Cos' turkeys just wanna hav fun
Turkeys are cool, turkeys are wicked
An every turkey has a Mum.
Be nice to yu turkeys dis christmas,
Don't eat it, keep it alive,
It could be yu mate, an not on your plate
Say, Yo! Turkey I'm on your side.
I got lots of friends who are turkeys
An all of dem fear christmas time,
Dey wanna enjoy it, dey say humans destroyed it
An humans are out of dere mind,
Yeah, I got lots of friends who are turkeys
Dey all hav a right to a life,
Not to be caged up an genetically made up
By any farmer an his wife.

Turkeys just wanna play reggae
Turkeys just wanna hip-hop
Can yu imagine a nice young turkey saying,
'I cannot wait for de chop',
Turkeys like getting presents, dey wanna watch christmas TV,
Turkeys hav brains an turkeys feel pain
In many ways like yu an me.

I once knew a turkey called...Turkey
He said "Benji explain to me please,
Who put de turkey in christmas
An what happens to christmas trees?";
I said "I am not too sure turkey
But it's nothing to do wid Christ Mass
Humans get greedy an waste more dan need be
An business men mek loadsa cash'.

Be nice to yu turkey dis christmas
Invite dem indoors fe sum greens
Let dem eat cake an let dem partake
In a plate of organic grown beans,
Be nice to yu turkey dis christmas
An spare dem de cut of de knife,
Join Turkeys United an dey'll be delighted
An yu will mek new friends 'FOR LIFE'.



Presentation Evening

Congratulations to all of our students who received an award at the Presentation evening last Wednesday. It was lovely to be able to end the year with families and staff in attendance to recognise the achievements of our students.

We look forward to seeing who our award winners will be at our next celebratory event in Easter.







Students of the Week

Congratulations to the following students who have been awarded Student of the Week for week commencing 11th December 2023.

- ★ Year 10 - Jayden.W (R10U2)
- ★ Year 11 - Raul.R (R11T1)
- ★ Sixth Form - Sam.W (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 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

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 General Enquiries.

Aspire - Believe - Achieve

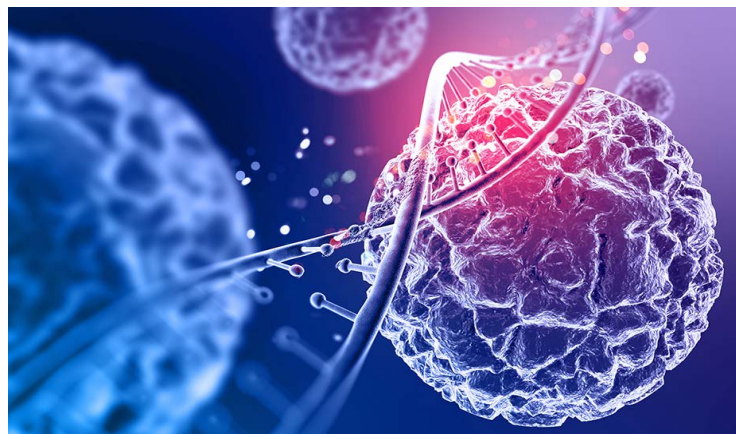
The admin team on both sites are welcoming to visitors and parents and have access to the new EAL translator tools which enable them to speak to each parent or child in their own language when needed.



Leading Parent Partnership Award

2023-2026

Spotlight on: A Level Biology



Biology is at the forefront of some of the exciting and controversial issues in the news today. Publicity surrounding genetic engineering, environmental and medical developments have highlighted the need for an understanding of such issues. Biology is a very popular and valuable subject at A-Level; it involves the development of understanding and techniques that are highly sort after by Further Education and employers.

By exploring the complexities and wonders of nature you will find a whole world of employment awaits you in fields such as medicine, genetics, biochemistry, ecology, environmental science, agriculture, forensics, law, botany, veterinary medicine, sports training and therapy.

Full course information can be found by visiting the following link on our website: [A Level Biology](#)

Applications for September 2024 admissions to our Sixth Form are now open. The online application form can be completed by visiting the following link:

[Sixth Form Apply to Join](#)

THE BASILDON ACADEMIES WORD OF THE DAY

18th December - 20th December 2023

Monday:

Festivities: Festividades in Portuguese Brazil
Celebration or occasion.

Tuesday:

Merriment: विनोद vinod in Hindi
Cheerfulness.

Wednesday:

Joviality: jovialidad in Spanish
Being very happy or merry.

Absence Procedures

To report a student absence please visit the [Contact Us](#) page via the Basildon Upper Academy website and select the option for Attendance.



- 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.
- Parents/carers must provide medical evidence to support all absences due to illness or medical appointments.
- Wherever possible parents/carers should make appointments outside of school hours but if this is unavoidable students should attend school before and after the appointment.
- If no appropriate medical evidence is provided then the Academies cannot authorise an absence. (ie. medical appointment card, prescription, doctor's letter.)

For further information and guidance regarding attendance and absence please visit our website:

www.basildonupperacademy.org.uk/attendance

Categorising attendance and learning hours lost

Descriptor	Threshold attendance	Actual attendance (days)	Whole days absent	Lost learning hours	Level of concern
Excellent	100%	190	0	0	Green
	99%	188	2	10	
Good	98%	186	4	20	Green
	97%	184	6	30	
	96%	182.5	7.5	37.5	
Cause for concern	95%	180.5	9.5	47.5	Orange
	94%	179	11	55	
	93%	177	13	65	
	92%	175	15	75	
	91%	173	17	85	
Unsatisfactory	90%	171	19	95	Red
	89%	169	21	105	
	88%	167	23	115	
	87%	165	25	125	
	86%	163	27	135	
Critical	85%	161.5	28.5	142.5	Red
	84%	159.5	30.5	152.5	
	83%	158	32	160	
	82%	156	34	170	
	81%	154	36	180	
	80%	152	38	190	

Non-uniform/Christmas Jumper Day 20th December

All students are invited to take part in this year's Christmas Jumper Day on the last day of term, Wednesday 20th December.

The Basildon Academies are raising money for Save the Children so we ask that a donation is made from all students participating in non-uniform. Staff will be at the front door with collection buckets to greet the students as they arrive.



The schools RSHE programme is fully compliant but is also adapted to meet the specific needs of the school community. It is taught in discrete weekly timetabled lessons by teachers with an active interest and the skills and expertise to manage open discussions supported by the lead who develops the lesson material and provides training and support for staff.



Excellence in Pupil
Development Award

2023-2026

VEGANUARY MONTH

Throughout January the Dining Hall will
be serving a Vegan Dish of the Day



unicef
UNITED KINGDOM

GOLD - RIGHTS RESPECTING

Wellbeing is prioritised for everyone in the school. As well as extensive curriculum content, the leadership have funded Wellbeing Centres on both sites. This support was spoken of very positively by students. Some have timetabled access but "There are break and lunchtime drop ins... anyone can go for help with any problem...it's very accessible."

Unicef RRSB Accreditation Report Gold: Rights Aware - July 2022

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