The Basildon Upper Academy Newsletter • 9th November 2026

Dates for the Diary

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

Year 11 Parents Evening
Thursday 3rd December 2026: 3pm-6pm

Christmas Showcase
Thursday 10th December 2026

Last Day of Autumn Term
Friday 18th December 2026

First Day of Spring Term
Tuesday 5th January 2027

OUR VALUE THIS HALF TERM IS...

BELONGING

Everyone should feel they have a place.

House Points - Week Ending 6th November

Seacole	Hawking	Ali	Austen
65,270	63,173	59,096	54,982

Exciting Addition to SEND Support!

At the Upper Academy, we continue to develop our SEND provision to ensure that students with a range of additional needs are supported to access education, feel a sense of belonging and achieve their potential.

One of the developments this academic year has been the introduction of our new Year 10 Bridge Class. This small, targeted provision supports students who may find the transition into Key Stage 4 particularly challenging, providing a more structured and nurturing learning environment while maintaining access to their option subjects.

We have already received positive feedback from students, who have shared that the provision has helped make attending school more manageable and enjoyable. This is just one example of how we are adapting our approaches to meet the different needs of students across the Academy.

We are also delighted to welcome Miss C. Maynard as our new Deputy SENCO. Miss Maynard has already begun building positive relationships with students and families and will be a key point of contact for SEND-related questions, concerns and support.

If you have any questions about SEND support or would like to discuss your child's individual needs, please do not hesitate to contact our SEND team at **UpperSen@basildonacademies.org.uk**



Z.Grannon - SENCO & Assistant Headteacher



C.Maynard Deputy SENCO

Gracie-Mae Achieves National Dance Success



Year 11 student Gracie-Mae.M has enjoyed outstanding success after representing Virtuoso Dance Company at the Follow Your Dreams UK National Dance Competition in Blackpool in October.

Competing against dancers from across the country, Gracie-Mae achieved an impressive five podium finishes:

- 1st place – Street
- 1st place – Tap
- 2nd place – Lyrical
- 2nd place – Jazz
- 3rd place – Song and Dance

The national competition brought together approximately 2000 students, with performances taking place on a huge stage in front of international judges.

Reflecting on the experience, Gracie-Mae said: "It was amazing! I was placed in every single dance and it was an incredible experience. I feel so lucky to have been part of the Nationals. There were some amazing dancers, and the overall competition was unbelievable."

Gracie-Mae trains with Virtuoso Dance Company, where she has been developing her dance skills from a very young age. With her next steps firmly set on attending dance college, these fantastic results provide further encouragement as she continues to pursue her ambitions.

Congratulations to Gracie-Mae on such an impressive achievement. We look forward to seeing where her dancing journey takes her next!

Parent Drop In - Focus on Sixth Form



Our next Parent Drop In will be on Thursday 12th November between 10:15am and 11:15am.

Each Parent Drop In will now have a specific focus, giving parents an opportunity to find out more, ask questions and speak to staff about the topic.

There is no need to book an appointment, simply sign in at reception and a member of staff will be happy to show you to the venue. If we are unable to answer any questions on the day, we will follow up with you afterwards and share feedback.

Basildon Academies Sixth Form

BTEC Level 1 Construction



The Pearson BTEC Level 1 Introductory Award and Certificate in Construction focuses on hands-on abilities and tasks, emphasising learners showcasing their practical skills rather than theoretical knowledge. These qualifications provide learners with a chance to gain and enhance versatile, applicable, and industry-specific skills. This enables them to effectively carry out tasks and demonstrate an accomplishment level that prepares them for further learning opportunities.

Full course information can be found by visiting the following link on our website:
BTEC Level 1 Construction

Sammiat Wins A Christmas Carol Quiz Competition!

A huge congratulations to Year 11 student Sammiat.B, who was crowned the winner of our A Christmas Carol Quiz Competition!

Students put their knowledge of Charles Dickens' famous novella to the test, answering questions about characters, themes, quotations and key events.

Sammiat impressed with her excellent knowledge and secured first place, winning a free ticket to see A Christmas Carol at the Towngate Theatre on 11th November.

Well done to Sammiat, and thank you to everyone who took part! A fantastic opportunity to celebrate our students' enthusiasm for English Literature while supporting their GCSE revision.



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



A parent's guide to random video chat apps

Online video chat platforms can expose children to strangers and potentially inappropriate content. We encourage parents and carers to read this useful guide to understand the risks of random video chat and how to help keep young people safe online:
Random Video Chat – Online Safety Hub

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



Aspire - Believe - Achieve

Lest We Forget: The Power of Words

Remembrance Day - 11th November 2026

Every year, on the 11th November, we come together to remember those who have sacrificed their lives in conflict. But remembrance is not just about looking back at history; it is about ensuring that the stories, experiences and voices of those who lived through war are never forgotten.

Literature plays a powerful role in keeping these memories alive

Through poetry, letters, diaries and novels, writers have captured the realities of conflict, expressing emotions that historical facts and figures alone cannot always convey.

War poets such as Wilfred Owen and Siegfried Sassoon used powerful imagery, emotive language and symbolism to challenge romanticised ideas of warfare and reveal the suffering experienced by soldiers.

One of the most recognisable lines associated with Remembrance Day comes from Laurence Binyon's poem For the Fallen (1914):

"At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them."

The collective pronoun "we" reminds us that remembrance is a shared responsibility, while the imagery of the setting and rising sun suggests that the duty to remember continues across generations.

Literacy Challenge: Six Words of Remembrance

This Remembrance Day, we invite students to consider how just a few carefully chosen words can communicate a powerful message.

Can you express the importance of remembrance in exactly six words?

For example:

"Their stories remain. We must remember."

The challenge encourages students to think carefully about vocabulary, meaning, and the emotional impact of language.

Word of the Week: Commemoration

Commemoration (noun): The act of remembering and honouring a person, group or significant event.

Example: Remembrance Day provides an opportunity for reflection and commemoration.

As we observe Remembrance Day, let us recognise the power of literacy to preserve history, inspire empathy and ensure that the voices of the past continue to be heard.

Because when we remember their words, we remember their stories.

Ms S.Harris KS4/5 Literacy and KS4 English Lead



Year 10 Work Experience 2027

Information regarding the Year 10 Work Experience programme in April 2027, including guidance on finding a placement and the next steps for students and parents/carers, is available on our website: www.basildonupperacademy.org.uk/year-10-work-experience-2027



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

ESSEX Safeguarding Children BOARD

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

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.

TO COMMEMORATE ARMISTICE DAY

THE DINING HALL WILL BE SELLING A SELECTION OF

CAKES & BISCUITS

FOR 75P EACH

ON WEDNESDAY 11TH NOVEMBER



ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO TO THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Lest We Forget



BBC Children in Need





ON FRIDAY 13TH NOVEMBER THE DINING HALL WILL BE SELLING A SELECTION OF CAKES & BISCUITS FOR 75P EACH. ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO TO CHILDREN IN NEED.

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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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	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: Photographer



What does a Photographer do?

Photographers professionally produce and edit photos. They usually specialise in one area like fashion, portrait, wedding, or e-commerce photography. They could take still or moving images.

Key Responsibilities:

- Discussing the project with the client and agreeing the 'brief'
- Finding and preparing the location for the photo session
- Choosing the right equipment and setting up lighting
- Composing and taking photos
- Using industry software to edit and process images
- Checking accurate colour match and image quality
- Choosing the best images for the client to use online or in print
- Marketing and running your business

What Qualifications do you need to do this job?

- There are no set entry requirements, but you'll usually need experience and a portfolio of work. A qualification in photography can help you learn technical and creative skills, although many photographers are self-taught.
- You could start as a photographer's assistant and work your way up.
- You may be able to get into this job through an apprenticeship.



Labour Market Information

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

Let's Talk Money

UK annual median: £32,643



BASILDON ACADEMIES WORD OF THE DAY

9th – 13th November 2026

Monday:	**Conspiracy (Noun) Komplot in Hausa** *Definition:* A secret plan by a group to do something unlawful or harmful. *Example: She served five years in prison for taking part in a conspiracy to sell stolen art works.*	
Tuesday:	**Rebellion (Noun) Uasi in Swahili** *Definition:* The action or process of resisting authority, control, or convention *Example: It was an act of teenage rebellion.*	
Wednesday: ***Remembrance Day***	**Commemorate (Verb) Kumbukira in Chichewa** *Definition:* To honour the memory of someone or something, often with a ceremony. *Example: On Remembrance Day, people gather to commemorate those who have served in the military.*	
Thursday:	**Insurrection (Noun) Matsin ya tashi in Hausa** *Definition:* A violent uprising against an authority or government. *Example: Opposition to the regime led to armed insurrection.*	
Friday:	**Fervent (Adjective) Motlotlo in Setswana** *Definition:* Having or displaying a passionate intensity. *Example: The fervent speeches of the rebels were aimed at rallying support.*	

Follow Us

Essex County Council
Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

The Essex Local Offer website

provides information about help available to children and young people (aged 0 to 25) with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

You can also find information on:

- support, groups and activities
- help with learning
- advice for young people
- health and wellbeing
- housing and employment
- financial support

Visit send.essex.gov.uk for more information and to sign up to our newsletter

