

The Basildon Upper Academy Newsletter

6th January 2026

Dates for the Diary

First Day of Spring Term

Tuesday 6th January 2026

Year 10 AP1 Assessments

Monday 19th - Friday 30th January 2026

Year 10 & Year 13 Progress Review Event

Thursday 22nd January 2026: 3.30pm-6.30pm

Year 12 AP1 Assessments

Monday 2nd - Friday 6th February 2026

Half Term

Monday 16th - Friday 20th February 2026

Student Value of the Term

KINDNESS IS EVERYTHING

House Points - Week Beginning 6th January



60,758
AUSTEN



60,399
SEACOLE



52,328
HAWKING



50,268
ALI

Upper Academy SEND Department – Supporting Every Learner

We would like to update you on the work that has been taking place within the Upper Academy SEND department over the course of this term. We have continued to work closely with students, families, and staff to ensure learners with SEND receive the right support to succeed, with a strong focus on early identification of need, positive relationships, and inclusive practice across the Upper Academy.

Over the term, we have completed a range of assessments to help us better understand students' needs and ensure appropriate support is in place. Students in examination year groups have had the opportunity to practise their exam access arrangements during assessment points (APs), helping to ensure that support is fair, suitable, and meets individual needs. These arrangements are reviewed regularly and shared with staff so that students feel confident and well prepared for assessments.

We have also been supporting teachers to adapt lessons through strategies such as scaffolding, chunking, visual aids, and clear routines. This helps students to access learning more confidently and make progress across the curriculum. Where appropriate, students have taken part in targeted small-group or one-to-one interventions to support literacy, numeracy, emotional regulation, and social development. Alongside this, students have received guidance and support in preparation for transition to post-16 education, training, or employment, with careful planning to ensure next steps are appropriate and well considered.



We continue to value open communication with parents and carers and encourage families to contact the school if they have any questions or would like to discuss their child's support further then please contact us.

V.Oddy

**Director of Inclusion & Designated Safeguarding Lead
for Enhanced Provision**

Parent/Carer Updating Contact Information

Please ensure we have current contact information on file for you, including home address, mobile phone number, and email address. If any of your details have changed, email us at admin@basildonacademies.org.uk with the updated information.

Students of the Week

Congratulations to the following students who have been awarded Student of the Week for week commencing 15th December 2025.



Year 10 - Harvey.J (R10Y1)



Year 11 - May.G (R11E1)



Sixth Form - Khyla-Ann.D (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 Home Learning/Homework.

Spotlight on: A Level Mathematics



Mathematics at AS and Advanced GCE is a course worth studying not only as a supporting subject for the physical and social sciences, but also in its own right. The subject is challenging yet engaging, building on work students will have encountered at GCSE while introducing new ideas developed by some of the greatest minds of the millennium.

In addition to supporting many other qualifications, Mathematics at this level is highly valued in the workplace and in higher education courses. A Level Mathematics can be studied independently, without the need to take Further Mathematics, making it a flexible and sought-after qualification.

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

Aspire - Believe - Achieve

Online Safety Hub: Modelling Healthy Digital Habits to your Children

In today's digital age, technology permeates every part of our lives; therefore, it's vital young people learn responsible digital citizenship. Children learn through observation, so it's essential parents lead by example and model healthy online habits themselves. [Click here](#) to access information and support relating to modelling healthy digital habits to your children.

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](#)



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](#)

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.



Winter Voices Literacy Competition

We are delighted to announce the winners of last term's Winter Voices Literacy Competition. The standard of entries was exceptionally high, with students demonstrating creativity, originality and powerful control of language. Choosing the winners was no easy task.

First Place:

Timmy.N, Year 11 - Tread Upon the Brittle Whiteness

Second Place:

Kaci.C, Year 10 - A Friend in the Snow

Congratulations to both students on this fantastic achievement. We would also like to thank all students who took part. Opportunities such as this highlight the importance of student voice and the value we place on reading, writing and creativity across the academy.



Air Ambulance Inspires Sixth Form to Learn CPR

On Wednesday 17th December, our Sixth Form students had the privilege of welcoming the Essex and Herts Air Ambulance team, who visited to launch the CPR Smart campaign. This initiative highlights the importance of CPR as a life-saving skill that everyone should learn.

As part of the campaign, our Sixth Formers have the exciting opportunity to become CPR Smart Leaders. These leaders will receive specialist training to teach CPR, enabling them to share this vital knowledge with KS4 and KS3 students. By doing so, we aim to become a fully CPR Smart School, empowering our community with essential life-saving skills.

If any Sixth Form students are interested in signing up, please contact Miss Child.



NHS Guidance: Is your child too unwell for school?

As seasonal illnesses become more common, the NHS offers clear guidance to help parents and carers decide when children should stay at home and when it is safe to return to school. The advice covers common conditions such as coughs, colds, sickness, diarrhoea and fever.

You can view the full NHS guidance here: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>



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.

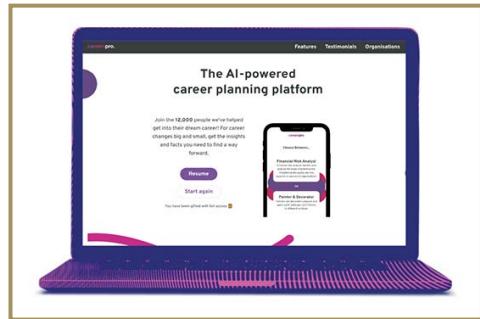
Through a fun quiz, your child will receive personalised career suggestions and learn what each role involves. They can also add their current skills or experiences, and Careers Pro will highlight where these can be transferred into different career paths.

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.

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.

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>



Educational Psychology Parent Helpline

Essex County Council are pleased to announce the launch of their new support offer for families.

The EP Parent Helpline offers advice, support, and signposting for parents and carers. It is a confidential, safe, and private service, and no referral is needed — just book an appointment in advance.



Easy to Access: The booking is designed to provide an easier and more convenient experience.

- Available on alternating Mondays and Tuesdays
- 1:00pm – 5:00pm
- 25-minute appointments bookable via MS Teams
- No more waiting – instant booking confirmation

For booking details and further information, please visit: [EP-Parent-Helpline](#)

Further information is available on the Essex County Council Local Offer pages: <https://schools.essex.gov.uk/special-educational-needs-and-disabilities-send/send-services-and-support/essex-local-offer-website>

YOUNG CARERS CLUBS

TUESDAY 3-4PM **MS DUNWELL**
G8

WEDNESDAY 1-1.30PM **MR EDWARDS**
A17



IF YOU BELIEVE YOU ARE A YOUNG CARER, PLEASE
SPEAK TO MS DUNWELL TO REGISTER.

Free Fruit at Breaktime



Students can choose an item of fruit from the till area in the Dining Hall at breaktime each day.

Do you enjoy learning about plants and photosynthesis?

You could be a/an...

Farmer



Isla sows seeds, and grows and harvests crops for food production.

Career route Apprenticeship, college or university course, on the job training

Salary range £24,000- £50,000

Top essential skill



Agronomist



John advises farmers on soil health and disease prevention, to improve crop production and quality.

Career route Apprenticeship, degree or college course

Salary range £22,500- £60,000

Top essential skill

Horticultural therapist



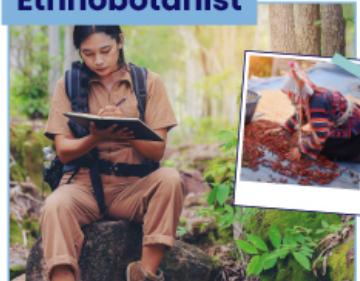
Amrita uses gardening to improve her patients' health and wellbeing.

Career route Apprenticeship, degree or college course

Salary range £17,000- £30,000

Top essential skill

Ethnobotanist



Ava studies how people use plants for medicines or food, in different cultures.

Career route Degree, Masters, PhD

Salary range £47,000 -£82,000

Top essential skill



You don't need a degree to be a scientist!

You can take a different career route including an apprenticeship, degree apprenticeship or by training on the job.



Which job would you like to do?

For more about essential skills see skillsbuilder.org www.energisingfutures.co.uk



VEGANUARY MONTH

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

BASILDON ACADEMIES

WORD OF THE DAY

5th - 9th January 2026

Monday:	Rejuvenate (verb) yeosal in Wolof – to restore energy or freshness. <i>The holidays helped rejuvenate the students for a new term.</i>	
Tuesday:	Illumination (noun) isikhanyiso in Xhosa – spiritual or intellectual enlightenment. <i>The play offered an illumination of Shakespeare's wit.</i>	
Wednesday:	Alacrity (noun) mendjemadhësi in Albanian – brisk and cheerful readiness. <i>She accepted the challenge with alacrity.</i>	
Thursday:	Veracity (noun) ճշմարտացիություն in Armenian – conformity to facts; accuracy. <i>The historian's veracity was never in doubt.</i>	
Friday:	Concise (adjective) kondizan in Bosnian – giving much information clearly in few words. <i>His concise summary saved valuable time.</i>	

Job of the Week: Radiologist

What does a Radiologist do?

Radiologists are doctors who interpret diagnostic images such as X-rays, MRI and CT scans, and provide written reports.

Your day-to-day will include tasks such as:

- Using images to diagnose, treat, and manage medical conditions
- Preparing written reports of the results of your examinations
- Examining patient anatomy, pathology, clinical history, and previous imaging
- Offering specialist expertise and guidance to other doctors and staff
- Developing treatment plans for your patients

Labour Market Information

- 237,849
- 4,621 in your local area of Essex
- +7.2% 118,954 jobs
- +11.3% in your region of East of England, an increase of 13,484 jobs



What Qualifications do you need to do this job?

You'll need:

- To complete a medical degree at medical school
- To complete general training, sometimes referred to as a 'foundation programme' or 'residency'
- To complete specialised training in radiology, sometimes referred to as a 'fellowship'



Pupils in key stage 4 are well prepared for their next steps. They learn about a range of careers and, like students in the sixth form, they can study a range of vocational courses. Pupils with social, emotional and mental health needs (SEMH) who attend the school's own provision also receive highly effective support

Follow The Basildon Upper Academy on our social media channels



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



GOOD TIMEKEEPING



What to do the night before:



Get everything you need for school ready



Set your alarm allowing plenty of time



Make your lunch and drink if you bring a packed lunch to school



Turn off devices half an hour before bedtime



Have a good night's sleep - a minimum of eight hours!



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**