



The Basildon Upper Academy Newsletter

26th January 2026

Dates for the Diary

Holocaust Memorial Day

Tuesday 27th January 2026

LGBT+ History Month

February 2026

Year 12 AP1 Assessments

Monday 2nd - Friday 6th February 2026

Children's Mental Health Week

Monday 9th - Sunday 15th February 2026

National Apprenticeship Week

Monday 9th - Sunday 15th February 2026

Student Value of the Term

KINDNESS IS EVERYTHING

House Points - Week Ending 23rd January



74,676
SEACOLE



73,673
AUSTEN



65,056
HAWKING



62,369
ALI

Message for Parents/Carers of Year 11 Students

Year 11 students have now completed a significant round of AP's that help us, and you, understand where they currently are in their GCSE journey. This is a crucial moment: the feedback from these assessments will guide the next steps as we move towards the final exams.

Year 11 students are starting to show great determination, and the months ahead are about building on that progress. With the right balance of support, routines, and encouragement, students can make tremendous gains between now and the summer.

How Parents/Carers Can Support GCSE Preparation in Year 11

- **Review feedback together** – identify subjects or topics that need extra focus.
- **Establish a realistic revision routine** – short, regular sessions are more effective than long cramming sessions.
- **Help create a study plan** – spread revision across subjects and keep it manageable.
- **Encourage active revision** – flashcards, quizzes, mind maps, and teaching the content to someone else are all effective.
- **Promote the use of past papers** – they help students understand question styles and build exam confidence.
- **Support attendance at intervention or revision sessions** the school provides.
- **Balance work and wellbeing** – help ensure they get enough sleep, breaks, and downtime.
- **Stay positive and encouraging** – remind them that improvement is a journey, not a single moment.



With consistent support at home and in school, Year 11 students can make excellent progress in the lead up to their GCSEs. Your involvement and encouragement play a vital part in helping them feel confident, prepared, and supported.

L.Hendy
EBacc 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 with the updated information.

Message for Parents/Carers of Year 10 Students

As Year 10 students are completing their assessments, this is an important time for them to also reflect on what they can achieve. These assessments help teachers understand where students are thriving and where they may benefit from extra support—and they provide a useful guide for families too.

Although GCSEs may still feel a little way off, Year 10 is the foundation year. The habits students develop now will make a significant difference to their confidence and performance in Year 11. With gentle encouragement and consistent routines at home, students can steadily build the skills they need for success.

How Parents/Carers Can Support GCSE Preparation in Year 10

- **Discuss assessment feedback together** – help your child pick out a few key areas to focus on.
- **Encourage regular study routines** – even short weekly revision helps learning stick.
- **Promote good organisation** – ensure they have a quiet space to work and keep materials tidy.
- **Check homework and deadlines** – staying on top of tasks now prevents pressure later.
- **Encourage healthy habits** – sleep, good nutrition, and breaks all support learning.
- **Build confidence** – praise effort, progress, and resilience, not just results.
- **Suggest revisiting class notes weekly** – small, manageable review sessions make a big impact.
- **Support attendance at any help or intervention sessions offered by school.**

With encouragement and steady effort, Year 10 students can build strong foundations that make the transition into Year 11 smoother and far less stressful. Your support at home makes a real difference.

L.Hendy - EBacc Lead

Parent Drop In - Friday 30th January

This week's Parent Drop In will be on Friday 30th January between 11am and 12pm.

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 19th January 2026.

★ Year 10 - Ryan.B (R10EPAM)

★ Year 11 - Daisy.M (R11X2)

★ Sixth Form - Lealand.G (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.

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

Supporting Your Child's Wellbeing with Parenting Smart

Parenting Smart, created by the children's mental health charity Place2Be, offers practical tips and guidance to support your child's wellbeing.

From managing screen time to handling big emotions, the website provides short, easy-to-follow articles and videos designed to help parents navigate everyday challenges with confidence. <https://parentingsmart.place2be.org.uk/>



Holocaust Memorial Day: Year 11 Students Take Part in Reflective Activities

With Holocaust Memorial Day taking place on Tuesday 27th January, Year 11 students engaged in activities aimed at deepening their understanding of the importance of remembrance, while encouraging thoughtful discussion and creativity.

Students began by researching the history and purpose of Holocaust Memorial Day. They explored why it is commemorated each year and learned about the events of the Holocaust, as well as the wider message of remembering victims of genocide and challenging prejudice and discrimination in society today. This research helped students reflect on the consequences of hatred and the importance of standing up for equality and human rights.

Following this, students took part in a range of arts and crafts activities that allowed them to express their learning creatively. These included designing posters to raise awareness and researching powerful quotes connected to remembrance, hope, and resilience. Through these activities, students were able to engage with the subject in a meaningful and personal way.

The session encouraged empathy, reflection, and respectful discussion, while also allowing students to develop their research and creative skills. Overall, it was a valuable and thought-provoking experience that helped students understand the significance of Holocaust Memorial Day and the importance of promoting tolerance and understanding in their communities.



"The wars of the world can create a world that remembers and thrives, or one that forgets and dies." Regan.C

"We must never forget those who suffered at the hands of others. To forget is to desecrate their memories." Lucy.P



The Government Has Strengthened Its National Guidance on Mobile Phone Use In Schools

As a school, we see every day the impact that modern technology—particularly mobile phones—can have on children's learning, behaviour, and wellbeing. For several years, we have operated our "Not Seen – Not Heard" mobile phone policy.

Today, the Government has strengthened its national guidance on mobile phone use in schools. This guidance makes clear that all schools should be phone-free environments for the entire school day.

This includes lessons, transitions between lessons, breaktimes, and lunchtime. It also means that mobile phones should not be used in class for activities such as calculators or research. In line with the Government guidance, and consistent with our policy, we will continue to confiscate mobile phones when they are seen or heard on school premises.

The intention behind this national approach is to remove any ambiguity and ensure that all schools can lead with confidence and consistency. Our own policy already aligns fully with this guidance and is applied fairly across the school. We ask for your continued support in helping us ensure it is upheld.

Part of our role is to set clear boundaries that help students stay focused, feel safe, and make the most of their education. I am grateful for your ongoing support in helping us maintain these expectations.

Thank you, as always, for your partnership and support.

G.Smith - CEO, The Basildon Academies Trust

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 16th & Wednesday 18th 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



Online Safety Hub: Is Your Teen Using Tech to Cover Their Tracks?

From the simple act of deleting browser history or minimising a window to more sophisticated techniques like decoy apps and VPNs, young people who want to keep their online activity hidden will continue to look for innovative ways. [Click here](#) to access information and support relating to teens using technology to cover their tracks online.

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](#)



Supporting Personal Development and Wellbeing

As part of our Personal Development curriculum, the Academies use resources from the Essex Sexual Health Service to support students with age-appropriate information about growing up and development. Students are signposted to a trusted online hub where they can find reliable advice and answers to common questions:

Asking for a friend: <https://askingforafriend.org.uk/>

Parents and carers are also encouraged to visit the dedicated Parents and Carers section of the [Essex Sexual Health Service website](#). This provides up-to-date guidance for supporting young people, as well as advice on how to approach and discuss more challenging topics at home.



Manifesto for Essex Eco-Gathering (Secondary Schools) - Saturday 28th 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/>

Year 12 AP1, commencing 2nd February 2026

AM (9.00am start)

PM (1:30pm start)

Monday 2 nd February	Chemistry	1 hr 30		Accountancy	1 hr 30
	Engineering	1 hr 30			
	English Literature	1 hr 30			
Tuesday 3 rd February	Computer Science	2 hr 30		Maths Paper 2	1 hr 15
				Biology Paper 1	2 hr
Wednesday 4 th February	Psychology	2 hr		3D Design	
	Physics Paper 1	2 hr		3D Design	
Thursday 5 th February	Maths Paper 1	2 hr		3D Design	
				3D Design	
Friday 6 th February	ICT	2 hr		3D Design	
	Sociology	2 hr		3D Design	

Mind - Mental Health Charity

If you or someone you know needs support with mental health, the charity Mind provides helpful information, advice, and practical tips for looking after your wellbeing. For more information please visit: www.mind.org.uk



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.

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

Spotlight on: 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](#)

NATIONAL CROISSANT DAY

Friday 30th January

To celebrate National Croissant Day on Friday 30th

January, The Dining Hall will be serving the following items at break time for 50p each;

- Plain Croissant
- Pain au Chocolat
- Savoury Croissant (Ham or Cheese)





SEND School Age Drop-in

**An opportunity to get advice and support
in a relaxed and non judgemental
environment**

Parents and carers of both diagnosed and non-diagnosed children welcome.

1st Wednesday of the month

12:00 - 13:00

No need to book - Just drop in!

**Northlands Park Family Hub
Davenants, Basildon Essex SS13 1QX**

Essex Child and Family Wellbeing Service

Service comissioned by:

BASILDON ACADEMIES

WORD OF THE DAY

26th – 30th January 2026

Monday:	Candour (noun) <i>vilpittömyys</i> in finnish – the quality of being open and honest. <i>The report was praised for its candour and clarity.</i>	
Tuesday:	Commemoration (noun) <i>siftorde</i> in Fulani – the act of remembering and honouring. <i>The commemoration assembly paid tribute to Holocaust victims.</i>	
Wednesday:	Discerning (adjective) <i>discernant</i> in French – having or showing good judgement. <i>The discerning reader spotted the subtle foreshadowing.</i>	
Thursday:	Esoteric (adjective) <i>ეთონერელი</i> in Georgian – intended for or understood by only a small group. <i>The philosopher's esoteric ideas baffled many students.</i>	
Friday:	Quintessential (adjective) <i>Inbegriff</i> in German – representing the most perfect example. <i>The village green was the quintessential symbol of England.</i>	

Job of the Week: Museum Curator

What does a Museum Curator do?

Museum curators manage museum exhibits. They purchase, maintain, and present to the public items of cultural, scientific, or historical interest.

Day-to-day responsibilities include:

- Selecting, buying or borrowing items
- Organising records, catalogues and indexes
- Making sure exhibits are stored under the right conditions
- Arranging conservation and restoration
- Helping visitors to interpret and enjoy exhibits and collections



What Qualifications do you need to do this job?

You'll usually need a degree and a postgraduate qualification in a relevant subject like:

- Museum or Heritage Studies
- Archaeology or Ancient History
- Classics
- Natural Sciences
- Anthropology
- Education

Labour Market Information

+17% 436,252 jobs

+19.3% in your region of East of England, an increase of 41,627 jobs

Let's Talk Money

UK annual median: £34,237



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.