



The Basildon Upper Academy Newsletter

19th January 2026

Dates for the Diary

Year 10 AP1 Assessments

Monday 19th - Friday 30th January 2026

Year 11 & Year 13 Progress Review Event

Thursday 22nd January 2026: 3.30pm-6.30pm

Year 12 AP1 Assessments

Monday 2nd - Friday 6th February 2026

National Apprenticeship Week

Monday 9th - Sunday 15th February 2026

Children's Mental Health Week

Monday 9th - Sunday 15th February 2026

Student Value of the Term

KINDNESS IS EVERYTHING

House Points - Week Ending 16th January



71,110
SEACOLE



70,154
AUSTEN



61,617
HAWKING



58,618
ALI

Leadership Message - The Importance of Literacy

Literacy sits at the heart of education. Strong reading, writing and communication skills are essential not only for success in school, but also for future education, employment and everyday life.

Literacy is more than learning to read and write in English lessons. Through disciplinary literacy, students develop subject-specific reading, writing and vocabulary skills across all areas of the curriculum. Whether analysing sources in History, understanding complex word problems in Maths, or using precise scientific terminology in science, every subject has its own language that students must understand to succeed.

Regular reading plays a crucial role in developing these skills. Reading builds vocabulary, improves comprehension, and helps students develop confidence and knowledge of the world. We strongly encourage all students to read at home as often as possible. This could be a novel, non-fiction book, newspaper article, or appropriate online text. Just 15–20 minutes of reading each day can make a significant difference.

Parents and carers can support literacy at home by:

- Encouraging regular reading and discussing texts together
- Talking about new words and their meanings
- Asking students about what they are learning across subjects
- Modelling positive reading habits where possible

By working together, we can help students become confident, articulate and resilient learners, well prepared for their future.

Thank you for your continued support.

S.Harris - KS4 English Lead & KS4/5 Literacy Lead



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 12th January 2026.



Year 10 - Archie.S (R10Y2)



Year 11 - Viktoria.K (R11X2)



Sixth Form - Joy.N (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 Chemistry



Chemistry is a rewarding but demanding course, which sets the subject within a relevant and modern-day framework. It suits those of you who like to ask the questions 'why', 'how' and 'what' and are keen to find out the answers. The key emphasis is on an enjoyable challenge throughout the course, combining topics which stretch even the most able with a healthy dose of traditional investigative Chemistry where pupils learn the skills of working in a lab hands-on.

Chemistry remains one of the most highly regarded A levels by top universities which one can study.

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

Aspire - Believe - Achieve

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>



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.



Year 11 Students Take Part in DWP Careers Workshops

Year 11 students recently took part in an apprenticeship and job-search workshop led by Andrea from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). The sessions form an important part of the academies' careers programme; providing students with valuable knowledge and practical guidance as they prepare for the steps they will take after Year 11.

During the workshops, students explored the range of post-16 options available to them, including college courses, technical and academic pathways, and apprenticeships that allow young people to earn while they learn. Students were encouraged to consider which routes best suit their individual interests, strengths, and future goals.



The sessions also offered practical advice on career research and employability, including using social media to research companies, creating a LinkedIn profile and, showcasing achievements, awards, and skills. The importance of gaining relevant work experience was emphasised, with students advised to seek opportunities aligned with their career interests.



Students were also encouraged to talk to family members and friends about career opportunities and to recognise that many companies offer a wide range of roles and career pathways within the same organisation.

The sessions also offered practical advice on career research and employability, including using social media to research companies, creating a LinkedIn profile and, showcasing achievements, awards, and skills. The importance of gaining relevant work experience was emphasised, with students advised to seek opportunities aligned with their career interests.

"The workshop has helped me look into options for colleges, and we also learned about the importance of gaining work experience." Harrison.L

"This has been really helpful for planning my future, and I'm pleased to have been introduced to places where I can find apprenticeships." Amber.J

Thank you to Andrea from the Department for Work and Pensions for her continued support in helping our students prepare confidently for their futures.

Essex Family Forum - Family Impact Survey

Essex Family Forum are conducting their annual Family Impact Survey to measure levels of parental satisfaction with local services for SEND Families. The data collected will be compared with previous surveys. Your voice really does make a difference! If you are the parent carer of a child or young person with SEND, please take the time to complete this survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YRMGD8Q>



Parent Drop In - Friday 23rd January

This week's Parent Drop In will be on Friday 23rd January 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.



Polite Notice: After School Site Access

We want all our students and families to know that keeping everyone safe at the Academies is really important to us. We love seeing students get involved in clubs and after school activities, and we encourage them to take part whenever they can.

However, **these organised activities are the only times students are allowed to stay on site after 3:00pm, unless they are attending a detention.**



To help everyone stay safe and ensure the site can be properly closed, students are expected to leave the school promptly at the end of the school day unless they are taking part in an organised after school activity. We ask that students do not wait around on site outside of these times.

Thank you for your support.

Parent Governor Vacancies

As we are a rapidly growing academy trust we have opportunities for new parent governors to join our team.

Becoming a Parent Governor offers you the opportunity to make a real contribution to the academy community and to work together with the academy leadership, staff and other governors.

If this opportunity is of interest then please apply via our website (vacancies section):

<https://www.basildonacademies.org.uk/governance-vacancies>

The closing date for applications will be **3pm on Friday 23rd January**.

Thank you for your continued support of our academies.

A wooden table with various vegetables and jars of spices. The text 'VEGANUARY MONTH' is overlaid in large, white, brush-stroke letters. The vegetables include onions, carrots, broccoli, and bell peppers. The jars contain various spices like red pepper flakes and black peppercorns.

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

Year 10 AP1, commencing 19th January 2026

AM (9.00am start)

PM (1:30pm start)

Monday 19 th January	Maths P1	1 hr 30		History P1	1 hr
Tuesday 20 th January	Business	1 hr 45		Biology – Combined Science P1	1 hr 15
	Biology – Triple Science P1	1 hr 45			
Wednesday 21 st January	English Language P1	1 hr 45		Maths P2	1 hr 30
Thursday 22 nd January	Chemistry – Combined Science P1	1 hr 15		French Reading / Listening	1 hr 20
	Chemistry – Triple Science P1	1 hr 45			
Friday 23 rd January	English Literature P1	1 hr 45			

Monday 26 th	Psychology	1 hr 30		Geography P1	1 hr 30	
	Engineering	1 hr 30		History P2 January	1 hr	
Tuesday 27 th January	Maths P3			French Writing	1 hr 10	
Wednesday 28 th January	Physics - Combined Science			Music	30 min	
	Physics – Triple Science			Options		
Thursday 29 th January	Statistics	1 hr 45		ICT	1 hr 20	
				Catering	1 hr 20	
Friday 30 th January	Music					
	Options					

Monday 2 nd February	Practical Exams
Tuesday 3 rd February	Practical Exams
Wednesday 4 th February	Practical Exams
Thursday 5 th February	Practical Exams
Friday 6 th February	Practical Exams

Leaders make highly effective use of a wide range of data to identify issues, track improvements and guide decision making both on individual pupils and collectively. Recently this played a part in identifying that uniform infringements were linked to the cost of living crisis and led to changes in the school's uniform.



Excellence in Pupil Development Award

2023-2026

BASILDON ACADEMIES

WORD OF THE DAY

19th - 23rd January 2026

Monday: <i>Martin Luther King Day</i>	Copious (adjective) rigelige in Danish – abundant in supply or quantity. <i>She took copious notes during the lecture.</i>	
Tuesday: <i>World Religion Day</i>	Lucubration (noun) lucubratio in Dutch – study or meditation, especially late at night. <i>His lucubration before the exam left him exhausted.</i>	
Wednesday:	Idiosyncrasy (noun) iseärasus in Estonian – a distinctive or peculiar feature of behaviour. <i>Her idiosyncrasy was humming while she worked.</i>	
Thursday:	Voraciousness (noun) nutsuqudu fe nuwona in Ewe – an eagerness for great quantities of something. <i>His voraciousness for knowledge impressed his teachers.</i>	
Friday: <i>International Day of Education</i>	Intrepid (adjective) matapang in Filipino – fearless and adventurous. <i>The intrepid explorers crossed the frozen terrain.</i>	

Job of the Week: Social media specialist

What does a Social media specialist do?

Social media specialists monitor and update an organisation's social media channels.

Day-to-day responsibilities include:

- Updating social media sites
- Writing blogs, articles and posts
- Responding to social media posts and developing discussions
- Checking online for company mentions and customer feedback
- Searching for interesting posts, news and articles to attract site visitors



What Qualifications do you need to do this job?

There are no set requirements, but some employers may expect you to have a degree. Relevant subjects include:

- Advertising
- Media and Communications
- Digital Marketing
- Journalism
- Public Relations
- Business Management

Labour Market Information

+17% 436,252 jobs

+19.3% in your region of East of England, an increase of 41,627 jobs

Let's Talk Money

UK annual median: £53,703



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 that improves their behaviour and well-being.

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**