

Dates for the Diary

Year 7 & 8 Progress Review

Wednesday 31st January 2024 - 3:45pm-6pm

National Apprenticeship Week

Monday 5th - Sunday 11th February 2024

Children's Mental Health Week

Monday 5th - Sunday 11th February

Parent Forum Meeting - 4pm-5pm

Monday 12th February 2024

Half Term

Monday 19th - Friday 23rd February 2024

Student Value of the Term

**KINDNESS IS
EVERYTHING**

House Points - Week Ending 26th January



18,760
ALI



18,127
HAWKING



17,128
SEACOLE



16,896
AUSTEN

Leadership Message

As we journey further through this term, students have had the opportunity to take part in various activities supporting our RESPECT values and GRIT mindset programme (Growth, Resilience, Independence & Tenacity). Students have taken part in external workshops focusing on the power of play, with a key focus on 'Kindness is Everything'.

Taste Your Future sessions have been a great success, with students exploring the different options they can choose when they transition to the Upper Academy; from using original spices to make BBQ Jerk Chicken in Catering to exploring the Fitness Suite and Personal Training with sports coaching.

Our lead Respect Ambassadors are also proud to pledge that if they see unkind behaviour, although it may not be targeted at them, watching and doing nothing looks as if you are on the side of the bully and "We can't stand for it".

Students undertake comprehensive sessions to develop GRIT which is achieved through curriculum planning, health & wellbeing events and, active learning opportunities across the Key Stages. These are recognised as key attributes throughout our rewards programme. Rewards and Respect go hand in hand at the academies and our Student Voice is currently designing what they believe makes the perfect rewards day, including trips and student leadership days.

R. Joseph

Senior Student Development Leader & Respect Champion



There is a real drive to ensure that TA's are highly skilled and deployed effectively to meet the needs of learners. TA's feel well valued and were able to articulate how they are given opportunities to develop their skills through CPD and often receive public recognition through the 'Star of the week'.



Best Practice with
Teaching Assistants Award

2023-2026

Professor Paws Performs in Safeguarding Music Concert

Last week, Lower Academy students were treated to a live music performance from rap artist Professor Paws.

The performance was part of a special safeguarding themed assembly, where our guest also spoke to students about knife crime, discrimination & mental health. Students embraced the opportunity to ask Professor Paws many probing questions during Q&A sessions.

"I really enjoyed having Professor Paws coming into the school to talk about knife crime and discrimination. When he spoke about his upbringing, that really inspired me." Izza.H – Year 9

"I learned that mental health can impact some people for a long time. Professor Paw's advice was to find what you love most, because it can make you a better person." Jazmyn.H – Year 8

"It was inspiring to see him share his real-life experiences on the danger of knife crime and the impact it can have on your future. It was also great to hear him sing." Isabelle.P – Year 9

"The experience of witnessing an actual rapper was exhilarating, he is an amazing performer." Teddy.P – Year 7

"I really liked Professor Paws, his music was really good. His advice was also very helpful." Maryam.J – Year 7

"I enjoyed his songs, they were nice. He told us about his life story when he had friends that did crazy things but he didn't follow the same path. He followed what he loved to do and that is really nice and the right thing to do." Dami.O – Year 7



Mental Health Workshop

Last week, Year 8 and 9 students participated in a Mental Health Workshop delivered by the charity Mind of the Student.

The workshop was designed to support our students with sensitive topics such as depression, anxiety, self-harming, and body image.

Mental Health First Aid trained staff are available to support all students with any concerns they have.



Student Voice Promote Positive Playtime

Therese Hoyle, bestselling author of 101 Playground Games, recently visited the Lower Academy to support our Year 7 students during social times, introducing lots of new games.

Members of Student Voice had the opportunity to become Playground Leaders, embracing the responsibility to teach active games to their peers at break and lunchtimes. Our newly designated Playground Leaders also created their own shopping list of items they think will support social interaction and promote positive play.

Students played games such as relay brain activities and modernised some traditional games like 'Stuck in the Mud' and 'What's the Time Mr Wolf'.

Members of Student Voice also made various pledges as to why they believe being a playground partner is a bonus.

A playground partner will;

"Make sure no one is alone or left out of games."

"Help everybody be included in some fun games."

"Meet girls from the other classes because there's lots that might want to enter the clapping championships."



Wellbeing is prioritised for everyone in the school. As well as extensive curriculum content, the leadership have funded Wellbeing Centres on both sites. This support was spoken of very positively by students. Some have timetabled access but "There are break and lunchtime drop ins... anyone can go for help with any problem... it's very accessible."

Unicef RRSA Accreditation Report Gold: Rights Aware - July 2022

Job of the Week: Joiner

What does a Joiner do?

Depending on where you work, your day-to-day tasks may include:

discussing plans and following instructions, cutting and shaping timber for floorboards, doors, skirting boards and window frames, making and fitting wooden structures like staircases, door frames, roof timbers and partition walls, making and assembling fitted and free-standing furniture, installing kitchens, cupboards and shelving, building temporary wooden supports to hold setting concrete in place (shuttering), making and fitting interiors in shops, bars, restaurants, offices and public buildings, constructing stage sets for theatre, film and TV productions.

Labour Market Information

UK jobs: 768,193

Essex jobs: 24,297 (1st of 214 UK LEAs)

Top 5 LEAs: Essex (24,297), Kent (23,224), Hampshire (19,929), Hertfordshire (15,732), Lancashire (15,638)

UK growth: -7.7% from 2020 to 2025, losing 69,814 jobs



Let's Talk Money

UK annual median:
£28,827



What Qualifications do you need to do this job?

Employers usually look for some on-site experience and qualifications. You could start as a joiner's 'mate' or labourer to get site experience. Once working, your employer may offer you training on the job. You could take a college course in carpentry and joinery to gain some of the knowledge and practical skills needed to improve your chances of finding work in the industry. You could get into this job through an apprenticeship.

NATIONAL CROISSANT DAY

Tuesday 30th January

To celebrate National Croissant Day on Tuesday 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)



An enrichment programme runs three times a week for the last 30 minutes of the day for all students where the school actively promote wider learning through a wide range of activities from music to sign language.



Excellence in Pupil
Development Award

2023-2026

THE BASILDON ACADEMIES WORD OF THE DAY

29th January - 2nd February 2024
National Storytelling Week
LGBTQ+ History Month

EAL VERSION

Monday:	Contentment: Satisfied or happy.	tevredenheid = Dutch
Tuesday:	Satisfaction: Fulfilment and gratification.	elégedettség = Hungarian
Wednesday:	Fulfilment: To feel content or satisfied with an outcome etc.	フルフィルメント = Japanese
Thursday:	Pride: Pleasure or satisfaction taken in something done by or belonging to oneself or believed to reflect credit upon oneself.	hrdost = Czech
Friday:	Gratification: A rewarding feeling; source of pleasure and happiness.	gratyfikacja = Polish

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

Free Online Counselling Service

www.kooth.com is a free, confidential, safe and anonymous way for young people, aged 11-26, to ask for help from a team of highly qualified and experienced counsellors and support workers.

Kooth is a well-established, award winning online counselling agency and is accredited by The British Association of Psychotherapy and Counselling (BACP).

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.



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 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.

Follow The Basildon Lower Academy on our social media channels



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.
- Parents/carers must provide medical evidence to support all absences due to illness or medical appointments.
- Wherever possible parents/carers should make appointments outside of school hours but if this is unavoidable students should attend school before and after the appointment.
- If no appropriate medical evidence is provided then the Academies cannot authorise an absence. (ie. medical appointment card, prescription, doctor's letter.)



For further information and guidance regarding attendance and absence please visit our website: www.basildonloweracademy.org.uk/attendance

Categorising attendance and learning hours lost

Descriptor	Threshold attendance	Actual attendance (days)	Whole days absent	Lost learning hours	Level of concern
Excellent	100%	190	0	0	Green
	99%	188	2	10	
Good	98%	186	4	20	Green
	97%	184	6	30	
	96%	182.5	7.5	37.5	
Cause for concern	95%	180.5	9.5	47.5	Orange
	94%	179	11	55	
	93%	177	13	65	
	92%	175	15	75	
	91%	173	17	85	
Unsatisfactory	90%	171	19	95	Red
	89%	169	21	105	
	88%	167	23	115	
	87%	165	25	125	
	86%	163	27	135	
Critical	85%	161.5	28.5	142.5	Red
	84%	159.5	30.5	152.5	
	83%	158	32	160	
	82%	156	34	170	
	81%	154	36	180	
	80%	152	38	190	

Essex Local Offer Roadshows

Are you a parent/carer of a young person with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and want to know what support is available in your area? Come along to one of our Essex Local Offer Roadshows.

Meet representatives from across education, health and social care as well as local support groups.

No need to book, just drop in!

Parent/carer workshops will also be running. More information to follow soon.

Scan the QR code to
find out more
information



or go to
[The Essex Local Offer Website](#)



Join us...

Monday 4 March 2024

The Holiday Inn, Basildon

Thursday 7 March 2024

Hamptons Sports and Leisure,
Chelmsford

Wednesday 13 March 2024

JobServe Community Stadium,
Colchester

Tuesday 19 March 2024

The Harlow Hotel, Harlow

In Partnership with

