

Dates for the Diary

Year 11 AP1 Assessments

Monday 17th November - Friday 5th December 2025

Presentation Event - Invitation Only

Thursday 11th December 2025: 3.30pm-4.30pm

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

Student Value of the Term

**NO HUMAN
IS ILLEGAL**

House Points - Week Ending 28th November



50,188
AUSTEN



49,803
SEACOLE



41,081
HAWKING



40,934
ALI

Leadership Message

Our Year 11 students have now completed the first phase of their Autumn exams, with the last written papers being completed today. They have displayed a great attitude to learning and shown tremendous resilience, so thank you for your support during this time.

Over the next two weeks, students will be taking practical exams in Art, Photography, 3D Design and Engineering, giving them the opportunity to rehearse for their exams next Summer. As with the written exams, this will also provide us with essential information on how we can best support students to achieve their full potential in the final exams.

The practical exams will run alongside our normal teaching timetable, so students not taking an exam will be attending their normal lessons.

The results of these exams will be shared with students on Thursday 15th January, and their full report will be available on the **My Child at School** (MCAS) app by Friday 16th January. Alongside the summary page detailing the GCSE grade, the full report will identify both areas of strength and any gaps in understanding. This will allow teachers and students to focus on those areas that will have the greatest impact on outcomes, so they have the best chance of securing their chosen post-16 destination.



Thanks again for your continued support during this time, and if there is anything further we can do to support your child – or you need assistance with the MCAS app – please let me know using the [Contact Us](#) page on our website, selecting the option for General Enquires.

S. Bellenie
Assistant Headteacher
Raising Standards Lead

Parent Drop In - Wednesday 3rd December

This week's Parent Drop In will be on Wednesday 3rd December 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.



Students of the Week

Congratulations to the following students who have been awarded Student of the Week for week commencing 24th November 2025.

★ Year 10 - Olivia.G (R10E1)

★ Year 11 - Gabija.B (R11E1)

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 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 students learn the skills of working in a lab hands-on.

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

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

Aspire - Believe - Achieve

Online Safety Hub: Cryptocurrency - The Risks for Teen Traders

Have you heard your teen mentioning 'crypto' and 'Dogecoin' or noticed they've developed a sudden interest in Elon Musk's X feed? The number of teens entering the world of cryptocurrency trading is on the rise; however, some wellbeing experts are starting to raise concerns about this growing trend.

For more information on the risks of teen cryptocurrency trading and guidance for parents and carers, visit: www.basildonacademies.onlinesafetyhub.uk/parent/articles/cryptocurrency

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](#)



Year 10 Work Experience 2026

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 encourage parents and students to review the details together and begin exploring potential placements early.



Year 10 Students Explore CV Writing with DWP Workshop

As part of the Academies' careers programme, we were pleased to welcome Andrea and Gill from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) last week. They delivered introductory CV workshops to our Year 10 students, helping them explore what a CV is, identify their key skills and personal qualities, and start thinking about how to present themselves for future opportunities.

These sessions provided students with a strong starting point, and they will continue developing their CVs with support from parents, carers, and professionals as they prepare for future pathways and work experience.

Our Year 10 students engaged enthusiastically throughout the workshops, demonstrating a keen interest in developing their skills and planning for the future.



"The session was very engaging and detailed. What we learned was very important and will help develop my future." Rezia.O

"This workshop really helped me with writing future CVs and helped me realise the good qualities I have, even from simple hobbies." Sofia.D

"The CV workshop very engaging. I enjoyed it a lot and loved reflecting on my personal skills and achievements." Mia.L

"I found this very educational and it helped me understand the importance of having a CV and listing the achievements I have. It also gave me confidence." Declan.P

"This experience was very enriching. It was a lovely session that gave me the confidence and skills to create a CV." Oskar.M

"I found the workshop fun, and it has helped me understand how to write a CV." Lillie.S

"The CV-writing workshop has really helped me as I have my work experience in April. I will continue to work on my CV for the future, and this workshop was very fun." Kaci.C

New Pitsea Community Mural Unveiled

Co-created by students from the Upper Academy and Northlands Primary School for a project led by K&B Designs and Creative Basildon, a vibrant new community mural has now been unveiled in the heart of Pitsea.

Located at Northlands Pavement, the mural was developed from ideas gathered during the Pitsea Community Mural workshops held in October. Year 10 students from the Upper Academy and pupils from Northlands Primary each took part in dedicated sessions, sharing what Pitsea means to them through colours, themes, words, and imagery.

These combined contributions have been brought to life in a striking and colourful public artwork that celebrates the spirit of Pitsea and amplifies the voices of its young people.

We are proud that our students were part of this collaborative community project, helping to create a mural that will be enjoyed for years to come.

If you're in the area, we encourage you to visit the finished mural at Northlands Pavement and experience the creativity and community pride on display.



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.



English Breakfast Day Tuesday 2nd December

To celebrate English Breakfast Day
the Dining Hall will be serving
All Day Breakfasts as the main meal
option on Tuesday 2nd December



Vegetarian option

Sixth Form Success in the UK Maths Trust Challenge

Congratulations to our sixth form students who recently participated in the prestigious UK Maths Trust Challenge competition!

This national online challenge encourages mathematical reasoning, precision of thought, and problem-solving skills.

We are proud to highlight the outstanding performances of **Vanessa.O**, **Jayden.A** and **Patrick.B** who received a Bronze Award.

A special commendation goes to **Jan.S** who achieved a Gold Award and secured an invitation to the Andrew Jobbings Senior Kangaroo 2025 follow-on round; an exceptional accomplishment.

Well done to all participants for their hard work and dedication. The Academy is extremely proud of your achievements!



Do you like learning about **animals, plants and ecology**?

You could be a/an...

Ecologist



Jen studies the **biodiversity in habitats** and helps companies to protect habitats and so be more sustainable.

Career route Degree

Salary range £18,000 - £45,000

Oceanographer



Cheng studies the **oceans' chemical and biological formations** to learn about the ecosystems of the seas and how to protect them.

Career route Degree

Salary range £18,000 - £68,000

Food microbiologist



Hannah tests **food samples** for microorganisms that can make people ill, and finds new ways to keep our food safe.

Career route Degree

Salary range £35,000 - £50,000

Conservation officer



Jim uses his expertise in **conservation to preserve habitats**. He works outdoors in forests, on beaches and in grasslands.

Career route Apprenticeship or on the job training

Salary range £32,000- £75,000

You don't need a degree to be a scientist!

You can take a different career route including an apprenticeship, degree apprenticeship or by training on the job.



Which job would you like to do?



www.energisingfutures.co.uk



Year 10 STEM Opportunity

Anglia Ruskin University and the Chelmsford Science & Engineering Society are offering a FREE 15-week Saturday Club specifically for Year 10 students interested in Science and Engineering.

Participants will:

- Work in ARU's Super Lab and engineering workshops
- Explore real-world STEM challenges
- Take part in masterclasses & industry visits
- Join national events run by the National Saturday Club

Sessions run on Saturday mornings from January 2026. Spaces are limited, so early applications are advised.

For full details and to apply, please visit: <https://cses.org.uk/>

**INTERESTED IN
SCIENCE • TECHNOLOGY • ENGINEERING?**



Join the FREE National Saturday Club for Year 10 Students
Coordinated by CSes • Hosted by ARU Chelmsford



EXTRA-CURRICULAR TRAINING PROGRAMME

Winter Term 2025

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Before School 7.30am-8.20am <small>*Gates open and close at 7.30am sharp. Please manage your timekeeping accordingly.</small>	Year 10-13 Boys/Girls Fitness Suite	Year 10 & 11 Boys Football Year 10 & 11 Girls Netball		Year 10 & 11 Boys/ Girls Cross Country	
Break Time 11.00am-11.30am		Year 10 & 11 Girls Basketball	Year 10 & 11 Boys Basketball		
Lunch Time 1.00pm-1.30pm				Year 10 & 11 Girls Dance	Year 10 & 11 Boys/ Girls Badminton
After School	Fixtures *	Fixtures *	Fixtures *	Fixtures *	Fixtures *

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

Free Fruit at Breaktime



Students can choose an item of fruit from the till area in the Dining Hall at breaktime each day.

Aspire - Believe - Achieve

BASILDON ACADEMIES

WORD OF THE DAY

1st - 5th December 2025

Monday:	Beneficent (adjective) buannachdail in Scottish Gaelic – generous or doing good. <i>The beneficent sponsor provided free meals for the event.</i>	
Tuesday:	Inexorable (adjective) неумољив in Serbian – impossible to stop or prevent. <i>Time's inexorable march brought exam season closer.</i>	
Wednesday:	Advocacy (noun) difesa in Sicilian – public support for a cause or policy. <i>Her advocacy for disability rights changed school policy.</i>	
Thursday:	Melancholy (noun) melancholia in Slovak – a feeling of deep sadness. <i>The melancholy song captured the nation's grief</i>	
Friday:	Integrity (noun) celovitost in Slovenian – the quality of being honest and having strong moral principles. <i>His integrity made him a trusted school leader.</i>	

Job of the Week: Farmer

What does a Farmer do?

Your day-to-day tasks will vary depending on the type of farm and the time of year, but may include:

- Working with animals (transporting, milking, feeding, mucking out, and caring for sick or newborn livestock)
- Ploughing fields, sowing seeds, spreading fertiliser, crop spraying, and harvesting
- Operating farm machinery
- Maintaining and cleaning farm buildings and machinery
- Laying and trimming hedges
- Digging and maintaining ditches
- Erecting and mending fences

Labour Market Information

- UK jobs: 297,337
- 7,573 in your local area of Essex
- +7.8% 29,404 jobs
- +16.9% in your region of East of England, an increase of 4,710 jobs

What Qualifications do you need to do this job?

There are no set requirements, but the following may help you get into this career:

- Experience and knowledge of farm work, for example through growing up on a farm or volunteering on a farm
- Training or experience in handling a herd and operating milking machinery (to work on a dairy farm) – or you could learn on the job
- A degree in agriculture, agribusiness, or a relevant subject like sustainability or a science

Let's Talk Money

UK annual median:
£34,146



The school is determined that all pupils can access the curriculum. All pupils in key stage 4 now study French. The school offers pupils a wide range of vocational courses as well as GCSE and A-level qualifications. Pupils are prepared well for the next stage of their education or employment.

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



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.



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



The 12 Safety Tips for Christmas

Presented by 'The 2 Johns'



"I Know them"



The Johns would like to invite you to join a complimentary online event. This will provide you with an introduction to a world that we, as adults, did not grow up in but your children are fully embracing.

They will give you tips on: -

The Internet Express	Gaming	The Exploiters
WhatsApp & Snap Chat	Screen time	Cliff Top Parenting
What to do if it goes Wrong	Sexploitation	Where can I Get Help
Indecent Images of Children	Stranger Danger	The Power of Influence

The two Johns, yes, they are both named John and have spent many years working in the police in various overt and covert roles tackling online and offline child exploitation. They are regarded as experts in their field and annually work in hundreds of primary and secondary schools interacting with thousands of children, teachers and parents. They also regularly deliver lunch and learn sessions to parenting networks in the private sector.

Over the past fifteen years, the two Johns have been key speakers at numerous major events throughout the country. In Essex they are regularly commissioned by the Safeguarding Children's Board, Community Safety Partnerships and schools to deliver both staff training and bespoke sessions for large numbers of children. This includes their highly successful 'Walk Online Roadshow' which is delivered to many thousands of children annually.

The 2 Johns



'Keeping Children Safe'

Thursday 11th December
at 20:00hrs

(Scan the QR code to register)



www.esafetytraining.org



EST E Safety Training



@JohnsThe2



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**