

Dates for the Diary

Presentation Event - Invitation Only

Thursday 11th December 2025: 3.30pm-4.30pm

Christmas Dinner (Free for all students)

Wednesday 17th December 2025

Last Day of Autumn Term

Friday 19th December 2025 - *Students finish at 12:30pm*

First Day of Spring Term

Tuesday 6th January 2026

Year 10 AP1 Assessments

Monday 19th - Friday 30th January 2026

Student Value of the Term

**NO HUMAN
IS ILLEGAL**

House Points - Week Ending 5th December



53,807
AUSTEN



53,592
SEACOLE



44,933
HAWKING



43,891
ALI

Leadership Message

As we move into the final weeks of term, we are incredibly proud of the positive attitude and effort shown by so many of our students. This is a busy and exciting time of year, and we are encouraging all students to keep up their excellent behaviour and focus as we head towards the Christmas break.

We have a number of fantastic events coming up—including rewards evenings, celebration trips and our end-of-term brunches—which are designed to recognise students who consistently demonstrate our school values. We appreciate your continued support in reinforcing high expectations at home and helping your child finish the term positively.

Thank you for working with us to make this a successful and joyful end to the year.



N.Moore
Assistant Headteacher & Respect Champion

Year 10 Work Experience 2026

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 encourage parents and students to review the details together and begin exploring potential placements early.



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 1st December 2025.

- ★ Year 10 - Milly.W (R10E1)
- ★ Year 11 - Hannah.C (R11Z1)
- ★ Sixth Form - Flaviu.C (R1213)

Safeguarding

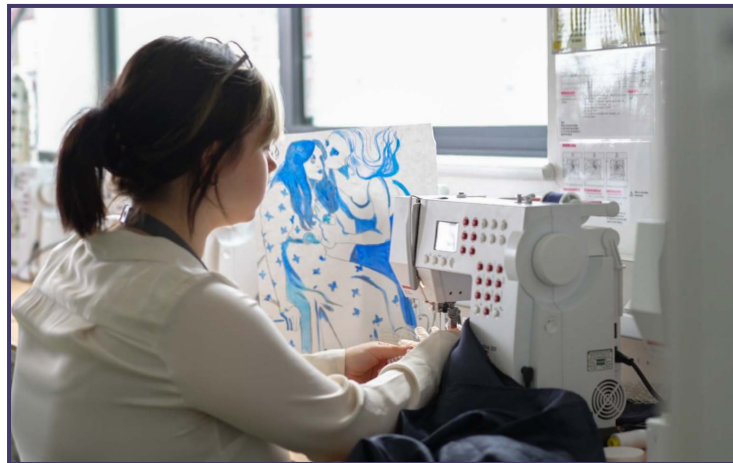
Safeguarding our students is at the forefront of everything we do. Parents and carers can access information via the following link www.escb.co.uk which offers guidance and signposts to resources on various safeguarding issues. Please contact our safeguarding officers if you have any concerns about your 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 Textiles



A Level Textiles is not just about generating clothing, it's a versatile subject that entails the formation and manipulation of a range of materials. This practical design course in Fashion and Textiles takes a broad experimental approach to a range of textiles practices including dye, print, digital, stitch and embellishment.

Through a series of creative projects you will learn how to develop ideas by engaging with drawing and research, how to create textiles samples and realise your ideas into final outcomes. Learning about artists, designers and textiles from diverse cultures will underpin your independent projects and trips to exhibitions will inspire your ideas.

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

Aspire - Believe - Achieve

Online Safety Hub: Body Image and the Quest for Online Validation

Discover how social media influences young people's self-esteem and body confidence in this helpful guide for parents. This article explores the pressures of online validation, the impact it can have on wellbeing, and practical ways you can support your child in developing a healthier, more balanced relationship with their digital world. Read more here: <https://basildonacademies.onlinesafetyhub.uk/parent/articles/body-image>

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](#)



Parent Drop In - Wednesday 10th December

This week's Parent Drop In will be on Wednesday 10th December between 11.30am and 12.30pm.

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.



Leyton House Visit Brings Colour Theory to Life for Year 13 Hairdressing Students

Last week, our Year 13 Hairdressing students enjoyed an inspiring hands-on learning experience as Paula from Leyton House Professional visited to deliver a series of exciting colour-focused workshops.

Building on an initial theory session earlier this term, Paula's second visit allowed students to put their knowledge into practice through a range of thrilling colour experiments. These activities not only deepened their understanding of colour theory, but also boosted their confidence in selecting and applying colours — an essential skill for real-world hair colour services.

Working with professional products from the Leyton House range, students explored how different shades interact, how colour behaves in various scenarios, and how to achieve the results clients want. Paula shared her industry expertise throughout, giving students valuable insights into modern colouring techniques and professional expectations.

The group thoroughly enjoyed the experience, describing the workshop as enriching, engaging, and eye-opening. They left the session with greater confidence and practical knowledge they can take straight into their future coursework, and eventually, their careers in the hair and beauty industry.

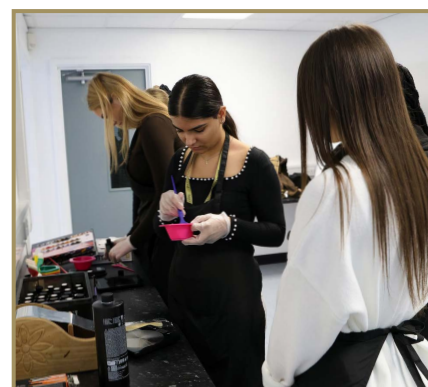
"I personally really enjoyed today. Paula was extremely nice, understanding, and explained things perfectly, so I was able to understand everything. I loved learning about Leyton House, their business and products, how colouring hair works, and being able to actually work on hair practically was very educational and fun." Nicoleta.G

"Today I feel more confident after trying different colours. After this experiment, I understand a little bit better about mixing colours and tones. I would be happy to do it more often." Anna.D

"I really enjoyed today's session. I had fun mixing different colours and using them on the swatches. Paula was really nice and helped me when I didn't know what to do." Ritanna.M

"I enjoyed the lesson, and I think it improved our knowledge of toners. It was a good practical session." Hazel.C

"Today we experimented with Liquid Jewels, which was fun, and I enjoyed finding out about the different depths hair colour can go to." Chloe.H



New Essex Sexual Health Service Webpages Dedicated to Secondary Parents & Carers

The Essex Sexual Health Service now offers dedicated web pages designed to support parents and carers. Parents can find a wealth of resources including FAQs, insights into RSE and advice on how to have those important conversations.

<https://essexsexualhealthservice.org.uk/>



Winter Voices – Whole-School Literacy Competition

This half-term's whole-school Literacy Competition is now underway, with students taking on a creative writing challenge themed Winter Voices. All students are invited to craft a short original piece inspired by the atmosphere, imagery and emotion of winter.

The competition runs until Monday 15th December, with winners announced during the final two days of term.

Judging criteria:

- Originality
- Atmosphere
- Use of language techniques
- Control of tone

Students will be introduced to the competition in their English lessons and may use the following prompts for inspiration:



The First Snow

The first snow of the year fell quietly over the town, covering everything that had been forgotten. Write a story or description inspired by this image.

The Lights in the Frost

Late one night, as frost crept across the windows, a strange light appeared in the distance. Write about what happens next.

Home for the Winter

A figure stood at the edge of the old village, suitcase in hand, cold air biting at their face. Write a story about coming home, or leaving it behind, in winter.

The Blizzard

The snowstorm came without warning. Within minutes, everything and everyone disappeared from sight. Describe the scene or write the opening to a story.

The Candle in the Window

Every year on this night, someone lit a candle in the same upstairs window. But this year, the light never came.

Students should submit their entries to the English Department by the deadline. Entries must be handed in to **Miss Harris** or **Mr Kirk**.

Miss Harris

KS4 English Lead & KS4/5 Literacy Lead

Year 10 STEM Opportunity

Anglia Ruskin University and the Chelmsford Science & Engineering Society are offering a FREE 15-week Saturday Club specifically for Year 10 students interested in Science and Engineering.

Participants will:

- Work in ARU's Super Lab and engineering workshops
- Explore real-world STEM challenges
- Take part in masterclasses & industry visits
- Join national events run by the National Saturday Club

Sessions run on Saturday mornings from January 2026. **Spaces are limited**, so early applications are advised.

For full details and to apply, please visit: <https://cses.org.uk/>

**INTERESTED IN
SCIENCE • TECHNOLOGY • ENGINEERING?**

Join the FREE National Saturday Club for Year 10 Students
Coordinated by CSES • Hosted by ARU Chelmsford

Christmas Jumper Day – 19th December

All students are invited to take part in this year's Christmas Jumper Day on the last day of term, Friday 19th December.

The Basildon Academies are raising money for Save the Children, and we ask that all students taking part make a small donation. Staff will be at the front door with collection buckets to greet students as they arrive.

Please note that this is not a non-uniform day. Students are expected to wear full school uniform, with the option to add a festive jumper in place of their school jumper or blazer.



FREE HOT CHOCOLATE & COOKIE



Free hot chocolate and cookies will be available to all students in the Dining Hall during breaktime on

FRIDAY 19TH DECEMBER



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/>



Supporting Your Child's 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. <https://parentingsmart.place2be.org.uk/>





Christmas Dinner

Wednesday 17th December

Main Meal Options

Roast Turkey & Pigs in Blankets
Quorn & Roasted Vegetable Wellington

Served with: Roast Potatoes, Carrots, Peas,
Brussel Sprouts, Yorkshire Puddings,
Stuffing & Gravy

Dessert Options

Christmas Pudding
Mince Pies
Chocolate Yule Log
Festive Meringues
Jelly




Christmas Dinner comes with
Fruit Juice & a Christmas Cracker

Christmas Dinner is free to all of our students

BASILDON ACADEMIES

WORD OF THE DAY

8th- 12th December 25

Monday:	Amiable (adjective) älskvärd in Swedish – having or displaying a friendly manner. <i>Her amiable nature made her popular with her classmates.</i>	
Tuesday:	Inept (adjective) ไม่เหมาะสม in Thai – having or showing no skill; clumsy. <i>The inept attempt at cooking ended in burnt toast.</i>	
Wednesday:	Equity (noun) རྒྱལ་ལོ་རྒྱུ་ in Tibetan – fairness and impartiality. <i>The school promoted equity by ensuring all students had resources.</i>	
Thursday:	Prodigious (adjective) e e gākgamatsang in Tswana – remarkably great in size, extent, or ability. <i>The prodigious storm disrupted trains across the country.</i>	
Friday:	Conundrum (noun) bilmece in Turkish – a confusing and difficult problem or question. <i>The detective faced a conundrum with no clear solution.</i>	

Job of the Week: Session Musician

What does a Session Musician do?

A session musician is someone who performs music in a recording session. They're hired by the music contractor, the music producer, the band or the record, film or video production company to play whatever music is going to be recorded at that session.

Session musicians are usually specialised in a particular musical genre.

Key Responsibilities

- Performing music during recording sessions or live performances.
- Learning and rehearsing new material quickly and accurately.
- Following musical direction from producers, composers, or bandleaders.
- Reading sheet music or playing by ear as required.

Labour Market Information

- 6,251 in your local area of Essex
- UK jobs: 342,899
- +.2% 1,593 jobs
- -5.8% in your region of East of England, an decrease of 4,201 jobs

What Qualifications do you need to do this job?

Typical Entry Requirements:

No formal qualifications are required, but many session musicians have:

- A music degree, diploma, or performance certificate.
- Experience in live performance, recording, or teaching
- Practical experience is more important than qualifications.
- Building a professional portfolio and network is essential.
- Many begin by playing in local bands, teaching music, or collaborating online.

Let's Talk Money

UK annual median:
£42,444

Ofsted
Good
Provider

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!





The 12 Safety Tips for Christmas

Presented by 'The 2 Johns'



"I Know them"



The Johns would like to invite you to join a complimentary online event. This will provide you with an introduction to a world that we, as adults, did not grow up in but your children are fully embracing.

They will give you tips on: -

The Internet Express
WhatsApp & Snap Chat
What to do if it goes Wrong
Indecent Images of Children

Gaming
Screentime
Sexploitation
Stranger Danger

The Exploiters
Cliff Top Parenting
Where can I Get Help
The Power of Influence

The two Johns, yes, they are both named John and have spent many years working in the police in various overt and covert roles tackling online and offline child exploitation. They are regarded as experts in their field and annually work in hundreds of primary and secondary schools interacting with thousands of children, teachers and parents. They also regularly deliver lunch and learn sessions to parenting networks in the private sector.

Over the past fifteen years, the two Johns have been key speakers at numerous major events throughout the country. In Essex they are regularly commissioned by the Safeguarding Children's Board, Community Safety Partnerships and schools to deliver both staff training and bespoke sessions for large numbers of children. This includes their highly successful 'Walk Online Roadshow' which is delivered to many thousands of children annually.

The 2 Johns



'Keeping Children Safe'

Thursday 11th December
at 20:00hrs

(Scan the QR code to register)



www.esafetytraining.org



EST E Safety Training



@JohnsThe2