

Dates for the Diary

Holocaust Memorial Day

Monday 27th January 2025

Children's Mental Health Week

Monday 3rd - Sunday 9th February 2025

National Apprenticeship Week

Monday 10th - Sunday 16th February 2025

Half Term

Monday 17th - Friday 21st February 2025

Year 7 Parents Evening (Online)

Wednesday 12th March 2025 - 4pm-6.30pm

Student Value of the Term

**KINDNESS IS
EVERYTHING**

House Points - Week Ending 24th January



45,575
ALI



44,703
SEACOLE



38,848
AUSTEN



32,966
HAWKING

Leadership Message - What is EBacc and why is it important in the curriculum?

EBacc stands for **English Baccalaureate**: This is the name given to a group of subjects that offer a range of knowledge and skills;

- English and English Literature
- Maths
- Science
- History or Geography
- A language

The government recommends that students gain qualifications in these core subjects, as together they give a wider range of choices, and therefore better life chances upon leaving secondary school.

The ambition is for the vast majority of students to enter GCSEs which represent the best stepping stone for keeping young people's options open to further study and future careers. *Studies have shown that universities value EBacc subjects highly when offering places, and most employers look for them when offering jobs.*

As part of our drive to ensure students recognise and achieve in these subjects, we offer a range of opportunities to enhance learning beyond high quality lessons, such as the following:

- Subject specific trips
- Subject specific rewards following assessments
- Competitions
- Drop-down events – each subject within EBacc will organise at least one per year
- Workshops
- Break and lunchtime events
- Clubs after school and during lunch time

A range of interventions are in place to secure progress within EBacc. We also give a special prize – the 'EBacc award', to selected students who have consistently worked hard to achieve within EBacc. Subject teachers nominate students, who are then given a certificate and credits as reward. This takes place once per half term and has highlighted the successes of our students and their determination to achieve in the future.

If you have any questions regarding EBacc please do not hesitate to contact me; kmallinder@basildonacademies.org.uk

K.Mallinder - Key Stage 3 Head of Faculty: EBacc



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.

The logo for Young Minds, featuring the word 'YOUNG' in yellow and 'MiNDS' in grey, with a yellow dot above the 'i' in 'MiNDS'.

Aspire - Believe - Achieve

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](#)



Energy Saving Week: Tips from the Eco Committee

As part of Energy Saving Week, our Eco Committee has been exploring practical ways to save energy and promote sustainability. The students have shared their top tips for saving energy at home:

- Turn off the tap while brushing your teeth
- Choose a quick shower instead of a bath
- Switch off lights and appliances when leaving a room

To help spread the message, the Eco Committee has created eye-catching posters that will be displayed around the school, encouraging everyone to play their part in reducing energy consumption.

"Saving energy is important because it helps the environment, saves money, and creates a more sustainable future." Ellaouise.J and Elisha.P – Year 9

For more energy-saving tips and advice, visit the Energy Saving Trust website:

<https://energysavingtrust.org.uk/>



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.

Year 8 Students Explore History and Innovation at IWM Duxford

Last Friday, our Year 8 students enjoyed an inspiring visit to the Imperial War Museum Duxford. The trip offered a hands-on learning experience as students explored the museum's impressive collection of aircraft and military vehicles, even having the chance to sit inside some of them. This interactive approach brought their studies of war poetry to life, offering valuable historical context and sparking meaningful connections to their English lessons.

Students also learned about the design and construction of planes, exploring the engineering and technological advancements that shaped aviation history.

The day was a perfect blend of discovery and fun, leaving students inspired and eager to delve deeper into their studies. A huge thank you to the Imperial War Museum Duxford for providing such a memorable and educational experience.

"It was really good to go inside one of the test passenger planes. I was also able to see what the war was like and how the planes and soldiers worked together. I also saw a parachute dog which was my favourite thing." Dolcie.D

"The trip was a fun experience with lots of cool planes and artifacts. I really enjoyed it." Oakley.H

"My favourite thing was going onto the planes; the Concorde was quite impressive!" Benas.M



RSPB Big Schools' Birdwatch 2025

Last week, a group of students braved the rain and wind to participate in the Big Schools' Birdwatch 2025. During lesson times, they ventured into the school grounds to observe and record the types of birds spotted and their numbers.

Despite the challenging weather, the students showed great determination and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Their observations revealed that the school grounds are home to larger birds such as gulls, crows, pigeons, and magpies. Inspired by their findings, the group decided to put out more small feeders to encourage smaller bird species to visit in the future.

Every student who took part received an official RSPB Big Schools' Birdwatch Certificate to celebrate their efforts and contributions to this important conservation initiative.

"Watching birds was certainly a lovely experience. I enjoyed watching how they flew and stood in their positions." Nisha.B – Year 8

"This activity has let us organise bird groups and other related eco-systems." Luke.Z – Year 8



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.



New Essex Sexual Health Service Webpages Dedicated to Secondary Parents & Carers

The Essex Sexual Health Service now offers dedicated web pages designed to support parents and carers. Parents can find a wealth of resources including FAQs, insights into RSE and advice on how to have those important conversations.

<https://essexsexualhealthservice.org.uk/>



The schools approaches to SEND provision and managing behaviour have been adapted to be consistent with the underlying principles of supporting wellbeing first. This is reflected in the schools' policies and the practice seen across both sites.



Wellbeing Award
for Schools

2022-2025

BASILDON ACADEMIES

WORD OF THE DAY

27th- 31st January 2025

Monday: Holocaust Memorial Day	Commemoration (Noun) <i>Definition:</i> The action of remembering and honouring a person or event, often with a formal ceremony. <i>Example:</i> The commemoration of Holocaust Memorial Day includes ceremonies and educational events to honour the victims.
Tuesday:	Testimony (Noun) <i>Definition:</i> A formal written or spoken statement, especially one given in a court of law. <i>Example:</i> Survivor testimonies play a crucial role in Holocaust Memorial Day observances, providing personal accounts of the atrocities.
Wednesday: Lunar / Chinese New Year	Zodiac (Noun) <i>Definition:</i> A circle of twelve 30° divisions of celestial longitude that are centered upon the ecliptic; also refers to the animals associated with each division in Chinese astrology. <i>Example:</i> : The Chinese zodiac plays a significant role in the celebrations of the Lunar New Year.
Thursday: National Croissant Day	Gastronomy (Noun) <i>Definition:</i> The practice or art of choosing, cooking, and eating good food. <i>Example:</i> National Croissant Day is an opportunity to appreciate the art of gastronomy and the culinary excellence of French pastries.
Friday:	Confectionery (Noun) <i>Definition:</i> A sweet food product, typically including candies, cakes, and pastries. <i>Example:</i> National Croissant Day is a celebration of the finest in confectionery, highlighting the rich flavors and artistry of French pastries.

Job of the Week: Careers Advisor

What does a Careers Advisor do?

You may work in schools, colleges and universities. You could be employed by a careers company that place advisers in different settings, or directly by an educational institution or charity. You could also work online or in a call centre, or as a consultant in the private sector.

Your day-to-day duties may include:

- talking to people about their abilities, interests and achievements
- exploring learning and work opportunities
- helping people make decisions and plans of action

Labour Market Information

UK jobs: 294,495

Essex Jobs: 7,840

Growth: +7.6%

Top 5 LEAs: 1. Hampshire (8,270) 2. Essex (7,840) 3. Hertfordshire (7,568) 4. Kent (7,272) 5. Surrey (6,972)



What Qualifications do you need to do this job?

You'll need to qualify by taking an accredited course in careers guidance. You can get experience working in an organisation that offers advice and guidance and then taking professional qualifications whilst working.

You'll normally need to be accredited by the relevant careers education body in your country.

Let's Talk Money

UK annual median: £27,092

Both schools have a range of suitable rooms available for meetings with parents on a 1:1 or group basis, for coffee mornings and training events and make use of well-presented communal areas for community events and information sessions for large groups of parents.



Leading Parent Partnership Award

2023-2026

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.
- 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

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.

Target 97%+

Good attendance means:

Being in school at least **97%** of the time, that's at least **184** days a year.



175

days are **NOT** spent in school each year.*

* Plenty of time for shopping, holidays & appointments.



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.

Happy Lunar New Year 2025

To celebrate Lunar New Year
and Chinese New Year, Chinese
themed lunches will be available
in the Dining Hall on
Wednesday 29th January



NATIONAL CROISSANT DAY

Thursday 30th January

To celebrate National Croissant Day on Thursday
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)





Support with your Education, Health & Care Needs Assessment (EHCNA)

When

4 February 2025

Time 10.30am – 12.30pm

Where

King Edward Community Centre

King Edward Road

Laindon

Basildon

SS15 6GY

Experienced Family Support Advisers will walk you through the EHCNA application process, offering clear guidance on when and how to make your request, what supporting evidence you'll need, and the next steps to take.

To book your place please [CLICK HERE](#)

or email us at basildonp4p@outlook.com

or call us on 07923 426502



**Families
InFocus** Essex

Understanding special needs



*Supporting Families
in our Community*