

Dates for the Diary

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

Year 10 & Year 13 Progress Review Event

Thursday 22nd January 2026: 3.30pm-6.30pm

Student Value of the Term

**NO HUMAN
IS ILLEGAL**

House Points - Week Ending 12th December



58,216
AUSTEN



57,888
SEACOLE



48,702
HAWKING



47,823
ALI

Leadership Message - Working Together, We Can Help Children Feel Safe, Grow with Confidence, and Flourish.

As the end of term draws near, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Mrs Peake, and I have recently moved to The Upper Academy as the new Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), having previously been the DSL at The Lower Academy.

I have worked in safeguarding for several years; I am passionate about ensuring every child feels secure, supported, and able to thrive. I look forward to working closely with families and students here at the upper academy and building strong, supportive relationships in the year ahead. Safeguarding is most effective when we work in partnership, and I deeply value the connection between home and school.

The festive season is often filled with joy, celebration, and togetherness. However, we also recognise that for some families, this time of year can bring added pressures and children may find a holiday period challenging. Safeguarding does not pause when the school doors close, and I want to reassure you that although the school is closed, support from local services continue to operate; details of available support can be found on our school website should you need guidance or assistance.

This December, we will be sharing our half termly safeguarding guide for parents, which offers practical advice, highlights emerging risks, and provides tips on how to keep children safe. It is designed to empower families with knowledge and to remind you that you are never alone in safeguarding your child.

If you have any concerns, please reach out to the Safeguarding Team through the [Contact Us](#) page. We are always here to listen, advise, and work alongside you to ensure children feel protected and valued.

Finally, I would like to wish you and your loved ones a joyful, restful, and safe Christmas break. May it be a time of warmth, laughter, and treasured moments together.



S.Peake
Senior Student Development Leader
and Designated Safeguarding Lead

Students of the Week

Congratulations to the following students who have been awarded Student of the Week for week commencing 8th December 2025.

- ★ Year 10 - Ellie.A (R10E1)
- ★ Year 11 - Keila.E (R11E1)
- ★ Sixth Form - Riannah.K (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.

A Level Criminology



Not all types of crime are alike. Are you interested in what different types of crime take place in our society and what kinds of crime exist, about which we know very little? How do we decide what behaviour is criminal? What are the roles of personnel involved when a crime is detected? Perhaps you are interested to know more about this exciting subject?

This course is designed to offer you a chance to learn about crime in the real world by exploring case studies of different types of crime and criminals. You will cover a range of exciting topics where you will gain the required understanding and skills relevant for your chosen career path.

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

Aspire - Believe - Achieve

Online Safety Hub: Top Tips to Protect Your Child's Digital Privacy

Being mindful about sharing personal information, understanding how an app or platform tracks, collects, stores, and uses data, and practising good digital hygiene can go a long way in helping to protect your child's privacy online. [Click here](#) to access information and top tips to help protect your child's digital privacy.

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 - Tuesday 16th December

This week's Parent Drop In will be on Tuesday 16th December between 10am and 11am.

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.



Celebrating Student Success at the End of Term Presentation Event

Last week, The Basildon Upper Academy proudly celebrated the achievements of our students at the end of term Presentation Event. Families were invited to join us for an evening dedicated to recognising hard work, progress, and commitment shown throughout the term.

Awards were presented across a wide range of subjects, each one reflecting the dedication, resilience, and positive attitudes demonstrated by our students. Every award recipient had been specially nominated by their teachers, highlighting the effort, and consistency shown in lessons.

A highlight of the evening was the presentation of our prestigious VIPA (Very Important Pupil Award). One student from Year 10, Year 11, and the Sixth Form was recognised for their outstanding contribution and impressive achievements. These students had received multiple nominations from staff, demonstrating the significant impact they make within the academy community. We are incredibly proud of each and every award winner and extend our thanks to the families who attended and helped make the evening so special.





Celebrating Hannah's Outstanding Musical Achievement

We are incredibly proud to celebrate Hannah's recent performance on the euphonium with the Royal British Legion Band and Corps of Drums Romford.

Hannah performed as part of a large ensemble of more than 40 musicians during a **four-hour concert**, showcasing an impressive and varied repertoire. The programme included traditional army marches, medleys from West End musicals, and well-loved Christmas classics. Throughout the evening, Hannah demonstrated exceptional musicianship, confidence, and professionalism, truly shining as a performer.

Balancing this level of musical commitment alongside GCSE studies and AP exams is no small achievement. Hannah has been rehearsing extensively outside of school, and her dedication and passion for music are evident in the high standard of her performance.

Her music teacher, E. Child, shared: "Hannah's dedication to her instrument and her ability to perform at such a high level is exceptional. She brings energy and professionalism to every rehearsal, and this achievement reflects her hard work and love for music."

Hannah has aspirations to join the British Army, where she hopes to continue and further her musical education through their marching bands. Her ambition, commitment, and talent make her a wonderful role model within our school community.

Congratulations to Hannah on this outstanding achievement. She is a real credit to her family and our school, and we look forward to supporting her as she continues her musical journey.



Your Child's Voice Helps Shape Our School

Every half term, the safeguarding lead (DSL) and I meet with students in something called **Student Voice Panels**. These meetings happen on both school sites and give students a chance to tell us what they think is going well and what could be better.

Pastoral staff choose students to join the panel. We ask a few simple questions and listen carefully to their ideas. This helps us make sure that **everyone's voice is heard** and that our school works for all.

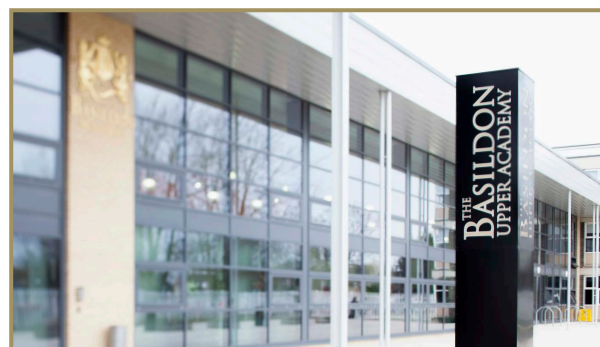
Because of these panels, we have already made some big changes:

- Changed the **start and finish times of the school day**
- Made lessons **shorter** (1 or 1.5 hours)
- Added extra **safeguarding measures**
- Improved **catering areas** e.g. More chairs, access to condiments, queuing systems.
- Set up a **Student Services hub** at BLA, and one is coming soon at BUA

After each panel, we send out a "**They Said, We Did**" update so you can see what changes have been made or are being planned.

It is a real privilege to hear from our students. Thank you for supporting your child to share their ideas—they make a big difference to our school.

R.Rees - Headteacher



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/>



Year 11 Rewards Trip to Warner Bros. Studio Tour London – The Making of Harry Potter

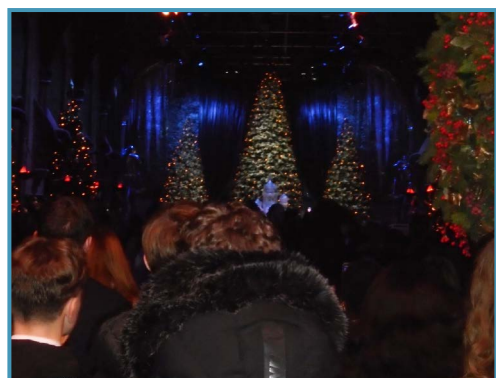
On Thursday 11th December, forty-two Year 11 students were given the exciting opportunity to attend an end of term rewards trip to *Warner Bros. Studio Tour London – The Making of Harry Potter*.

Students were selected for this special visit based on two outstanding achievements. The first group included those who have shown significant improvement in both their behaviour and attitude to learning since beginning their Year 11 journey. The second group consisted of the top 25 students on the Year 11 positive credits leaderboard, all of whom have impressively maintained zero negative credits throughout the academic year.

During the trip, students took part in a self-guided tour of the world-renowned studios, giving them the freedom to explore the magic of the Harry Potter universe at their own pace. The tour began in the Great Hall, where students stood on the same stone floor used throughout filming and saw original costumes worn by key characters. They then moved on to explore a range of iconic sets, including Dumbledore's Office, the Potions Classroom, the Weasley Kitchen, and the Ministry of Magic.

The tour also featured a wide range of authentic props, from wands and broomsticks to the Golden Snitch and the Marauder's Map. Students saw how animatronics and special effects brought creatures like Buckbeak and Aragog to life. A highlight was walking through Diagon Alley, with iconic shopfronts such as Ollivanders and Weasleys' Wizard Wheezes, followed by the impressive illuminated scale model of Hogwarts Castle.

This unforgettable experience offered students a behind the scenes look at the creativity, artistry, and technical skill involved in producing the much-loved film series. It was a fitting celebration of the students' hard work, dedication, and positive contributions this term, as well as an experience they will no doubt remember for years to come.



"I found the trip fun because the studios were so large and there was so much to explore. It was nice to be able to walk around freely instead of staying in big groups the whole time." May.G

"The trip was very exciting and enjoyable. Being able to walk around and take photos at our own pace made the experience even better. There was so much to explore, and we had plenty of time to enjoy it all. The gift shops also meant we could buy souvenirs for family and friends who weren't on the trip, which made the day even more memorable." Yanna.I

"I found the trip full of surprises, with so many different areas and experiences to enjoy at the Harry Potter Warner Bros. Studio. The food was nice, and there was lots to see and explore." Archie.C

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.



Spreading Cheer: 10ft Christmas Tree Donated to Upper Academy

A big thank you to Herronway Limited for generously donating a 10ft Christmas tree to the Upper Academy.

The tree looks fantastic and has created a real sense of festive cheer across the site, delighting students and staff alike.



 **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



The Importance of Securing Year 10 Work Experience Placements

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.





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

Free Online Counselling Service

www.kooth.com is a free, confidential, safe and anonymous way for young people, aged 11-18, to ask for help from a team of highly qualified and experienced counsellors and support workers.

Kooth is a well-established, award winning online counselling agency and is accredited by The British Association of Psychotherapy and Counselling (BACP).



Christmas and New Year opening hours

You can access Kooth any time you need; we're always open. If you're looking for a one-to-one chat with our team, check below to see when they're available over Christmas and New Year:

Christmas Week	New Year Week
<div>6 – 10PM</div> <div>Saturday 20th December</div>	<div>6 – 10PM</div> <div>Saturday 27th December</div>
<div>6 – 10PM</div> <div>Sunday 21st December</div>	<div>6 – 10PM</div> <div>Sunday 28th December</div>
<div>12 – 10PM</div> <div>Monday 22nd December</div>	<div>12 – 10PM</div> <div>Monday 29th December</div>
<div>12 – 10PM</div> <div>Tuesday 23rd December</div>	<div>12 – 10PM</div> <div>Tuesday 30th December</div>
<div>12 – 8PM</div> <div>Christmas Eve Wednesday 24th December</div>	<div>12 – 8PM</div> <div>New Years Eve Wednesday 31st December</div>
<div>4 – 8PM</div> <div>Christmas Day Thursday 25th December</div>	<div>4 – 8PM</div> <div>New Years Day Thursday 1st January</div>
<div>12 – 8PM</div> <div>Boxing Day Friday 26th December</div>	<div>12 – 10PM</div> <div>Friday 2nd January</div>

From 3rd January 2026, our team will be available as usual: 12 - 10pm Monday to Friday and 6pm - 10pm at weekends.



Young Minds

Young Minds 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.

YOUNGMiNDS

BASILDON ACADEMIES

WORD OF THE DAY

15th - 19th December 2025

Monday:	Garrulous (adjective) балакучий in Ukrainian – excessively talkative, especially on trivial matters. <i>The garrulous boy often distracted others in class.</i>	
Tuesday:	Voracity (noun) كفايت شعارى in Urdu – great eagerness or hunger for something. <i>Her voracity for learning was infectious.</i>	
Wednesday:	Recalcitrant (adjective) bosh tortuvchi in Uzbek – stubbornly disobedient. <i>The recalcitrant student ignored repeated warnings</i>	
Thursday:	Splendid (adjective) lộng lẫy in Vietnamese – magnificent and very impressive. <i>The Christmas tree stood in splendid decoration in the hall.</i>	
Friday:	Mirth (noun) gorfoledd in Welsh – amusement, especially expressed in laughter. <i>The classroom was full of mirth during the festive quiz.</i>	

Job of the Week: Personal Trainer

What does a Personal Trainer do?

Personal trainers help their clients reach their personal health and fitness goals.

You'll talk to clients to find out about their fitness level and health history. You'll then:

- Set short- and long-term goals and plan programmes for reaching them.
- Give advice on health, nutrition and lifestyle changes.
- Help clients with their workouts.
- Check and record clients' progress, using methods like measuring heart rate and levels of body fat.
- You might work full time as a gym instructor and do personal training outside your normal hours.

Labour Market Information

- 140,003
- 4,080 in your local area of Essex
- +.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?

You'll need:

- To have knowledge of anatomy, physiology and nutrition
- Public Liability Insurance
- A first aid award, which must include a cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) certificate
- You'll also need a recognised qualification in fitness and exercise instruction.

Let's Talk Money

UK annual median:
£24,371



Pupils learn about, and understand, the importance of respecting themselves and others. The personal, social and health education (PSHE) curriculum teaches pupils how to look after their physical and mental well-being. Pupils meet a range of employers and representatives from further education colleges. This helps pupils make well-informed choices about their next steps.

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**

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



Did you know? **90%** of young people with attendance **BELOW** **85%** fail to get good grades.

MISSING 1 DAY A WEEK



LOSING ONE YEAR OF SCHOOL LIFE.

Good attendance means:

Being in school at least **97%** of the time, that's at least **184** days a year.

Target 97%+



175

days are **NOT** spent in school each year.*

* Plenty of time for shopping, holidays & appointments.

143

Days of education

75%

47 days absent

152

Days of education

80%

38 days absent

162

Days of education

85%

28 days absent

171

Days of education

90%

19 days absent

184

Days of education

97%

6 days absent

190

Days of education

100%

0 days absent

SERIOUSLY WORRIED

Very poor attendance has a serious impact & reduces life chances.

VERY CONCERNED

Poor attendance gives less chance of success.

WELL DONE

Good attendance gives the best chance of success.