

Dates for the Diary

National Careers Week

Monday 2nd - Saturday 7th March 2026

British Science Week

Friday 6th - Sunday 15th March 2026

Year 11 Individual & Group Photos

Monday 9th March 2026

Year 10 & 12 Parents Evening

Thursday 12th March 2026 - 3.30pm-6.30pm

Easter Holidays

Monday 30th March - Friday 10th April 2026

Student Value of the Term

**WOMEN'S RIGHTS
ARE HUMAN RIGHTS**

House Points - Week Ending 27th February



89,382
AUSTEN



88,029
SEACOLE



78,056
HAWKING



74,176
ALI

Leadership Message - Building Skills for the Future

At the Basildon Academies, we are committed to helping every student develop the skills and confidence they need for life beyond education. We support the personal development of every student through the access of opportunities that include Work Experience, Skills Builder, and Unifrog.

Work Experience gives students a valuable insight into the world of work, helping them build confidence, independence, and essential employability skills. Every placement regardless of the role, supports their future decision-making.

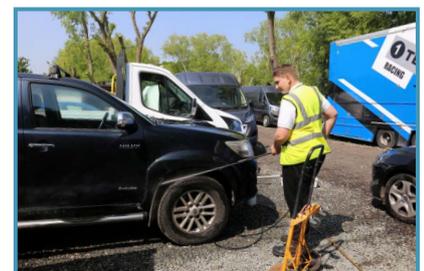
Through Skills Builder, students develop the eight essential skills that employers highly value: listening, speaking, problem solving, creativity, staying positive, aiming high, leadership, and teamwork. These skills are important not just for employment, but for everyday life.

Unifrog helps students explore career pathways, apprenticeships, colleges, and universities. They can build CVs, complete profiles, and record achievements, helping them make informed and confident choices.



Your support at home is vital. Encouraging your child to fully engage with these opportunities will help them grow, plan for the future, and develop the skills they need to succeed.

H.Williams
Careers 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.

Parent Drop in Wednesday 4th March

This week's Parent Drop In will be on Wednesday 4th March between 9.30am and 10.30am.

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 23rd February 2026.

★ Year 10 - Jay.T (R10X2)

★ Year 11 - Anthonia.J (R11S1)

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

Young Minds

[Young Minds](http://www.youngminds.org.uk) is the UK's leading charity committed to improving the emotional wellbeing and mental health of children and young people. Just as people's bodies can become unwell, people's minds can become unwell too.

Young Minds offer information to young people and children about mental health and emotional wellbeing. If you need to talk, they can let you know about organisations that listen, plus they offer online support and info.

Spotlight on: A Level Graphic Design



Graphic Communication gives students the opportunity to develop as creative practitioners and to learn about the breadth of creative opportunities in the design sector. They develop the necessary practical, professional and personal skills to create a diverse portfolio of work and to flourish as a freelance creative.

The creative industries are currently one of the fastest growing in the UK and students can expect to develop the skills, knowledge and understanding necessary to continue into a variety of different professions.

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

YOUNG CARERS CLUBS

TUESDAY

3-4PM

MS DUNWELL
G8

WEDNESDAY
ESPORTS

1-1.30PM

MR EDWARDS
A17



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

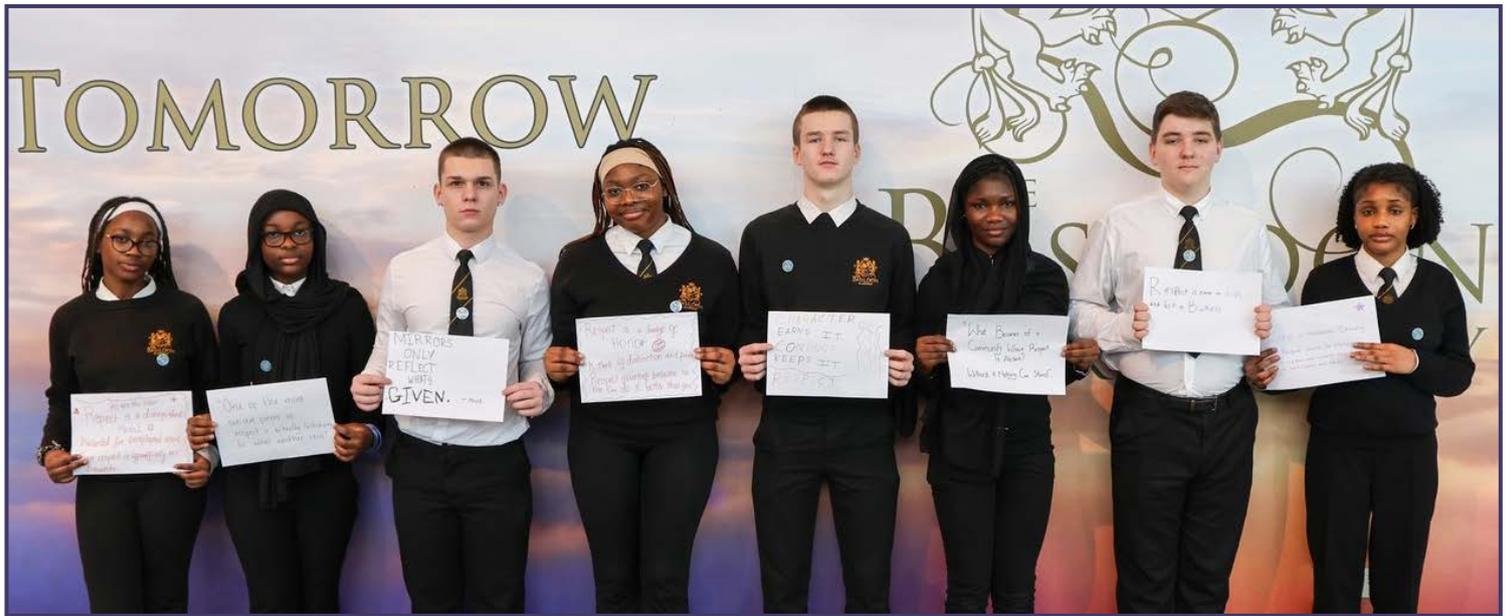
Year 11 Respect Ambassadors Lead the Way

Just before the end of last term, eight of our Year 11 students officially began their roles as our new Respect Ambassadors, marking the start of an exciting leadership journey.

The Respect Ambassador programme is designed to empower students who want to make a positive difference in our school community. These students have shown a strong commitment to promoting kindness, inclusion and positive behaviour, and we are proud to see them step into this important leadership role.



As Respect Ambassadors, they will act as positive role models, helping to promote respect, fairness and teamwork across the school. They will support school events and initiatives, represent student voice, and work alongside staff to help shape a culture where everyone feels valued and heard. The role also provides an opportunity to develop valuable leadership skills that will support them in their future pathways beyond Year 11.



At its heart, the programme asks a simple but powerful question: *Do you want to make a difference in our school community?* Our ambassadors have answered with enthusiasm and integrity, and we look forward to seeing the impact they will make.



Gracie-Mae Shines in Regional Dance Competition

Year 10 student Gracie-Mae.M is celebrating fantastic success in dance, continuing to pursue her passion alongside her studies. She trains with Virtuoso Dance Company, where she has developed her skills since she was very young.

Her dedication to dance has already taken her to incredible places. She has performed at Disneyland Paris and previously played Amanda Thripp in the Lower Academy production of Matilda, showcasing her confidence and stage presence from an early age.

Through her dance journey, Gracie-Mae has shown commitment, creativity and leadership, overcoming personal challenges with resilience and determination. She has accomplished a great deal through dance and continues to push herself to achieve more.

Recently, Gracie-Mae represented Virtuoso Dance Company at a regional competition in Clacton, Essex, run by Prestige Dance. Competing in the solo performance category, she performed Tap, Musical Theatre and Street Dance; earning an impressive second place overall. Later this year, she will compete in the Prestige National Final in London.

Gracie-Mae's passion for dance is clear. She shares, "I love to dance because it lets me express myself." We are incredibly proud of her achievements and wish her the very best as she prepares for the national finals.



World Book Day Competition

To celebrate World Book Day on Thursday 5th March, students are invited to take part in an exciting creative competition.

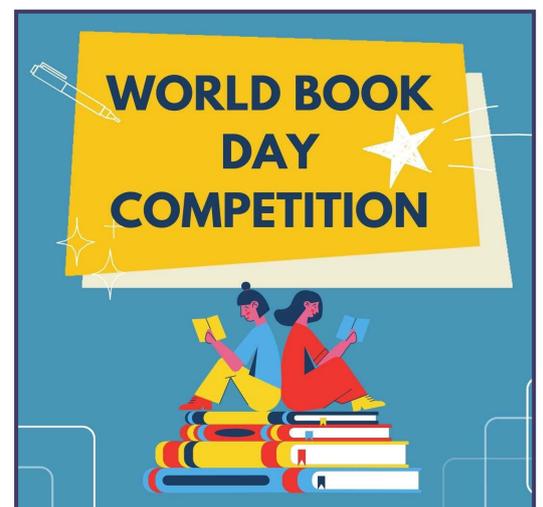
There are two ways to enter:

- Redesign the front cover of your favourite book and give it a completely new look.
- Write a one-page story that transports your reader into an unknown world — whether magical, futuristic, mysterious or entirely unexpected.

The competition launches on 5th March, with all entries due by **Thursday 12th March 2026**. Entries should be handed to **Miss Harris in B9**.

This is a fantastic opportunity for students to showcase their creativity, imagination, and love of storytelling. We look forward to celebrating our talented writers and designers!

Get involved - and let your imagination lead the way!



Online Safety Hub: Navigating Social Media and Gaming Apps Safely

With so many social media and gaming apps available, it's important for parents to understand potential risks and how to keep children safe online. This guide provides practical tips on privacy settings, screen time, online interactions, and age-appropriate content to help you support your child's digital wellbeing. [Click here](#) to access information promoting healthy digital habits at home.

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](#)



World Book Day 2026: Why Reading Still Matters: For You and Your Child

As we celebrate World Book Day on Thursday 5th March it's the perfect time to think about why reading for pleasure isn't just 'nice to have', it matters for confidence, wellbeing, creativity and of course success at school.

What the Numbers Say

Recent research from the National Literacy Trust shows that, across the UK, young people's enjoyment of reading is at its lowest level in two decades. In the most recent survey of more than 110,000 children and young people aged 8 to 18:

- Only around 1 in 3 say they enjoy reading in their free time.
- Only 1 in 5 read something daily outside school, the lowest rate since tracking began.
- Among 14–16-year-olds, fewer than 10% of boys read daily for pleasure, showing just how sharply reading habits can change in the teenage years.



These figures aren't meant to worry you; they help us understand that young people's lives are busy and complicated. Screens, homework, hobbies and social lives all compete for their attention. But they also point to the potential benefits of re-discovering reading as something enjoyable, not just something we 'have to do.'

Why Reading for Pleasure Is Important

Reading isn't just about school exams; it touches on so much more:

Better Comprehension and Learning

Children and young people who read for pleasure tend to have stronger vocabulary and literacy skills, which support success in all subjects.

Mental Wellbeing

Books can offer calm, escape, empathy and reflection, especially important in busy teenage lives.

A Habit That Lasts a Lifetime

Whether in print, audiobooks or ebooks, reading nurtures curiosity and imagination well beyond school years.

How Families Can Support Reading

Reading together doesn't have to mean hours curled up with a paperback; it can be:

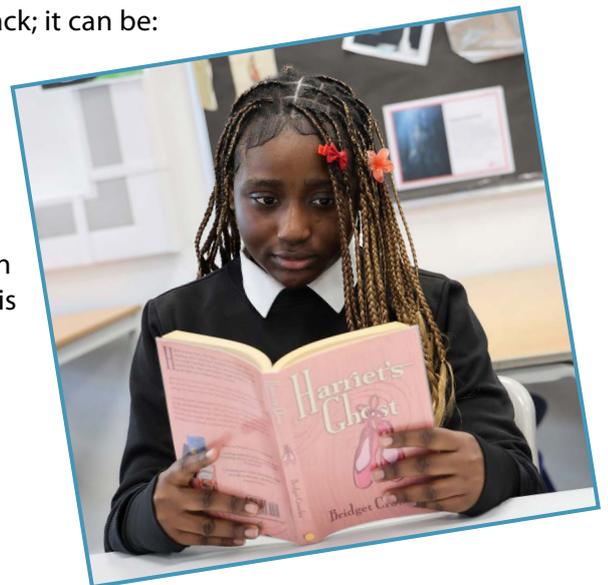
- Sharing audiobooks on the commute
- Reading graphic novels, magazines or favourite genres
- Talking about what you're reading as a family
- Letting children choose what they want to read

Research suggests that children who are read to or who choose their own material are more likely to enjoy reading overall, and that enjoyment is the key ingredient.

A Simple Question to Ask Today

"What book are you reading right now, and what do you like about it?"

Maybe it's a thriller, fan fiction, a manga series, a magazine, or even a book that was turned into a film or TV show, anything that gets pages turning (or earbuds in).



World Book Day isn't about perfection; it's about finding joy in stories that speak to each of us.

Happy reading!

Students Enjoy Inspiring Trip to the Royal Ballet and Opera House

A group of Upper Academy students recently enjoyed a fantastic cultural experience with a trip to the Royal Ballet and Opera House in London to watch Giselle. The visit was open to all students, with places offered to those who expressed an interest in attending. It was a wonderful opportunity to experience world-class performance, inspire creativity, and create lasting memories beyond the classroom.

For many students, it was their first time visiting such an iconic venue and seeing a live ballet accompanied by a full orchestra. The stunning surroundings, powerful storytelling through music and movement, and the sheer scale of the production made it a truly memorable experience for everyone involved.

"It was an enjoyable experience as the theatre was really pretty. The performance itself was really intriguing as the performers didn't speak but the music did, as the music changed based on the emotions being portrayed. Overall, the experience was unforgettable." Madha.W – Year 10

"It was such a fun and interesting experience. It was my first time being in that type of setting. They had an orchestra and it was so good, honestly. The actors that did the ballet performance were superb as well. They are so talented. The Opera House was so huge and beautiful. Overall, I really enjoyed the trip and would gladly do it all over again." Sammiat.B – Year 10

"The performance was amazing. It was really fun and I really enjoyed it, thank you to the school for inviting me." Abdul.Q – Year 10

"It's not something I would have thought to go and see if the school hadn't offered it, but it gave me and others a chance to see something you don't usually see every day and is definitely an experience I will remember." Grace.W – Year 10



Year 10 Work Experience - WebView Now Live

The WebView system for Year 10 Work Experience is now live. Students who have not yet secured their own placement can log in to view the available opportunities.

Students have until Friday 13th March to select up to six preferred placements via the WebView system: <https://bep.learnaboutwork.net/>

Students will need their unique PIN to access the system, which has already been provided to them.

We encourage students to review the available placements carefully and discuss their choices at home before making their selections.



New Opportunity for Students: Essex Music Service Youth

We are pleased to share an exciting opportunity from Essex Music Service for students who are interested in music or having their voice heard within their local community.

Essex Music Service is setting up a **Youth Voice session in Basildon**, where young people can share their views and ideas about music opportunities in the area. Their feedback will help shape future music provision and may also lead to the opportunity to join a **county-wide Youth Voice group**, influencing music services at a wider strategic level.

This session is open to all young people with an interest in music, regardless of their level of experience or current involvement with Essex Music Service.

During the session, students will be able to:

- Share their thoughts on current music activities and opportunities
- Suggest what they would like to see more or less of
- Contribute ideas about how youth voice should be represented
- Connect with other young people who share an interest in music

Date: Friday 6th March

Time: 5:00–6:00pm

Location: Southernhay Youth Centre, Basildon, SS14 1FN

If your child would like to attend, please complete the sign-up form to confirm their place: Basildon: [Youth Voice Meeting Sign Up Form](#)



BRITISH PIE WEEK

2nd - 6th March



To celebrate British Pie Week, the Dining Hall will be serving a different pie each day, alongside the usual lunchtime menu.

Monday: Cheese, Onion & Potato

Tuesday: Steak & Kidney

Wednesday: Chicken

Thursday: Minced Beef

Friday: Chicken & Vegetable



Follow The Basildon Upper Academy on our social media channels



BASILDON ACADEMIES WORD OF THE DAY

2nd - 6th March 2026

Monday:	Impetuous (adjective) Impetwu in Maltese – acting quickly without thought. <i>His impetuous decision caused unnecessary problems.</i>	
Tuesday:	Ethereal (adjective) rangirua in Maori – extremely delicate and light, seeming not of this world. <i>The ethereal music filled the cathedral.</i>	
Wednesday:	Bibliophile (noun) bibliofil in Norwegian – a person who loves or collects books. <i>The bibliophile spent hours in second-hand bookshops.</i>	
Thursday:	Sagaciousness (noun) زیرگی in Persian – the quality of being wise and shrewd. <i>His sagaciousness in debates made him a strong leader.</i>	
Friday:	Empirical (adjective) empiryczny in Polish – based on observation or experience. <i>The experiment provided empirical evidence for the theory.</i>	

Job of the Week: Funeral Director

What does a Funeral Director do?

Funeral directors make arrangements for burials or cremations, and provide support and advice for the bereaved.

Day-to-day responsibilities include:

- meeting with relatives or friends to give advice and arrange details of the funeral
- arranging the date and time of the funeral with the church, cemetery or crematorium
- organising flowers, transport and death notices
- advising on legal requirements and helping clients complete paperwork
- preparing the body for burial or cremation

Labour Market Information

+13.9% 328,648 jobs

+17.4% in your region of East of England, an increase of 38,744 jobs

Let's Talk Money

UK annual median:
£30,894

What Qualifications do you need to do this job?

You can register with the National Association of Funeral Directors (NAFD) and take their funeral service awareness online training.

You could start as a funeral service arranger and administrator. This would allow you to gain experience and knowledge of all aspects of the work and receive on-the-job training.

After 6 months, you'd take the NAFD's diploma in funeral arranging and administration.



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.



SEND School Age Drop-in

**An opportunity to get advice and support
in a relaxed and non judgemental
environment**

Parents and carers of both diagnosed and non-
diagnosed children welcome.

**1st Wednesday of the month
12:00 - 13:00**

No need to book - Just drop in!

**Northlands Park Family Hub
Davenants, Basildon Essex SS13 1QX**

Essex Child and Family Wellbeing Service