

Dates for the Diary

Year 7 AP1 Assessments

Monday 13th - Friday 17th January 2025

Year 9 Options Process Event (Venue: Upper Academy)

Monday 13th January 2025 - 4pm-5pm

World Religion Day

Sunday 19th January 2025

Year 8 & 9 Parents Evening (Online)

Wednesday 22nd January 2025

Holocaust Memorial Day

Monday 27th January 2025

Student Value of the Term

**KINDNESS IS
EVERYTHING**

House Points - Week Ending 10th January



41,355
ALI



39,043
SEACOLE



34,251
AUSTEN



28,403
HAWKING

Leadership Message

At the Basildon Lower Academy, we are committed to providing a safe, supportive, and inclusive environment where every child can succeed. That's why we've introduced a **Behaviour Curriculum**—a structured approach to teaching positive behaviours and building strong social skills, just like any other academic subject.

Through the Behaviour Curriculum, students are learning to become Ready, Responsible and Resilient. These lessons happen both in classrooms and around the school, with clear expectations and consistent routines that help children feel confident and secure. Our main focus this term will continue to be uniform, line ups and lesson dismissals. Student will learn why these routines are important now, and for their future success. Students will be taught how to be successful in meeting these expectations.

What makes this approach special is its focus on teaching, not just correcting. If a child makes a mistake, we see it as an opportunity to guide them toward better choices. This might involve discussing the impact of their actions, practicing how to handle similar situations differently, or even celebrating their efforts to improve.



We believe that families play a key role in this process. Reinforcing these values at home creates a strong partnership that benefits every child. You can support this by asking your child about their school day, praising positive behaviours, and discussing ways to solve challenges together.

Together, we can create a community where every student feels valued and empowered to thrive. Thank you for your continued support!

Z.Spencer
Assistant Headteacher - Behaviour and Attitudes

Regular feedback is sought from parents, staff, and pupils to identify what is working well, where adjustments are needed and where there are opportunities to enhance provision further. This includes the use of confidence checkers to ensure students have taken on the learning and to identify areas where further teaching is needed.



Excellence in Pupil
Development Award

2023-2026

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 Lower Academy website and select the option for Home Learning/Homework.

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.basildonloweracademy.org.uk/safeguarding

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.



Aspire - Believe - Achieve

Online Safety Hub Recommended Resource of the Week: Review of Snapchat

Snapchat is a popular social media platform that allows users to send disappearing photos and videos, known as 'snaps', to friends. The platform offers a range of creative tools, including filters, lenses, and augmented reality features to alter appearances. Users can share their daily lives through Stories, which disappear after 24 hours, and connect with friends through instant messaging, voice, and video calls. [Click here](#) to access information and support relating to the social media platform Snapchat.



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](#)

Absence Procedures

To report a student absence please visit the [Contact Us](#) page via the Basildon Lower Academy website and select the option for Attendance.

- 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.basildonloweracademy.org.uk/attendance

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.



Dame Rebecca Harris MP Inspires Students at the Lower Academy

Last week, the Lower Academy had the honour of hosting Dame Rebecca Harris MP, Shadow Chief Whip. Her visit offered students a unique opportunity to learn about the inner workings of Parliament, the responsibilities of an MP, and the fascinating ceremonial duties she has performed.



Dame Rebecca shared captivating stories of her time representing Parliament at historic occasions, including the late Queen's funeral and the Coronation of King Charles III. As the first woman to hold the esteemed role of Comptroller of the Royal Household during royal processions, she reflected on her groundbreaking experiences. Dame Rebecca also offered fascinating insights into the meticulous planning behind these grand events, revealing details such as the removal of nearby traffic lights to create a visually seamless procession.

In addition to discussing her ceremonial duties, Dame Rebecca spoke about her journey into politics and her career as an MP. She emphasised the importance of public service and encouraged students to consider the diverse career opportunities available in politics.

The visit concluded with an engaging question-and-answer session, where students had the chance to ask Dame Rebecca about her career and experiences in Parliament.

"I learned a lot from Dame Rebecca Harris about Parliament, especially about the shadow ministers and the whip. I now understand more about the workings of the main political parties, how they debate, and the opposing and supporting arguments." Temi.N – Year 9

"It was very interesting learning about politics and the jobs that come with it. We also learned a lot about debating in Parliament." Saffa.B – Year 7

"I learned that being a politician is a hard and tiring job. You need to have a confident mindset when dealing with people, including those who dislike the party you represent." Ralph.B – Year 7

"I really enjoyed listening to Dame Rebecca's stories about the royal processions. It was inspiring for everyone. I could tell how passionate she is about her job." Ariadna.L – Year 7

"Listening to Dame Rebecca's experiences was really interesting and also educational." David-Teodor.T – Year 8



The Lower Academy is grateful to Dame Rebecca Harris MP for her inspiring visit, which left students with a deeper understanding of parliamentary life and the ceremonial traditions of the UK. Her stories and insights have undoubtedly motivated many to consider a future in public service.

Basildon Academies Achieves Healthy Schools Workplace Wellbeing Award

We are proud to announce that The Basildon Academies Trust has been awarded the prestigious Healthy Schools Workplace Wellbeing Award in recognition of our commitment to fostering a supportive and healthy environment for all staff.

This accolade reflects the steps that we have taken to prioritise staff wellbeing and promote a culture of health and inclusion across our academies. Key initiatives contributing to this achievement include:

- **The Trust Wellbeing Strategy:** Where wellbeing is a key driver in our Trust Strategic Development Plan.
- **Comprehensive Wellbeing Policies:** We have implemented a range of policies supporting flexible working, mental health, equality, diversity, and anti-bullying that have all had a positive impact on staff wellbeing.
- **Effective Communication:** Regular updates through emails, newsletters, and dedicated wellbeing boards ensure staff are informed and supported with their health and wellbeing.
- **Staff Involvement:** We conducted workplace needs assessments and trained Workplace Health Champions to lead wellbeing initiatives.
- **Engaging Wellbeing Activities and support:** The Trust provide access to senior health leads within school and the Employee Assistance Program. In addition, initiatives such as 'Seated to 5K' program and access to on-site state of the art Fitness Suites and have been popular. Staff participation reflects the positive impact on both physical and mental health.
- **Recognition for Inclusion:** Our efforts have also been recognised with additional awards, including:
 - o UNICEF Right Respecting School Gold Award
 - o Wellbeing Award for Schools
 - o Healthy School Award

These efforts demonstrate our commitment to ensuring our academies are not just places of learning but thriving communities for both staff and students.

N.Moore, our Healthy Schools Coordinator, has been instrumental in coordinating these initiatives, ensuring every member of our team feels valued and supported.

"We are delighted that our schools have received recognition in terms of the workplace ethos we have created. The award demonstrates our continued commitment to supporting the health and wellbeing of our staff, students and stakeholders in the best ways possible." Gary Smith - Chief Executive Officer, The Basildon Academies Trust.

We would like to thank all staff members for their enthusiasm and participation in this journey.

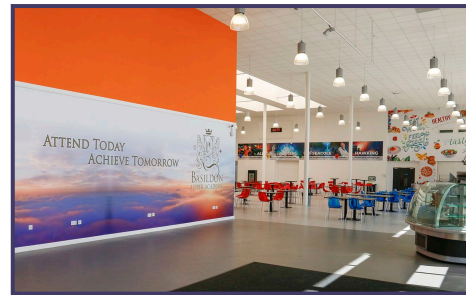


Year 9 Options Process Event

On Monday 13th January, we would like to invite all Year 9 students and their parents/carers to The Basildon Upper Academy from 4pm to 5pm.

This event marks the launch of the Year 9 Options process. We will explain the timeline and provide guidance on the next steps. Additionally, you'll have the opportunity to discuss subjects with Upper Academy teaching staff.

R.Earley, the new Year Leader for Year 9, will also be in attendance and looks forward to meeting you all.



Uniform Price Increase

We have been advised by our school uniform suppliers, SWI Schoolwear, that from **February 1st 2025**, there will be an increase in price across uniform of 3.4%, in line with Retail Price Index (RPI).

Should you require any additional uniform for your child, please order before the end of January to benefit from the current price.

SEND Department Coffee Afternoons - Every Wednesday 3pm - 4pm

We are delighted to offer our parents/carers the opportunity to meet with members of our SEND Department to discuss their child's progress. Coffee afternoons are held at the Lower Academy from 3pm – 4pm every Wednesday.

To book an appointment please visit the [Contact Us](#) page via the Basildon Lower Academy website and select the option for General Enquiries.



VEGANUARY MONTH

Throughout January the Dining Hall will be serving a Vegan Dish of the Day

BASILDON ACADEMIES

WORD OF THE DAY

13th - 17th January 2025
 Energy Saving Week
 RSPB School Garden Watch (16th-30th Jan)

Monday:	<p>Sustainability (Noun) <i>Definition:</i> The ability to be maintained at a certain rate or level, especially without depleting resources or causing severe damage. <i>Example:</i> Energy Saving Week emphasizes the importance of sustainability in reducing our environmental impact.</p>
Tuesday:	<p>Conservation (Noun) <i>Definition:</i> The action of conserving something, in this case, energy, by avoiding waste. <i>Example:</i> Effective energy conservation measures can significantly reduce household energy consumption.</p>
Wednesday:	<p>Efficiency (Noun) <i>Definition:</i> The state or quality of being efficient, in this case, using less energy to achieve the same result. <i>Example:</i> Improving the efficiency of appliances can lead to substantial energy savings during Energy Saving Week.</p>
Thursday:	<p>Biodiversity (Noun) <i>Definition:</i> The variety of plant and animal life in a particular habitat, often regarded as important and desirable. <i>Example:</i> Monitoring biodiversity in school gardens helps students understand the importance of maintaining diverse ecosystems.</p>
Friday:	<p>Ecology (Noun) <i>Definition:</i> The branch of biology that deals with the relations of organisms to one another and to their physical surroundings. <i>Example:</i> The RSPB School Garden Watch provides an opportunity for students to explore basic principles of ecology.</p>

Job of the Week: Actor

What does a Actor do?

Your day-to-day activities may include:

- researching, interpreting, and developing your role
- learning your lines and rehearsing alone or with others
- attending fittings for costumes
- preparing for and going to auditions
- contacting actors' agents and finding the next job
- working with other professional like makeup artists, camera operators, and directors

Labour Market Information

UK jobs: 342,899
 Essex Jobs: 6,251
 Growth: +.2%
 Top 5 LEAs: 1. Surrey (8,868) 2. Hackney (8,587) 3. Kent (8,466) 4. Hertfordshire (8,120) 5. Lambeth (7,261)



What Qualifications do you need to do this job?

You'll usually need to spend time on a training course at a university or drama school. You could take a diploma, foundation degree, degree or postgraduate diploma in drama, or a relevant subject like:

- performance studies
- contemporary theatre and performance
- acting
- musical theatre

Let's Talk Money

UK annual median: £24,249



The range of opportunities for parents to be involved and/or get involved is constantly growing and at all levels the school are actively seeking to develop the opportunities they provide for families to be involved in the life of the school.



Leading Parent Partnership Award

2023-2026

Follow The Basildon Lower Academy on our social media channels

