The Basildon Upper Academy Newsletter • 12th October 2026

Dates for the Diary

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

Half Term
Monday 26th - Friday 30th October 2026

Year 13 AP1 Assessments
Monday 9th - Friday 20th November 2026

Christmas Showcase
Thursday 10th December 2026

Last Day of Autumn Term
Friday 18th December 2026

Student Value of the Term

Black Lives Matter

House Points - Week Ending 9th October

Seacole	Ali	Hawking	Austen
45,814	42,092	41,895	38,824

Leadership Message

Every Day Matters, Every Choice Counts

At The Basildon Academies, we want every student to feel safe, happy and proud to be part of our school community. We are working hard to build a school culture where everyone feels respected, learning comes first and every student has the chance to succeed.

Attendance – Every Day Matters

Being in school every day gives students the best chance to learn, grow and achieve their goals. Every lesson matters, and missing school can mean missing important learning, friendships and new opportunities. We know that sometimes there are challenges that make coming to school difficult. We want families to know that we are here to listen, help and work together to overcome these barriers.

School Culture – We All Play a Part

A positive school culture is everyone's responsibility. We have high expectations because we believe every student deserves to learn in a calm, safe and respectful environment. We are continuing to focus on good behaviour, positive relationships and making the right choices. While some students are finding these expectations challenging, we will keep working together to make improvements. We will celebrate those who get it right and provide support and clear consequences when things go wrong. We ask families to support us by talking to their children about the importance of kindness, respect, attendance and taking responsibility for their actions.



Thank you to our families for your continued support. By working together, we can create a school community where students feel they belong, are proud of their achievements and are ready for their futures.

Every day matters. Every choice counts. Every student has a part to play.

E.Huet - Deputy Headteacher

Students Take on Practical Challenges with Army Outreach

Year 11 students recently welcomed BASE (British Army Support to Education), the Army Outreach Team, to the Academy for an engaging and informative session exploring the wide range of careers, pathways and opportunities available within the British Army.



The visit began with an assembly, giving students an opportunity to learn more about life in the Army and the different routes available to those considering a career in the Armed Forces. Students also heard about the opportunities available beyond a traditional military career, including education, training and travel.



Following the presentation, students took part in a hands-on workshop led by serving soldiers. Working in groups, they tackled a series of practical challenges designed to develop valuable transferable skills, including teamwork, communication, confidence and leadership.

The activities encouraged students to step outside their comfort zones, work collaboratively and find creative solutions to challenging tasks. The session provided an insight into the skills and qualities valued within the military, while also highlighting how these skills can benefit students across a wide range of future careers.



"The Army workshop was fun. All the challenges were completed due to good teamwork. My favourite challenge was the tyre stacking. The trickiest challenge was the one where we had to place barrels on top of a pile using ropes." Kolbey.B

"I found the workshop fun. We were put into groups with people we wouldn't have chosen ourselves, which helped build communication with people we wouldn't normally work with. The assembly was very interesting." Gabriel.B

"The Army workshop and assembly was spectacular and mind-blowing because there are so many opportunities, for example, the Army funding your education and going on trips all over the world to broaden your horizons. The workshop was amazing and the practical challenges were exciting to take part in." Temi.N

"I think the workshop was very enlightening about the pros and cons of joining the Army. The practical challenges were great, and the staff were very nice and patient. I had a great time." Aimee.J













Opening Doors to Future Careers and Opportunities



Last week, our Year 11 and Sixth Form students had the opportunity to attend the Basildon Skills Show, an event designed to help young people explore a wide range of career paths, training opportunities and further education options.

The event brought together employers, colleges, universities, apprenticeship providers and training organisations, giving students the chance to speak directly with representatives and find out more about the pathways available to them.

A wide range of organisations were represented, including Active Essex, Amazon, Debut Academy, Ford, Palmers Solicitors, Leonardo Defence Systems and The Children's Society. Students were able to ask questions, seek advice about potential career routes and learn more about the skills, qualifications and support available across different sectors.



There were also plenty of opportunities for students to get hands-on and experience some of the careers and industries on offer. Activities included trying their hand at bricklaying, controlling a crane and even taking control of a robot dog!

The Basildon Skills Show provided our students with a valuable opportunity to discover different possibilities for their future, helping them to make informed decisions about their next steps beyond Year 11 and Sixth Form.

"It was amazing. There were so many activities that caught my attention and made me think about my future. There were so many options and opportunities to explore different career paths." Jake.G - Year 11

"The event was informative and inspiring. The room was filled with so many opportunities and helpful people. There were games, information booklets and hands-on workshops, including the chance to try bricklaying and operate a crane." Greta.D - Year 11

"It was amazing. There were so many activities that caught my attention and made me think about my future. There were so many options and opportunities to explore different career paths." Jake.G - Year 11

"Yesterday was amazing. I learnt more about my future and saw all the different opportunities available. I felt inspired to pursue the things I'm interested in." Vadim.B – Year 11













Cambridge University Outreach Visit Inspires Students



Upper Academy students recently had the opportunity to take part in a Cambridge University Outreach workshop focused on applying to Cambridge and other Russell Group universities.

Jess Morrissey, School Liaison Officer at Emmanuel College, Cambridge, visited the Academy alongside four student ambassadors. The ambassadors, who are currently studying Law and Natural Sciences at Cambridge, shared their experiences of university life and provided valuable advice and guidance on the application process.

Students from Years 10 and 11, alongside Sixth Form students, took part in the workshop, providing an opportunity to raise aspirations and encourage students to consider their future pathways.

The workshop gave students the opportunity to speak directly with current Cambridge students, ask questions and gain a greater understanding of university life and the application process. Students were encouraged to actively participate, consider their future options and learn more about the steps they can take to work towards their aspirations.

The session included discussions around university applications, the challenges students may face and the steps they can take now to work towards their future goals. Students were encouraged to actively participate and make the most of the opportunity to hear first-hand experiences from current university students.

"The ambassadors and I had a wonderful time working with you and your students. I was really quite impressed with your year 10s. They asked some really thoughtful questions and approached everything with maturity and curiosity. Their teacher was fantastic too and has clearly made such a positive impact on them in regard to their future aspirations. I have no doubt that they have some really bright futures ahead of them."
Jess Morrissey – School Liaison Officer, Emmanuel College, Cambridge.

"I gained a valuable insight into universities and a greater understanding of the challenges I will face to get there. The staff were brilliant and encouraged active participation along with engaging games."
Carter.P – Year 10

"I found the experience exciting and it's the type of enthusiastic learning that can benefit my future, my profession and my academic career." David.A – Year 10

"I gained a valuable insight into universities and a greater understanding of the challenges I will face to get there. The staff were brilliant and encouraged active participation along with engaging games."
Carter.P – Year 10

Wear Red for Racism – Friday 16th October

On Friday 16th October, students are permitted to wear a red T-shirt or jumper, along with red socks, to show their support for tackling racism.

School trousers and shoes must still be worn as normal.

To find out more about the campaign, visit:
https://www.theredcard.org/wear-red-day/



Seacole Celebrates Victory in House Quiz

Students recently took part in an exciting House Quiz, putting their general knowledge to the test in a fun and competitive event.



In the lead-up to the grand final, students took part in heats during Tutor Time, giving everyone the opportunity to contribute points towards their House total and play a part in the competition.

There was plenty of support from the audience, with students enthusiastically cheering on their teams and calling out answers as the competition unfolded.

Following the general knowledge round, students put their music knowledge to the test by guessing songs from their introductions. The competition then took to the stage for an exciting dance-off, with representatives from each House showcasing their moves and dance skills to be judged.



A huge thank you to everyone who took part and represented their House. Whether answering a question, recognising a song or showing off their dance skills, every single point counted towards their House total!

The event was a fantastic example of teamwork and House spirit, with students working together, supporting one another and giving their best throughout the competition.

Congratulations to Seacole House, who were crowned the overall winners and took home first prize! Well done to everyone who participated and helped make the event such a success.













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.



Safeguarding



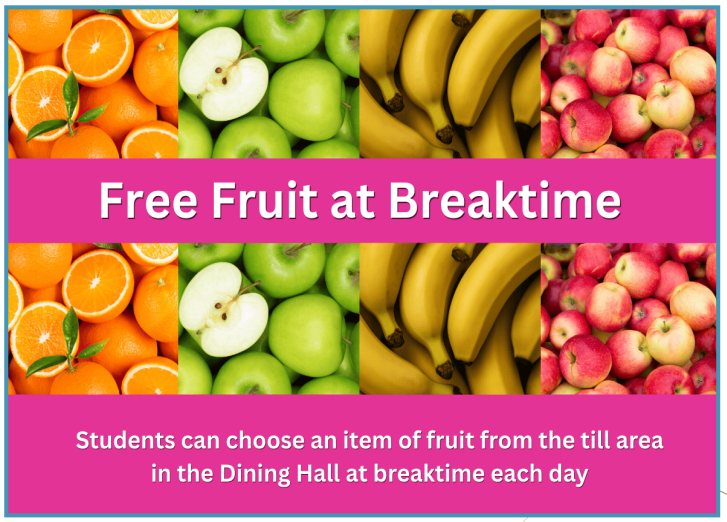
At the Basildon Academies, keeping children safe and helping them to thrive is at the heart of everything we do.

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





Aspire - Believe - Achieve

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.

Extra-Curricular Sports Timetable

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Before School 7.30am-8.20am					Cross Country 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

Must Have Full PE Kit - Football Training Requires Shinpads

School Catering Information



Looking for our latest lunch and break time menus, as well as current prices?

All catering information can be found on our Catering page:

https://www.basildonupperacademy.org.uk/catering

Here you can view:
- Lunch menus
- Break time menus
- Food and drink prices
- Information about our catering provision

We encourage students and parents/carers to check the page regularly for the latest menu options.

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

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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ASPIRE BELIEVE ACHIEVE

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 Impersonation – A Guide for Parents and Carers

Online impersonation can be a concern for young people, particularly across social media and other online platforms. This helpful guide explains what online impersonation is, the potential risks and what parents and carers can do to support their child in staying safe online.



Click here to access information and practical advice on recognising online impersonation, protecting personal information and knowing what to do if your child's identity or accounts are misused.

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: Baker



What does a Baker do?

Bakers prepare bread, cakes, and pastries to sell and serve in shops, cafes, or restaurants.

Key Responsibilities:

- Making sure you have enough supplies
- Measuring out large quantities of ingredients
- Working safely with machinery like power mixers, industrial ovens and production lines
- Making dough
- Working out cooking times
- Keeping production areas clean
- Developing new products and recipes

What Qualifications do you need to do this job?

- There are no specific entry requirements to become a baker.
- You may find it useful to have GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A* to C) or equivalent, in subjects like English, maths, science, or food technology
- You could start out by doing a baking course at college, applying to be a trainee in a bakery, or doing a baking apprenticeship.



Labour Market Information

- +7.4% 47,729 jobs
- +11.8% in your region of East of England, an increase of 7,175 jobs

Let's Talk Money

UK annual median: £29,117



BASILDON ACADEMIES WORD OF THE DAY

12th - 16th October 2026
Black History Month

Monday:	**Cultural Heritage** (noun) Urithi wa kitamaduni in Swahili *Definition:* The legacy of physical artifacts and intangible attributes of a group or society inherited from past generations. *Example:* Each dish prepared during BHM Food Promo Week reflected the cultural heritage of African and Caribbean communities.	
Tuesday:	**Authenticity** (noun) Ukweli in Luganda *Definition:* The quality of being genuine or true to its origins. *Example:* The chefs ensured the authenticity of traditional African dishes served during the promo week.	
Wednesday:	**Diaspora (noun) Diaspora in Amharic** *Definition:* The dispersion or spread of any people from their original homeland. *Example:* The African diaspora has influenced cultures around the world, contributing to art, music, and social movements during Black History Month.	
Thursday:	**Abolitionism (noun) Ukomeshaji utumwa in Swahili** *Definition:* The movement to end slavery, particularly in the United States before the Civil War. *Example:* Black History Month often highlights the contributions of abolitionism to the fight for freedom and equality in America.	
Friday:	**Reconstruction (noun) Kuvandudzwa in Shona** *Definition:* The period after the Civil War in the United States when Southern states were reorganized and reintegrated into the Union, with efforts to establish rights for formerly enslaved people. *Example:* During Black History Month, many events focus on the successes and challenges of the Reconstruction era for African Americans.	

Follow Us

Year 11 AP1, commencing 12th October 2026

	AM (8.55am start)			PM (1:00pm start)	
Monday 12th October	English Lang P1	1 hr 45		Biology Combined P1	1 hr 15
				Biology Triple P1	1 hr 45
Tuesday 13th October	Maths P1	1 hr 30		Geography P1	1 hr 30
				History P1	1 hr
Wednesday 14th October	English Literature 1	1 hr 45		Chemistry Combined P1	1 hr 15
				Chemistry Triple P1	1 hr 45
Thursday 15th October	Maths P2	1 hr 30		GCSE Business P1	1 hr 45
				Engineering Unit 1	1 hr 15
				Computer Science P2	1 hr 45
Friday 16th October	English Language P2	1 hr 45		French Writing	F: 1 hr 10 H: 1 hr 15
Monday 19th October	Catering	1 hr 20		Physics Combined P1	1 Hr 15
	Music Listening	1 hr 30		Physics Triple P1	1 hr 45
	GCSE PE	1 hr 15			
Tuesday 20th October	Maths	1 hr 30		Geography P2	1 hr 30
				History P2	2 hrs
Wednesday 21st October 10.15 start	English Literature 2	2 hr 15			
Thursday 22nd October	Statistics	1 hr 45		Computer Science P1	2 hrs
				GCSE Business P2	1 hr 45
				Psychology P1	1 hr 30
Friday 23rd October	French Reading / Listening	F: 1 hr 30 H: 1 hr 50			
Monday 2nd November	Practical Exams			Practical Exams	
Tuesday 3rd November	Practical Exams			Practical Exams	
Wednesday 4th November	Practical Exams			Practical Exams	
Thursday 5th November	Practical Exams			Practical Exams	
Friday 6th November	Practical Exams			Practical Exams	

ROUTES IN HEALTHCARE: EXPLORING THE HEALTHCARE ASSISTANT ROLE

Take part in a hands-on workshop hosted by the Health & Care Academy in the specialist training ward at Brentwood Community Hospital.

This interactive session will give you a practical introduction to working in health and care through the role of a Healthcare Assistant (HCA).

EXPERIENCE A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A HEALTHCARE ASSISTANT

You will:

- Discover the role of a Healthcare Assistant
- Learn about Infection Prevention and Control, including: Hand hygiene, Using Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), The 5 Moments of Hand Hygiene and Bed-changing skills
- Take physiological measurements and record NEWS observations
- Learn Basic Life Support skills

THIS FUN AND INTERACTIVE WORKSHOP WILL GIVE YOU A REAL INSIGHT INTO LIFE ON A HOSPITAL WARD WHILE HELPING YOU DEVELOP PRACTICAL SKILLS THROUGH REALISTIC CLINICAL ACTIVITIES.

This opportunity is available to students aged 14 – 16 years old.

Date: Tuesday 27th October 2026 or Wednesday 28th October 2026

Time: 10am – 2pm

Venue: Brentwood Community Hospital

APPLY THROUGH THE EXPERIENCE HUB

HTTPS://WORKEXPERIENCE.OURPEOPLEYOURFUTURE.CO.UK/

Free courses for parents & carers

5th - 16th October 2026

Gain practical **tips and techniques** you can use straight away.

Be around others that 'get it' in our **supportive and friendly** sessions.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
5th October	6th October	7th October	8th October	9th October
	Zones of Regulation Online Live 12:30 - 2:30pm	**Understanding ASC in Children** Online Live 6:30 - 8:30pm **Managing Big Emotions** Online Live 7:00 - 9:00pm	**Understanding Children's Anxiety** Online Live 7:00 - 9:00pm	**Understanding Teens Anxiety** Online Live 9:30 - 11:30am
12th October	13th October	14th October	15th October	16th October
	Family First Aid Online Live 7:00 - 9:00pm		**Family First Aid** Online Live 9:30 - 11:30am	

To book, please visit **aclessex.com** and search the course name or give us a call on **0345 603 7635**.

Essex County Council

Free courses for parents & carers

19th - 30th October 2026

Gain practical **tips and techniques** you can use straight away.

Be around others that 'get it' in our **supportive and friendly** sessions.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
19th October	20th October	21st October	22nd October	23rd October
Managing Anger in Young People Online Live 7:00 - 9:00pm	**Separtation Anxiety (Primary)** Online Live 7:00 - 9:00pm	**Separation Anxiety (Early Years)** Online Live 7:00 - 9:00pm	**Managing Conflict at Home** Online Live 7:00 - 9:00pm	**Building Better Routines** Online Live 9:30 - 11:30am
26th October	27th October	28th October	29th October	30th October

Half Term Week! Visit aclessex.com to see what's starting soon.

To book, please visit **aclessex.com** and search the course name or give us a call on **0345 603 7635**.

Essex County Council