

Dates for the Diary

Last Day of Spring Term

Friday 27th March 2026 - Students finish at 12:30pm

Year 10 Work Experience

Monday 20th April - Friday 1st May 2026

Bank Holiday

Monday 4th May 2026

Half Term

Monday 25th May - Friday 29th May 2026

Year 10 AP2 Assessments

Monday 22nd June - Friday 3rd July 2026

Student Value of the Term

**WOMEN'S RIGHTS
ARE HUMAN RIGHTS**

House Points - Week Ending 20th March



109,177
AUSTEN



106,240
SEACOLE



95,048
HAWKING



92,838
ALI

Leadership Message - Online Safety: Working Together to Keep Our Children Safe

As part of the school's safeguarding team, I often attend meetings with other professionals and educators. We talk about the issues affecting children today and how we can best support them. One topic that comes up again and again is the impact of social media—something we see regularly in school.

One medical professional used a phrase that really stood out: **"warn and inform."** It perfectly describes how we can help young people learn to enjoy the online world safely.

What does "warn and inform" mean? We "warn and inform" children about:

- Disinformation and misinformation – online content that is wrong or misleading.
- Conspiracy theories – stories that can confuse or worry young people.
- How to report inappropriate content or messages on different platforms.
- Where to get help if they feel upset, anxious, or scared by something they've seen online.

Why children sometimes don't tell adults

One of the main reasons children avoid reporting harmful content is because they're worried their device will be taken away. Although this is a natural reaction, simply removing devices doesn't stop the problem. Instead, it can make children hide future issues.

What helps most is teaching children how to use technology safely and responsibly and letting them know they can always talk to us.

How school helps

Our **"Not Seen and Not Heard"** policy for devices ensures that children can focus on learning and socialising at school. This also protects them from harmful messages or content during the school day.

Working together

Safeguarding is always a partnership between home and school. Keeping your children safe online is something we can do best when we work together.

You can find lots of expert advice and guidance on [The Basildon Academies Online Safety Hub](#), including information on free apps for parents/carers.

Together, we can help our children navigate the online world with confidence and understanding.

S.Peake - Senior Student Development Leader & Designated Safeguarding Lead



Parent Drop in Thursday 26th March

This week's Parent Drop In will be on Thursday 26th March 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.



Students of the Week

Congratulations to the following students who have been awarded Student of the Week for week commencing 16th March 2026.

- ★ Year 10 - Iris.I (R10E1)
- ★ Year 11 - Dorcas.A (R11E1)
- ★ Sixth Form - Lealand.G (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 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](#)

Aspire - Believe - Achieve

Online Safety Hub: Support for Families Relating to Predators on the Internet

In the digital age, predators use the internet to groom and sexually exploit children through coercion and manipulation, making any child with online access a potential victim. [Click here](#) to access information and support relating to predators on the internet.

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](#)



Inspiring Visit from Paul Hannaford

Last week, we were privileged to welcome Paul Hannaford to the Upper Academy, where he delivered a series of powerful assemblies and student talks.

Drawing on his own lived experiences, Paul spoke openly about a range of important and challenging issues, including knife crime, addiction, gangs, toxic masculinity and vaping. His honest and impactful delivery gave students a real insight into the consequences of these choices, as well as the importance of resilience and making positive decisions.

Students described the assemblies as both eye-opening and inspiring, with many reflecting on how Paul's story encouraged them to think more carefully about their own futures. His message reinforced that, no matter the challenges faced, it is always possible to make a change and move forward positively.

"The assembly was very interesting and opened my eyes to the reality of how dangerous drugs are and how addictive they can be. It also showed that if you try hard enough, you can change. Paul was very inspiring." Chloe.G – Year 10

"It was intriguing listening to Paul and hearing about his experiences, and I think it really sends a message to people our age about how drugs and gangs can change someone's life in an instant." Christina.K – Year 12

"I found it very powerful. His story made me think more carefully about the decisions I make, especially hearing about how drugs ruined parts of his life and everything he lost because of it. The way he explained things and answered questions really helped shine a light on gangs and drugs. Hearing it from someone who had actually lived through it made it resonate with me and everyone in the hall." Marijus.D – Year 11

"The assembly with Paul was very educational and inspiring. It gave us a real insight into the dangers, consequences and realities of drugs in the real world. Hearing his own life story and seeing the evidence he shared made it even more powerful." Success.A – Year 11

"I think the assembly was very educational because Paul taught us about his life and the dangers that come with substance abuse. The things he spoke about are really important for young people to understand so that fewer people get involved in gangs and hopefully reduce deaths linked to substance abuse." Boglarka.B – Year 11

"Paul's life story was very educational and quite emotional. Hearing about the distress from his past addiction helped me realise what I have and how I have people around me to support me, while he didn't. It also highlighted the consequences of our actions." Timi.N – Year 11

We are extremely grateful to Paul for sharing his story so candidly and for helping our students better understand the realities of these issues in today's society.



Important Reminder: Working Together to Keep Our School Neighbourhood Safe

In recent weeks, we have received communication from residents raising concerns about obstructions caused to properties at the start and end of the school day.

We appreciate we continue to ask you not to use the school carpark for drop off and collection of students however, we must ask that you remain respectful to our neighbours and not cause any obstruction to their properties or private driveways. The medical centre opposite should also not be used for the purpose of dropping off or collecting your child.

Please also be reminded that the yellow zigzag lines immediately in front of the school indicate that parking or stopping is strictly prohibited to maintain safety to all road users, including children crossing the road.

Thank you for your continued support.



Getting Creative for Comic Relief

Last week, Upper Academy students took part in a fun and imaginative tutor-time competition to design the most creative Red Nose Day nose.

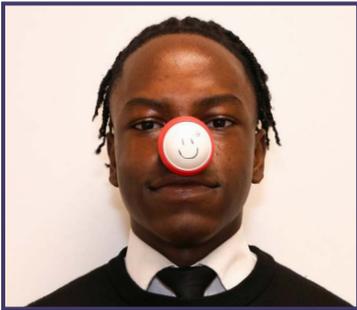
As part of this year's Comic Relief celebrations, students embraced the theme "Do something funny for money" by creating a wide range of unique and comical designs.

The competition gave students the opportunity to express their creativity, work collaboratively and support an important cause, raising awareness for those in need both in the UK and around the world.

Tutor groups showed fantastic enthusiasm and originality, with designs ranging from bold and colourful creations to humorous and imaginative concepts.

The winning tutor groups were **11E2** and **10S1**, while the award for best photo went to **Mia.L (10U1)**. Congratulations to all students who took part and helped make the event such an enjoyable and meaningful success.

"I enjoyed the competition, and it was great to raise awareness for Comic Relief."
Milly.W - Year 10



"I think it's really fun to create our own art on the red noses; it lets us be expressive and show our personality." Mia.L Year 10

"Comic Relief is a very important charity; it helps support poverty-stricken areas through the sale of red noses."
George.C – Year 11

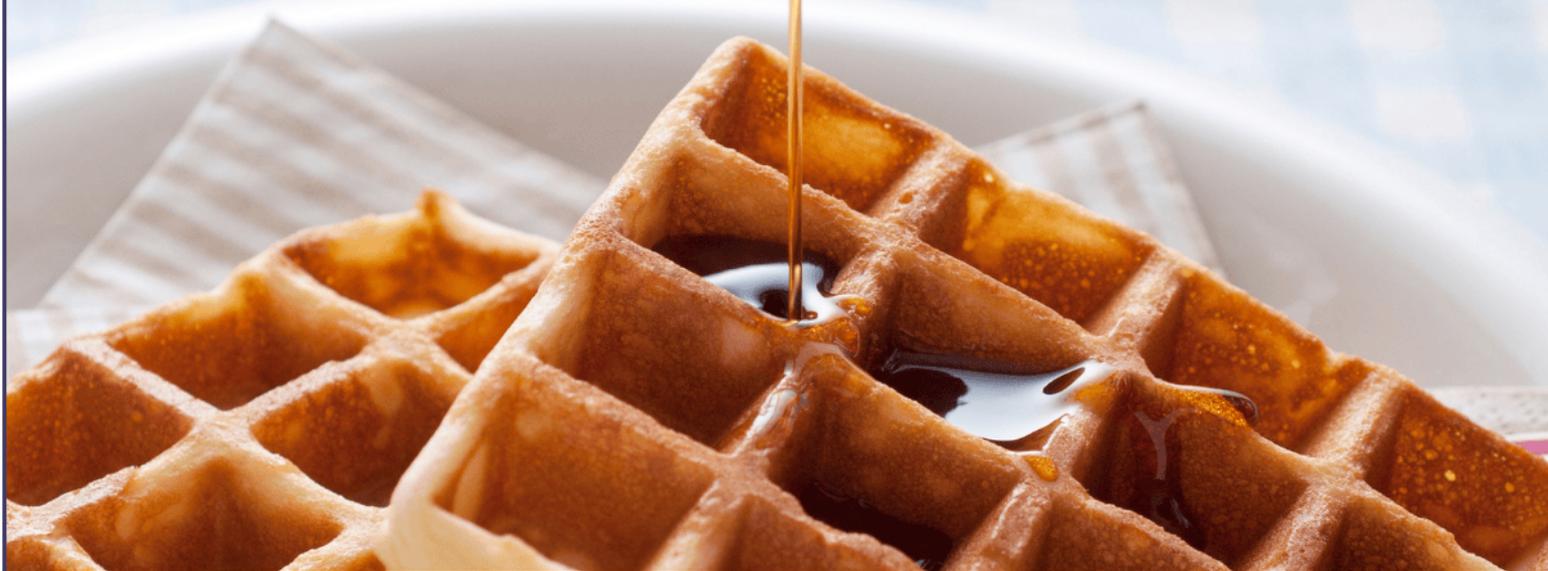
"Designing the nose was very enjoyable; it was a fun team-building activity." Hayden.A – Year 11

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.

WAFFLE DAY

TO CELEBRATE INTERNATIONAL WAFFLE DAY THE DINING HALL WILL BE SERVING WAFFLES IN ADDITION TO THE REGULAR DESSERT MENU ON WEDNESDAY **25TH MARCH**



EASTER TREATS



On Friday 27th March the Dining Hall will be serving a selection of Easter themed cakes & biscuits at breaktime

Each item will be 75p

BASILDON ACADEMIES WORD OF THE DAY

23rd March - 27th March 2026

Monday:	Impartial (adjective) imparcial in Spanish – treating all rivals fairly and equally. <i>Judges must remain impartial in their decisions.</i>	
Tuesday:	Eminent (adjective) maarufu in Swahili – famous and respected within a profession. <i>The eminent scientist visited the school for a lecture.</i>	
Wednesday:	Tenacious (adjective) envis in Swedish – holding firmly onto something. <i>Her tenacious grip on her dream carried her through.</i>	
Thursday:	Credible (adjective) น่าเชื่อถือ in Thai – able to be believed; convincing. <i>The journalist presented a credible account of events.</i>	
Friday:	Festive (adjective) iniongo in Tiv – cheerful and celebratory. <i>The hall was filled with a festive atmosphere before the holiday.</i>	

Job of the Week: Roofer

What does a Roofer do?

A Roofer builds, repairs, and replaces roofs on houses, offices, and other buildings. They make sure roofs are weatherproof, safe, and long-lasting.

Key Responsibilities

- *Installing new roofs (tiles, slates, metal sheets, flat roofing)
- *Repairing damaged or leaking roofs
- *Measuring and cutting materials
- *Installing insulation and waterproof layers
- *Working safely at height
- *Following health and safety regulations

Labour Market Information

- -7.7% 69,814 jobs
- -7.7% in your region of East of England, a decrease of 6,354 jobs

Let's Talk Money

UK annual median:
£45,021

What Qualifications do you need to do this job?

Typical Entry Requirements:

- Apprenticeship in Roofing or Construction
- NVQ Level 2/3 in Roofing (UK)
- Good physical fitness
- Ability to work at heights
- Practical and problem-solving skills
- Teamwork and reliability

Ofsted
Good
Provider

There are a wide range of clubs and opportunities for pupils to contribute to the school and local community, for instance as charity ambassadors. This develops pupils' self-confidence. Well-chosen visitors help pupils learn how to keep themselves safe and healthy.

Follow The Basildon Upper Academy on our social media channels





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 Ersser

Child and Young Person Practitioner



CREATE MEMORIES

AT EASTER

Join us at 5 Elements during the Easter Holidays where every activity is designed to make this holiday unforgettable.

FREE

- ✓ **Boxing**
- ✓ **Kickboxing**
- ✓ **Mentoring**
- ✓ **Sports Based Games**



<https://portal.nestmanagement.co.uk/event/Index>