

# The Basildon Upper Academy Newsletter

9<sup>th</sup> February 2026

## Dates for the Diary

### Children's Mental Health Week

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> - Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2026

### National Apprenticeship Week

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> - Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2026

### Year 13 AP2 Assessments

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> - Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026

### Half Term

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> - Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2026

### Year 11 & Year 13 AP2 Assessments

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> - Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2026

## Student Value of the Term

**KINDNESS IS  
EVERYTHING**

## House Points - Week Ending 6<sup>th</sup> February



82,834  
SEACOLE



82,373  
AUSTEN



71,676  
HAWKING



68,965  
ALI

## A Message from the Safeguarding Team

As we reach the end of this half term, we will be taking part in Children's Mental Health Week, centred around the theme "This Is My Place." This will give students a chance to think about where they feel safe, supported, and able to be themselves. We hope they will feel confident sharing their thoughts as we know that students often share with us that school is a place where they feel safe, listened to and cared for, and we remain committed to strengthening that sense of belonging every day. Throughout the week, we will be encouraging open conversations about mental health and reminding students that their feelings matter. These moments of focus are important, but they also sit alongside the everyday care and attention we give to students' Safety and Wellbeing. We want every child to know that there is always someone ready to listen and offer support.

We will also be spending time talking about Online Safety as part of the Safer Internet Awareness Day, helping students understand how to make safe choices and what to do if something online worries them. While this awareness week gives us a helpful spotlight, online safety is something we weave into school life regularly and is an open topic of conversation for students to share their worries.



As we move into the February half term, we encourage families to keep these conversations going at home. This break can be a good time for rest, connection, and checking in with young people about how they're feeling, who they're spending time with, and how they can keep themselves safe - both in the community and online. If you ever have any safeguarding concerns, or if you're worried about your child's wellbeing in any way, please reach out to us. Our Safeguarding Team will continue to listen, support, and work with you so that every young person feels safe, supported and heard.

S.Peake

Senior Student Development Leader and Designated Safeguarding 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](mailto:admin@basildonacademies.org.uk) with the updated information.

## Parent Drop In - Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February

This week's Parent Drop In will be on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February 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 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2026.



Year 10 - Kolade.E (R10E1)



Year 11 - Isabelle.P (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](http://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.

For further information and support, please visit our safeguarding page: [www.basildonupperacademy.org.uk/safeguarding](http://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.

### 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.

### Spotlight on: A Level Photography



If you are interested in the world around you and your place within it, enjoy picture taking and would like to learn how to take better photographs that translate into creative and meaningful imagery then you would be very suited to the Photography course.

Studying Photography will give you a greater understanding of the world we live in, and your place within it. You will be encouraged to explore subject themes with a personal interest to ensure that you are always on a meaningful creative journey.

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

### 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**

# Year 10 Praised by Employers During Mock Interview Day

On Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February, the entire Year 10 cohort took part in a full day of mock interviews, designed to help students develop confidence, communication skills and an understanding of real-world recruitment processes.

The event was organised in collaboration with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and provided students with a valuable opportunity to experience a formal interview setting.

Throughout the day, students presented themselves exceptionally well, demonstrating professionalism, confidence and strong communication skills. Visitors were extremely complimentary about the cohort, praising students for their positive attitudes and engagement during interviews.

The day was supported by a range of volunteer professionals who acted as interviewers, representing sectors including civil service, training providers, recruitment consultancy, IT, finance and logistics. Their involvement ensured that students received realistic interview experiences and constructive feedback, helping them to better prepare for future education, training and employment opportunities.

"The mock interviews event was an extremely rewarding experience for both the students and the interviewers. Students engaged positively and provided responses to challenging interview-style questions that would have made a seasoned adult proud. Fantastic event. Well done to the DWP and Basildon Academies for arranging such a project."

Jonathan Okenla - Strategic Finance Leader





"It was helpful because it gave me a glimpse of what real interviews are like and made me less afraid of putting myself out there while job searching." Jay.A

"The experience was magical. I have never felt so happy and encouraged. It helped me learn a lot about myself and my passions." Temi.N

"I thought it was great. I found myself being incredibly open and honest, and I felt content talking about my hobbies, strengths, and weaknesses. The interviewer also said I was mature." Joshua.T

"It was a great interview with questions that really made me think. It was quite stressful, but in a good way." Muhammad.A

"I found the experience helpful as it showed what an employer might ask when I go for a job." Tyrese.R

"I loved the woman who interviewed me — she was so kind and supportive. I was nervous at first, but once I started speaking, I felt very confident talking about my aspirations for the future. It was a very comfortable experience." Summer.C

"It was amazing meeting the Year 10 students at Basildon Upper Academy. Everyone I interviewed should be proud of themselves today. Keep reaching for your goals and believe in yourselves — you've got this." Alice Barclay – Basildon Council

## Free Half-Term Claymation Workshops

Young people aged 11–16 are invited to take part in free Claymation filmmaking workshops this half term, delivered by Animating Education in partnership with New Waverley Studios. Now in its second year, the project is funded by Screen South and offers a fun, hands-on introduction to stop-motion animation.

Across two creative days, participants will design and sculpt their own characters and props using colourful modelling clay, before learning how to bring them to life through stop-motion animation. With guided support, young people will develop basic sculpting and animation skills and see their creations featured in a short film.

All materials, including clay and tools, are provided.

**Dates:** Monday 16<sup>th</sup> & Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February

**Time:** 10am – 3pm

**Age range:** 11–16

**Location:**

Unit 48, The Unity Centre  
86 Eastgate Centre, Basildon, SS14 1AF

To find out more and register for a free place, please visit:

[www.animatingeducation.co.uk/product-page/basildon-frames-claymation](http://www.animatingeducation.co.uk/product-page/basildon-frames-claymation)



## Manifesto for Essex Eco-Gathering (Secondary Schools) - Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> February

The Essex Book Festival is hosting the Manifesto for Essex Eco-Gathering at Chelmsford Theatre Studio, aimed primarily at young people aged 13–25.

The event offers an opportunity to hear about local eco-projects, take part in creative eco-workshops, learn new skills, and connect with like-minded young people who are passionate about climate action, culture and community. Students are encouraged to get involved, share ideas and make a positive difference both locally and beyond.

For more information and to book a place for **FREE**, please visit: <https://www.essexbookfestival.org.uk/event/manifesto-for-essex-eco-gathering/>



## 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.

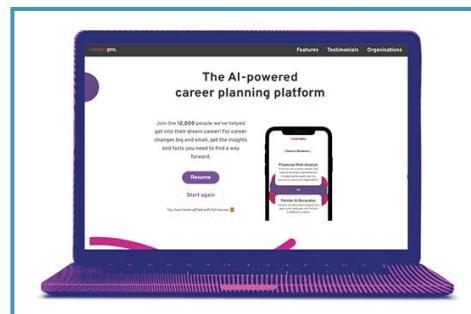
Through a fun quiz, your child will receive personalised career suggestions and learn what each role involves. They can also add their current skills or experiences, and Careers Pro will highlight where these can be transferred into different career paths.

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.

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.

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>



## National Apprenticeship Week

National Apprenticeship Week begins on Monday (9<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> February) and is a great opportunity for students to explore future career pathways and learn how apprenticeships combine earning, learning, and gaining real-world skills.

We encourage students to start by visiting Amazing Apprenticeships to access events, resources, and inspiration linked to the week:

<https://www.amazingapprenticeships.com/naw/>



Students can also explore local opportunities, employer insights, and support via the Essex Careers Padlet: <https://padlet.com/apprenticeshiphub/essex-careers-padlet-4u3ozyn59c73sxar>

Students can also explore career pathways, apprenticeships and local opportunities using Unifrog, an online careers platform that helps students match their interests and strengths to future options. Students can access <https://www.unifrog.org/> by logging in with their school email address.

## 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](#)



## Year 11 AP2, commencing 23rd February 2026

**AM (8:30am start)**

**PM (1:30pm start)**

Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February	English Language P1	1 hr 45		Maths P1	1 hr 30
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> February	English Literature P1	1 hr 45		Science C1	1 hr 15
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> February	English Language P2	1 hr 45		Maths P2	1 hr 30
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> February	English Literature P2	2 hr 15		Science C2	1 hr 15
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> February	Maths P3	1 hr 30		Geography	1 hr
				History	1 hr
Monday 2nd March	Psychology P2	1 hr 45		Sport P2	1 hr 15
	Statistics Higher	1 hr 45			

# BASILDON ACADEMIES

## WORD OF THE DAY

9<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Monday:	<b>Compassion (noun)</b> együttérzés in Hungarian – sympathetic concern for others' suffering. <i>Compassion is central to mental health awareness campaigns.</i>	
Tuesday:	<b>Cybersecurity (noun)</b> keamanan siber in Indonesian – the practice of protecting systems and data online. <i>The IT manager gave a talk on cybersecurity to Year 10.</i>	
Wednesday:	<b>Prudent (adjective)</b> stuama in Irish – acting with care for the future. <i>It was prudent to begin coursework well before the deadline.</i>	
Thursday:	<b>Reticent (adjective)</b> reticente in Italian – not revealing one's thoughts readily. <i>He was reticent about sharing his exam result</i>	
Friday:	<b>Amorous (adjective)</b> amatores in Latin – showing, feeling, or relating to love. <i>The poet's amorous verses charmed the audience.</i>	

## Job of the Week: Fashion Buyer

### What does a Fashion Buyer do?

Fashion buyers are responsible for choosing what is sold in stores, aiming to generate the largest possible profits.

Day-to-day responsibilities include:

- Analysing and forecasting trends from consumer data
- Managing product quality and getting customer feedback
- Negotiating prices, orders and delivery dates
- Presenting collections to senior managers
- Tracking sales figures, managing stock levels and keeping to budgets

### Labour Market Information

+7.6% 171,912 jobs

+9.3% in your region of East of England, an increase of 18,750 jobs



### What Qualifications do you need to do this job?

You'll usually need a degree or college qualification in fashion, retail or business. Some fashion retail experience will also help.

Some companies offer buyer training schemes or management training schemes where you can specialise in buying.

You may also be able to work your way up from the shop floor to the role of buyer's administration assistant, then assistant or junior buyer.

### Let's Talk Money

UK annual median: £37,306



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



# PROM HAIR



Would  
you like the  
opportunity to  
have your hair  
styled for your prom  
by industry professionals  
at no cost to you?

If that's a YES, please see Miss Cleal in the HUB (A15) on a  
Thursdays or Fridays for more details.

# NATIONAL PIZZA DAY

Thursday 12th February

To celebrate National Pizza Day on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February, the Dining Hall will be serving pizza during morning breaktime for just 75p a slice.

Pizza toppings available:

- Cheese & Tomato
- Vegetable
- Pepperoni

*Delicious*



## Valentine's Day Treats

Friday 13th February

Valentine's Day-themed cakes and biscuits will be available in the Dining Hall at break and lunchtime. Only 75p each.

