The Basildon Upper Academy Newsletter • 28th September 2026

Dates for the Diary

Year 10 AP1 Assessments
Monday 28th September - Friday 2nd October 2026

Upper Academy Sixth Form Open Evening
Thursday 1st October 2026: 5pm-7pm

Meet the Tutor - Parent Event
Monday 12th October 2026: 3.15pm-4.30pm

Year 11 AP1 Assessments
Monday 12th - Friday 23rd October 2026

Half Term
Monday 26th - Friday 30th October 2026

Student Value of the Term

Black Lives Matter

House Points - Week Ending 25th September

Seacole	Ali	Hawking	Austen
31,425	29,126	28,719	26,866

Welcome from the Safeguarding Team

We would like to warmly welcome all students and families to The Basildon Upper Academy. Whether you are joining us for the first time in Year 10, continuing your journey with us, or beginning your Sixth Form experience, we are delighted to have you as part of our community.

The teenage years bring many exciting opportunities, including new friendships, greater independence, academic challenges and planning for the future. However, we also recognise that this can sometimes be a time when young people experience pressures, worries or uncertainty. These feelings are completely normal, and no student should feel they have to face them alone.

At The Basildon Upper Academy, student wellbeing is a priority. We encourage all young people to speak to a trusted adult if they are struggling with their emotional wellbeing, relationships, attendance, safety, mental health or any concerns that may be affecting them inside or outside of school.

Students can reach out to any member of staff they feel comfortable speaking with. We also work closely with a range of specialist services and can help students access additional support where needed, including mental health and wellbeing services, Essex School Nurses, Catch22 and Kooth.

Parents and carers play a vital role in supporting their child's wellbeing. You can help by:

- Taking time to listen and encouraging open conversations.
- Showing interest in their experiences, friendships and achievements.
- Helping them identify and manage sources of stress or worry.
- Encouraging a healthy balance between study, social media, screen time and relaxation.
- Supporting positive routines, including sleep, exercise and healthy eating.
- Reminding them that asking for help is a sign of strength, not weakness.
- Encouraging them to speak to school staff if they need additional support.

If you have any concerns about your child's wellbeing, safety or welfare, please contact us. We are committed to working in partnership with families to ensure that every student feels safe, supported and able to achieve their full potential.

Senior Student Development Leader & Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL): J.Richards
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL): S.Harper-Penman
Designated Safeguarding Lead for Enhanced Provision: V.Oddy
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead for Enhanced Provision: J.Stoddart

Upper Academy Receives Music Mark Recognition

We are delighted to announce that the Basildon Upper Academy has been awarded the Music Mark recognition for the first time, marking an exciting milestone in the continued

This recognition follows the introduction of our new GCSE Music and Level 1/2 Music pathways, giving students greater opportunities to continue studying music at Key Stage 4 and develop their skills as performers, creators and musicians.

Alongside our curriculum offer, students can access peripatetic music lessons and a growing programme of extracurricular clubs and performance opportunities. Students are currently working towards our Christmas Showcase, as well as preparing for opportunities to perform at the Brentwood Centre.

Receiving Music Mark recognition in the first year of developing our new music pathways is something we are incredibly proud of. It reflects our commitment to ensuring that music has a strong and growing presence at the Upper Academy and that students have opportunities to participate, perform and develop their musical interests both inside and outside the classroom.

We are excited to continue building our music provision throughout the year and look forward to celebrating the performances, experiences and achievements still to come.



"Since Year 7, I have loved my music lessons. They have helped my confidence, skills and much more, with amazing help from Miss Child. Thank you." Declan.P - Year 11

Congratulations to all of our students who are helping to shape this exciting new chapter for Music at The Basildon Upper Academy!

Aspire - Believe - Achieve

Celebrating Our Jack Petchey Award Winners

Last week, our Jack Petchey Award recipients were celebrated at a special awards ceremony at Basildon Towngate Theatre. Students, staff, families and members of the school community came together



Our Year 10 students, Ornigioia.B and Josh.S, were each recognised with an Outstanding Achiever Award during their time in Year 9 at the Lower Academy. Mrs Jacob also received a Leader Award following recognition from the school community.

The Jack Petchey Awards celebrate young people and staff who demonstrate outstanding effort, determination and positive contributions to their school and wider community.



The ceremony provided a wonderful opportunity to recognise the achievements of our award recipients and celebrate the positive impact they have made throughout the year. It was also a chance for families and members of our school community to share in their success.

As part of their awards, Ornigioia and Josh each received prize money to spend on something that is meaningful to them while also benefiting the wider school community.

We are incredibly proud of Ornigioia, Josh and Mrs Jacob for their achievements and the positive contributions they have made to our school community.





Uniform Exchange Scheme

If you have uniform that your child has outgrown, please bring it in and see if there is something in the exchange shop that has been donated that you can simply swap your item for. We are still gratefully receiving donations of jumpers, shirts, trousers and PE kits that are in pre-loved condition and these can be donated via the reception office on either site.

Please remember, the Uniform Exchange shop is located at the Lower Academy, is open from 8am – 3:30pm Monday – Friday and is accessible via the school office.



Sixth Form Open Evening – Thursday 1st October

The Basildon Academies Sixth Form Team wish to invite you to attend our Open Evening on Thursday 1st October 2026, at the Upper Academy. Doors open from 5pm until 7pm.

During the evening you'll have the opportunity to:

- Meet our passionate teaching staff, who will be showcasing their courses and will be available to answer your questions.
- Explore our fully equipped technology block, with live demonstrations in 3D printing, construction, and more.
- Visit open classrooms, including our E-Sports gaming room, photography dark room, and art exhibitions, alongside many other exciting courses.
- Discuss the application process in a relaxed setting, with staff on hand to guide you through every step.

We're excited to share our passion, belief, and commitment to student success with you. Whether you're a student considering your next steps or a parent supporting that journey, we look forward to welcoming you.
















Students Explore Mental Health Through Theatre

Year 10 and 11 students recently took part in *In Harm's Way*, a thought-provoking performance and workshop delivered by UpFront Theatre Company.



Students watched a play following three characters and their experiences with mental health, before taking part in an interactive workshop exploring how each character could better support their own wellbeing.

The session encouraged students to consider the importance of talking openly about mental health, reaching out for help and accessing reliable sources of support when they, or someone they know, may be struggling.



It was a valuable opportunity to open up important conversations and help our students feel more confident about where and how to seek support.

"The actors from UpFront Theatre presented mental health and wellbeing in a way that educated us while keeping us engaged. We took part in a range of activities, which helped us gain a better understanding of what it is like to struggle with mental health and how important it is to reach out for support. I really enjoyed the play and would definitely recommend it to other schools. I believe it could help many young people feel more confident about reaching out for help when they are struggling." Ameerah.A – Year 11



"I think the presentation on wellbeing was great. Mental health is a sensitive topic that needs to be approached with care and respect, and I think the actors did a fantastic job. They made the presentation really engaging and gave us opportunities to participate, while also listening carefully to our opinions. They taught us how to look after our own wellbeing and support others. I really enjoyed the presentation and thought they did a great job of creating a respectful environment." Sammiat.B – Year 11

Safeguarding



At the Basildon Academies, keeping children safe and helping them to thrive is at the heart of everything we do.

We know that family life can sometimes be challenging. If you or your child needs help, support, or advice, we are here. No problem is too big or too small, and we will always support families with kindness, care and without judgement.

We work closely with a range of services to make sure children and families get the right help at the right time. This may include school nurses, health professionals, counsellors, mentors, family support workers and Children's Social Care.

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.

Basildon Academies Sixth Form

A Level Creative Media

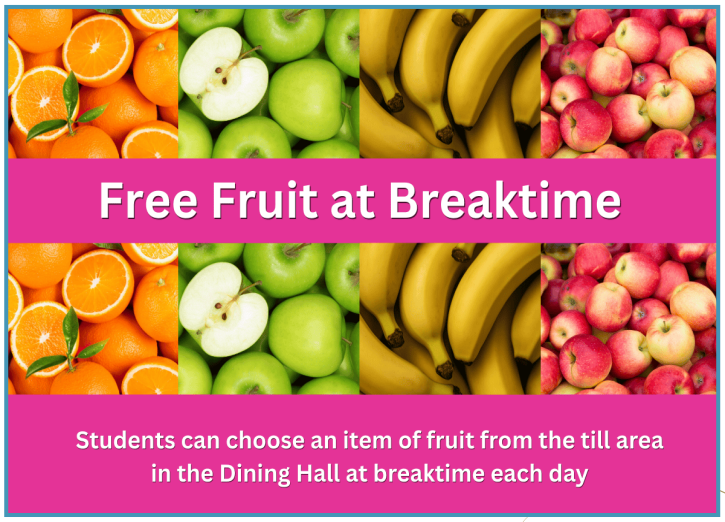


Are you curious to know how films, TV shows or online videos streams are made? This course is designed to be a hands on course that enables you to have an insight into industry practices. You will develop and build skills in production and editing.

This is a challenging subject in which you will develop multidisciplinary practice. Students will incorporate technical skills in moving images, character environment, sound and graphics.

Full course information can be found by visiting the following link on our website: A Level Creative Media





Aspire - Believe - Achieve

Careers Pro: Helping Your Child Explore Future Pathways



Help your child feel confident about their future with Careers Pro, an interactive online platform that matches young people with careers suited to their interests, skills, and personality.

Through a fun quiz, your child will receive personalised career suggestions and learn what each role involves. They can also add their current skills or experiences, and Careers Pro will highlight where these can be transferred into different career paths.

The platform outlines all the possible routes into each career — from GCSEs, A Levels, and university to apprenticeships, short courses, and work experience — helping you and your child understand every option available.

With Careers Pro, your child can explore their potential and make informed decisions about their future.

Please click the link to access: https://www.careerspro.co.uk/the-basildon-upper-academy

Extra-Curricular Sports Timetable

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Before School 7.30am-8.20am					Netball Year 10 & 11
Lunch Time 12.15pm-12.50pm	Table Tennis	GCSE Badminton		GCSE Badminton	
After School 3pm-4pm		Basketball		Tag Rugby /Rugby Core Skills Football	GCSE Netball

Free October Half Term Clubs with Essex ActivAte

Essex ActivAte half term programmes provide free, fun and engaging activities for eligible children and young people during the October half term break. From sports and crafts to outdoor adventures and more, there are plenty of opportunities to stay active, make friends and try something new, alongside receiving nutritious meals and snacks.



Spaces are limited and can be booked directly with local clubs when they go live, with no Holiday Activities voucher code or referral required.

To find a club near you, visit the Find Your Active Activity Finder on the Active Essex website. Simply select 'Programmes' to view the upcoming half term activities, enter your local area, and book directly with the club using the contact details provided.

Soluna – Mental Wellbeing Support for Young People

Soluna by Kooth is a free, confidential mental wellbeing service for young people aged 10–25, providing support online and through the Soluna app.

Young people can access one-to-one support from qualified practitioners, self-guided tools and resources, and moderated peer-support spaces covering topics such as anxiety, friendships, sleep, identity and exam stress. No referral is needed and there is no waiting list.

Soluna is designed to complement the support already available through school and can be accessed whenever young people need some additional support.

Find out more about Soluna: https://solunaapp.com/uk

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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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.



Online Gaming – A Guide for Parents and Carers

Online gaming can be a positive way for young people to have fun, develop skills and connect with friends, but it is important to understand the potential risks. This helpful guide answers common questions about online gaming and offers practical advice for parents and carers on helping young people stay safe.



Click here to access information and advice on age ratings, privacy and safety settings, in-game purchases, and setting healthy boundaries around gaming.

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

Job of the Week:
Stunt Double



What does a Stunt Double do?

Stunt performers stand in for actors to perform specialised or dangerous actions.

Key Responsibilities:

- You'll use highly-developed physical and sporting skills to make them look natural and part of the action, like:
- Gymnastics or high diving, for performing all types of falls
- Fighting skills, possibly with weapons
- Swimming or diving
- Horse riding
- Advanced driving techniques, for performing car chases and crashes
- You'll set up, plan and perform stunts, usually whilst being supervised by a stunt coordinator.

Labour Market Information

- +0.2% 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 be at least 18 years old, and have excellent physical fitness and a commitment to staying very fit.
- You'll also need membership of the Joint Industry Stunt Committee (JISC) Register of Stunt Performers and Coordinators. This shows employers that you're recognised as a professional stunt performer and can perform hazardous or specialist stunt work.



Let's Talk Money

UK annual median: £24,249



BASILDON ACADEMIES WORD OF THE DAY

28th September - 2nd October 2026

Monday:	**Community** (noun) Gemeinschaft in German *Definition:* A group of people living in the same place or having a particular characteristic in common. *Example:* The coffee morning brought together the local community for a good cause.	
Tuesday:	**Philanthropy** (noun) Filantropija in Latvian *Definition:* The desire to promote the welfare of others, expressed especially by the generous donation of money to good causes.	
Wednesday:	**Ethical Consumption** (noun) Etisk forbruk in Norwegian. *Definition:* Choosing products that are produced ethically, often with concern for environmental impact or animal welfare. *Example:* Ethical consumption was a major focus of discussions during National Vegetarian Week.	
Thursday:	**Nutritional** (adjective) Nutritivo in Portuguese *Definition:* Relating to the process of providing or obtaining the food necessary for health and growth. *Example:* Workshops during the week highlighted the nutritional value of vegetables and fruits.	
Friday:	**Fusion** (noun) Fusione in Italian *Definition:* The process or result of joining two or more things together to form a single entity. *Example:* The fusion of African and European cooking techniques was showcased in the school's food promo.	

Follow Us

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

hcrg Care Group

Believe in children Barnardo's