The Basildon Upper Academy Newsletter • 5th October 2026

Dates for the Diary

Meet the Tutor - Parent Event
Monday 5th October 2026: 3.15pm-4.30pm

Year 11 AP1 Assessments
Monday 12th - Friday 23rd October 2026

Half Term
Monday 26th - Friday 30th October 2026

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

Last Day of Autumn Term
Friday 18th December 2026

Student Value of the Term

Black Lives Matter

House Points - Week Ending 2nd October

Seacole	Hawking	Ali	Austen
38,770	34,160	35,105	32,703

Celebrating the Positive Start to the Academic Year

Celebrating success is an important part of our Behaviour Curriculum. While having clear expectations and routines is essential, it is equally important that we recognise when students get things right. Every day, our students demonstrate positive attitudes, work hard, show kindness, make good choices and contribute to our school community – and we want these successes to be noticed and celebrated.

We have had a fantastic start to the academic year. As of 25th September, more than 71,000 positive events have already been logged by staff across the school. This is a tremendous achievement and reflects the thousands of positive moments happening in classrooms and around school every day.

Behind every positive event is a student who has done something worthy of recognition. It might be excellent effort or progress in a lesson, producing a great piece of work, demonstrating resilience, helping someone else, or consistently meeting our expectations day in, day out.

As we continue to develop our Behaviour Curriculum, we are looking at even more ways to celebrate success every week. We want recognition to be regular and meaningful, ensuring that students understand that their everyday effort and positive choices matter. Our aim is to celebrate not only exceptional achievements, but also consistency, improvement and the positive contributions that can sometimes go unnoticed.



Planning for our wider rewards programme is also well underway, including our end-of-term Christmas celebrations. These will provide another opportunity to recognise students for their hard work and positive contribution throughout the term, and we look forward to sharing further details in the coming weeks.

With over 71,000 positive events already recorded, there is so much to celebrate. We are incredibly proud of the positive start our students have made and look forward to recognising many more successes throughout the term.

K.Boyce-Charman
Assistant Headteacher & Respect Champion

Upper Academy Officially Recognised as a CPR Smart School



We are delighted to announce that the Basildon Upper Academy has officially been recognised as a 'CPR Smart School', following the successful introduction and expansion of our CPR training programme.

The school has received a CPR Smart School plaque and accreditation, recognising our commitment to ensuring students have the knowledge and confidence to perform CPR and potentially save a life in an emergency.

The journey began last school year, when a group of our Sixth Form students worked with Essex and Herts Air Ambulance to become CPR Smart Champions. The students received specialist training and then took on the important role of sharing their knowledge with others across the Upper Academy.

This school year, the programme has expanded, with more Sixth Form students and students in Year 11 receiving CPR training from our Sixth Form CPR Smart Champions. This student-led approach has enabled more young people to develop this important lifesaving skill while giving our CPR Smart Champions the opportunity to pass on their knowledge to their peers.

We are incredibly proud of the students who have embraced their role as CPR Smart Champions and helped to make CPR training accessible to more members of our school community.

"We found the CPR training really useful because it has taught us an important skill that could one day help us save someone's life." Alvira.K and Yani.F – Year 13

"I really enjoyed the training, especially using the song Smooth Criminal to help keep the right rhythm when performing resuscitation on Annie." Hayden.S – Year 11

Parent Drop In



Our next Parent Drop In will be on Thursday 8th October between 11am and 12pm.

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.

Free October Half Term Clubs with Essex ActivAte



Essex ActivAte half term programmes provide free, fun and engaging activities for eligible children and young people during the October half term break. From sports and crafts to outdoor adventures and more, there are plenty of opportunities to stay active, make friends and try something new, alongside receiving nutritious meals and snacks.

Spaces are limited and can be booked directly with local clubs when they go live, with no Holiday Activities voucher code or referral required.

To find a club near you, visit the Find Your Active Activity Finder on the Active Essex website. Simply select 'Programmes' to view the upcoming half term activities, enter your local area, and book directly with the club using the contact details provided.

Exploring Future Pathways at Our Sixth Form Open Evening

On Thursday 1st October, the Upper Academy was delighted to welcome prospective Sixth Form students and their families to our annual Open Evening.



The event provided an excellent opportunity for visitors to explore the wide range of courses and opportunities available within our Sixth Form. Subject specialist teachers and staff were on hand throughout the evening to discuss courses, answer questions, and provide guidance on future progression routes.

It was wonderful to welcome so many families and showcase all that our Sixth Form has to offer. We were also pleased to have several of our current Sixth Form students supporting the event by representing their departments and sharing their experiences. They were outstanding ambassadors for the Academy, and we are incredibly proud of the confidence, maturity, and enthusiasm they demonstrated.













If you were unable to attend, our Sixth Form offers two distinct pathways designed to support every learner's aspirations:

Advanced Pathway
Offering A Levels and Level 3 Applied General (BTEC) qualifications, this pathway is ideal for students aiming to progress to university, higher education, apprenticeships, or skilled employment.

Foundation Pathway
Providing Level 1 and Level 2 qualifications, this pathway supports students in developing confidence, practical skills, and clear progression routes into further study, training, or employment.

Applications for September entry are now open, and we encourage all prospective students to apply early to secure their place and begin planning their next steps with confidence.

For full details of our Sixth Form courses, pathways, and application process, please visit:
www.basildonupperacademy.org.uk/sixthform

We look forward to welcoming the next generation of Sixth Form students to the Upper Academy and supporting them on their journey towards future success.

Sixth Form Student Profile

Supporting My Ambition for a Career in Policing



Staff at Basildon Upper Academy have assisted me greatly with both my transition to Sixth Form and recommending courses that link with my aspirations.

In the near future, I hope to join Essex Police. I was recommended to take Sociology, a subject that, while I was sceptical at first, I have come to love. The information, support and external groups that have been brought in have been priceless. They have not only taught me about the expectations of the police but also given me realistic pathways to join the force.

I am very grateful to be supported and looked after by such an incredible school.

George.C – Year 12

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.

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.

SPACE (Support for Parents and Carers Essex)

SPACE is part of the Essex SEND Local Offer, providing support from trained Peer Educators with lived experience of raising a child with SEND. They offer parents/carers workshops, online learning opportunities, community events, and a chance to speak with someone who understands.

For more information please visit: SPACE - Supporting Parents and Carers in Essex



Aspire - Believe - Achieve





Safeguarding

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

The Essex Safeguarding Children Board (ESCB) provides information and guidance for parents and carers on a range of safeguarding issues. Their website includes advice and signposts to useful resources to help families understand and respond to concerns relating to children and young people. Parents and carers can access this information at www.escb.co.uk

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

Online Safety: Understanding the Risks of Snapchat



Social media platforms are a regular part of many young people's lives, and it is important that parents and carers are aware of the potential risks they may present. The Children's Society has published a helpful article highlighting some of the risks Snapchat can pose to children and young people, along with guidance to support safe and informed conversations at home.

For further information, please click here: https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/what-we-do/blogs/the-risks-snapchat-poses-to-children

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

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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.



Attendance: Advice on Childhood Illnesses

If your child is absent due to illness, we will assess the reason given against current NHS guidance. Absences that fall outside of this guidance may not be authorised. For example, common colds and minor illnesses do not usually require children to stay at home and will not normally be authorised as an illness absence.

If your child is absent for a significant length of time or has repeated illness absences, we may ask you to provide medical evidence to support the absence. This could include appointment letters, prescription information, hospital documentation, or evidence from a healthcare professional. Where medical evidence is not provided, the absence may remain unauthorised.

We are committed to supporting families and understand that attendance difficulties can happen for many reasons. If your child's attendance falls below 90%, you may be invited to attend an Early Help Support Meeting. This meeting gives us the opportunity to discuss any barriers to attendance and identify support that may help your child attend school more regularly.

Please remember that a build-up of unauthorised absences can lead to schools following the necessary legal attendance procedures. We want to avoid this wherever possible by working together with families to ensure every student has the best possible access to their education

What to do

Advice on childhood illnesses

Go to school; if needed, get treatment as required

Some restrictions for school attendance

Don't go to school and see the GP

What it's called?	What it's like	Going to school	Getting treatment	More advice
Asthma flare up	Worsening of usual symptoms		Follow your care plan	Stay off school if feeling too unwell
Chicken pox	Rash begins as small, red, flat spots that develop into itchy fluid-filled blisters		Pharmacy	Back to school five days after on-set of the rash, or when all lesions are crusted over
Common cold	Runny nose, sneezing, sore throat		Pharmacy	Ensure good hand hygiene
Conjunctivitis	Teary, red, itchy, painful eye(s)		Pharmacy	Try not to touch eye to avoid spreading*
Flu	Fever, cough, sneezing, runny nose, headache body aches and pain, exhaustion, sore throat		Pharmacy	Ensure good hand hygiene*
German measles/ Rubella	Fever, tiredness. Raised, red, rash that starts on the face and spreads downwards		GP	Back to school four days after the rash has started, if feeling well enough. Please let the school know, as pregnant members of staff may be affected.
Glandular fever	High temperature, swollen glands, sore throat; usually more painful than any before		GP	*
Hand, foot & mouth disease	Fever, sore throat, headache, small painful blisters inside the mouth on tongue and gums (may appear on hands and feet)		GP	Attend school while monitoring symptoms
Head lice	Itchy scalp (may be worse at night)		Pharmacy	
Impetigo	Clusters of red bumps or blisters surrounded by area of redness		GP	Back to school when lesions crust or 48 hours after start of antibiotics
Measles	Fever, cough, runny nose, watery inflamed eyes, rash		GP	Back to school four days from on-set of rash, and if feeling well enough
Ringworm	Red ring shaped rash, may be itchy, rash may be dry and scaly or wet and crusty		Pharmacy	
Scabies	Itching rash, commonly between fingers, wrists, elbows, arm		GP	Back to school after first treatment
Scarlet fever	Fever, unwell, red tongue, sandpaper rash		GP	Exclusion period during first 24 hours of antibiotics*
Shingles	Pain, itching, or tingling along the affected nerve pathway. Blister-type rash		GP	Only stay off school if rash is weeping and cannot be covered
Sickness bug/ diarrhoea	Stomach cramps, nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea		Pharmacy	Contact GP if symptoms persist after 48 hours
Threadworms	Intense itchiness around anus		Pharmacy	Ensure good hand hygiene
Tonsilitis/ Strep throat	Intense sore throat for more than 1 day		Pharmacy	See GP if temperature lasts more than 48 hours or cannot swallow . Only need to stay off school if feeling too unwell
Whooping cough	Violent coughing, with a 'whoop'		GP	Exclusion period during first five days of antibiotics
Covid				Visit www.nhs.uk for latest guidance

*Attend school while monitoring symptoms.

This information is a guide and has been checked by health professionals. If you are unsure about your child's wellbeing, we recommend you contact your pharmacy or GP to check.

Should my child go to school/nursery today?
Hertfordshire and West Essex Healthier Together for further information
https://www.hwehealthiertogether.nhs.uk/parentscarers

Working in partnership with

NHS

Essex County Council

Job of the Week:
Voice Actor

What does a Voice Actor do?

A voice actor is a performer who uses their voice to bring characters, narrate stories, or provide spoken content without appearing on screen.

Key Responsibilities:

- Voice actors work in many areas, including: Animation – voicing cartoon and anime characters.
- Video games – performing character dialogue, battle cries, and emotional scenes.
- Audiobooks – narrating books and often portraying multiple characters.
- Commercials – advertising products or services on TV, radio, and online.
- Documentaries – providing narration.
- Dubbing – replacing dialogue in films or TV shows with another language.
- E-learning and corporate videos – recording training materials and instructional content.

Labour Market Information

- +0.2% 1,593 jobs
- -5.8% in your region of East of England, a decrease of 4,201 jobs

What Qualifications do you need to do this job?

- No formal qualifications required for many freelance or entry-level voice acting jobs. GCSEs (or equivalent), especially in English and Drama, can be helpful.
- A-levels or a Level 3 qualification in Performing Arts, Drama, or Media may improve your skills and opportunities.
- A degree in Acting, Drama, Performing Arts, or Theatre is useful but not essential. Professional training through acting schools or voice-over workshops can help develop techniques.







Let's Talk Money

UK annual median: £24,249

BASILDON ACADEMIES WORD OF THE DAY

5th - 9th October 2026
Black History Month

Monday:	**Heritage** (noun) Uchunguzi wa urithi in Swahili *Definition:* Property that is or may be inherited; valued objects and qualities such as cultural traditions passed down from previous generations. *Example:* Black History Month celebrates the rich heritage of African and Caribbean communities.	
Tuesday:	**Diaspora** (noun) Diaspora in Yoruba *Definition:* The dispersion of any people from their original homeland. *Example:* The African diaspora is a key topic during Black History Month events.	
Wednesday:	**Emancipation** (noun) Ukukhululwa in Zulu *Definition:* The fact or process of being set free from legal, social, or political restrictions. *Example:* The emancipation of slaves is a central focus during Black History Month.	
Thursday:	**Activism** (noun) Ushawishi in Swahili *Definition:* The policy or action of using vigorous campaigning to bring about political or social change. *Example:* Activism played a crucial role in advancing civil rights, a topic often discussed during Black History Month.	
Friday:	**Legacy** (noun) Lefa in Sesotho *Definition:* Something handed down by a predecessor. *Example:* Black History Month reminds us of the enduring legacy of figures like Martin Luther King Jr.	

Follow Us

Year 11 AP1, commencing 12th October 2026

	AM (8.55am start)			PM (1:00pm start)	
Monday 12th October	English Lang P1	1 hr 45		Biology Combined P1	1 hr 15
				Biology Triple P1	1 hr 45
Tuesday 13th October	Maths P1	1 hr 30		Geography P1	1 hr 30
				History P1	1 hr
Wednesday 14th October	English Literature 1	1 hr 45		Chemistry Combined P1	1 hr 15
				Chemistry Triple P1	1 hr 45
Thursday 15th October	Maths P2	1 hr 30		GCSE Business P1	1 hr 45
				Engineering Unit 1	1 hr 15
				Computer Science P2	1 hr 45
Friday 16th October	English Language P2	1 hr 45		French Writing	F: 1 hr 10 H: 1 hr 15
Monday 19th October	Catering	1 hr 20		Physics Combined P1	1 Hr 15
	Music Listening	1 hr 30		Physics Triple P1	1 hr 45
	GCSE PE	1 hr 15			
Tuesday 20th October	Maths	1 hr 30		Geography P2	1 hr 30
				History P2	2 hrs
Wednesday 21st October 10.15 start	English Literature 2	2 hr 15			
Thursday 22nd October	Statistics	1 hr 45		Computer Science P1	2 hrs
				GCSE Business P2	1 hr 45
				Psychology P1	1 hr 30
Friday 23rd October	French Reading / Listening	F: 1 hr 30 H: 1 hr 50			
Monday 2nd November	Practical Exams			Practical Exams	
Tuesday 3rd November	Practical Exams			Practical Exams	
Wednesday 4th November	Practical Exams			Practical Exams	
Thursday 5th November	Practical Exams			Practical Exams	
Friday 6th November	Practical Exams			Practical Exams	