

## Dates for the Diary

**Winter Wonderland Christmas Fayre**  
Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2023 - 3:30-5pm

**Non-uniform/Christmas Jumper Day**  
Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2023

**Last Day of Autumn Term**  
Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2023 - *Students finish at 12:30pm*

**First Day of Spring Term**  
Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024

**World Religion Day**  
Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2024

## Student Value of the Term

**NO HUMAN  
IS ILLEGAL**

## House Points - Week Ending 15<sup>th</sup> December



13,675  
ALI



13,125  
HAWKING



12,575  
SEACOLE



12,518  
AUSTEN

## Leadership Message

It has been a week full of festivities at the Lower Academy. Our wonderful choir performed at the Brentwood Centre alongside the Essex Youth Orchestra. All their efforts in rehearsals were certainly worthwhile as their debut performance was exceptional.

Our Catering team served up a delicious Christmas dinner feast for everyone. All students enjoyed an extended lunchtime to eat their dinner, pull Christmas crackers and soak up the festive fun!

During Enrichment classes, students have been busy preparing for our upcoming Winter Wonderland Christmas Fayre. They have been creating displays and decorations for their stalls and finalising activities. We are so excited to welcome students' families to our Fayre on Tuesday afternoon.

A group of our Year 9 students visited Madame Tussauds in London on Monday as a reward for their positive attitude to learning and excellent attendance. There was also a cohort of Year 7, 8 & 9's who visited Winter Wonderland in Hyde Park on Thursday to celebrate their achievements and attendance to date. Students were positively enthused and expressed that they had experienced enriching opportunities for which they were very grateful and proud of themselves.

We wish all of our students and staff a wonderful Christmas and a very Happy New Year!

**E.Cahill - Deputy Headteacher**



## Non-uniform/Christmas Jumper Day 20<sup>th</sup> December

All students are invited to take part in this year's Christmas Jumper Day on the last day of term, Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December.

The Basildon Academies are raising money for Save the Children so we ask that a donation is made from all students participating in non-uniform. Staff will be at the front door with collection buckets to greet the students as they arrive.



## Christmas Choir Perform at The Brentwood Centre

On Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December, the Lower Academy Christmas Choir performed alongside the Essex Youth Orchestra at the Brentwood Centre.

Our students looked on as the orchestra accompanied an award-winning short film Peter and the Wolf by Sergei Prokofiev, before taking to the stage themselves to sing a medley of songs from Christmas movies, such as Polar Express, Home Alone, The Nightmare Before Christmas and The Grinch.

The evening finished with a rendition of The 12 days of Christmas, involving over 1000 students and teachers from local schools, and their families, all singing together to share in the Christmas spirit.

"I thought it was really good experience. We formed a good bond with students from other schools." Skye.M - Year 7

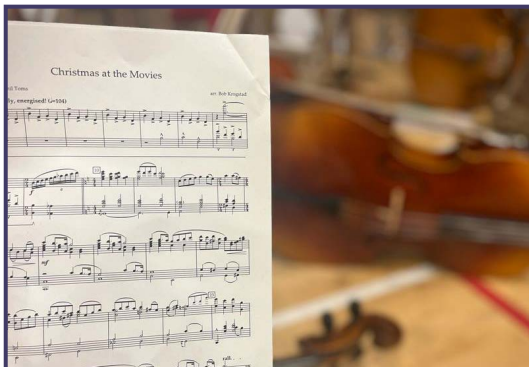
"I would really like to thank my teacher Miss Stoddard for believing in us and taking us to Brentwood to perform. It was a chance for us to meet new people. It was a nice day." Sandra.E - Year 7

"It was a nice experience to rehearse and perform with students from other schools. We all watched Peter and the Wolf together with members of the audience which included our parents. It was just beautiful." Dami.O - Year 7

"I found it amazing! I lost my voice half way through one of the songs, but I still really enjoyed the experience. I was with my friends and the music really got us into the Christmas spirit." Elisha.P - Year 8

"Performing with the school choir was an amazing experience for me to be part of. I am extremely glad to have had the support from members of staff who have assisted the choir, showing how benevolent people can be." Destiny.A - Year 9

Thank you to Essex Music Services for giving us the opportunity to work with other schools and amazing young musicians.



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

## Winter Wonderland Christmas Fayre

The Lower Academy Winter Wonderland Christmas Fayre will take place on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2023. The event is open to all parents, carers, families and students and will take place from 3:30 – 5pm.

Students are creating fun games and stalls in a bid to raise the most amount of money with all donations going to our chosen charity, Save the Children. The Lower Academy Choir and Dance Club students have also been busy rehearsing for their live performances during the event.

Hot food and drink will be available to purchase throughout the event and superb raffles prizes to be won. We look forward to families joining us and getting into the festive spirit.



## 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](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.

[www.basildonloweracademy.org.uk/safeguarding](http://www.basildonloweracademy.org.uk/safeguarding)

## Young Carers Club

Tuesdays

3:30pm-5pm

Venue:

The Wellbeing Centre

Various activities each week including board games, cooking, photography, arts & crafts.

Refreshments provided. Talk to others, relax & have fun.



## Top 10 Linguists

Last month, LanguageNut ran their November language competition. Students listed below earned the most points out of all the Academy and are our Top 10 Linguists. Congratulations!

Haniel.N, Esohe.O, Success.A, Fakeha.H, Dorcas.O, Serah.H, Kevin.B, Victoria.S, Alimat.B & Deborah.O.



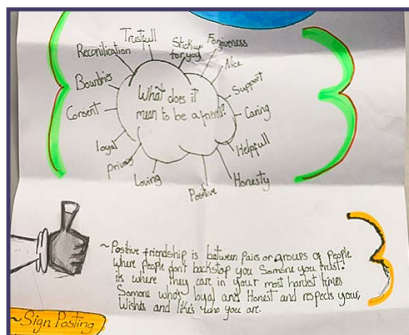
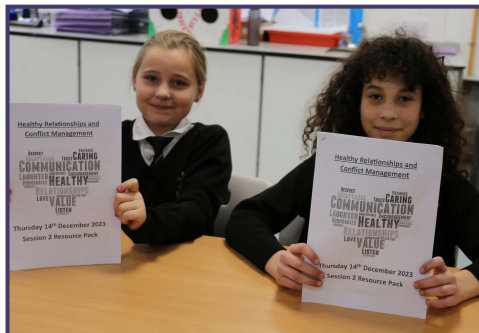
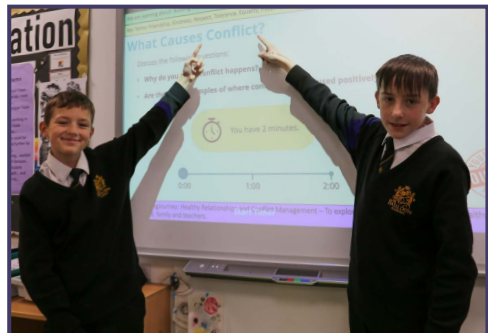
## Healthy Relationships Drop Down Day

Last week, students across all year groups completed a drop down day focused on healthy relationships. Students learnt about the qualities of a good friend and how to maintain a healthy friendship. They also learnt about how to manage conflict effectively and had opportunities to discuss scenarios to put their new skills into action.

"A good friend is loyal, honest, respects your wishes and likes who you are." Kaci.D – Year 7

"Good friends give positive vibes, especially when they need help and support." Aarushi.M – Year 7

"Mindfulness is key to confidence, which enables you to express yourself more." Kaci.C – Year 8



### Free Online Counselling Service

[www.kooth.com](http://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).

### Student Nurse Drop In

If students are worried about their health, would like a confidential chat or would just like to find out more about how our school nurse can help them, the nurse can be found:

Every Tuesday Breaktime  
Location: The Wellbeing Centre

### 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

FREE



HOT CHOCOLATE

&



COOKIE

Available to all students at breaktime on

WEDNESDAY 20TH DECEMBER

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

# THE BASILDON ACADEMIES WORD OF THE DAY

18<sup>th</sup> December - 20<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Monday:	<b>Festivities: Festividades in Portuguese Brazil</b> Celebration or occasion.
Tuesday:	<b>Merriment: विनोद vinod in Hindi</b> Cheerfulness.
Wednesday:	<b>Joviality: jovialidad in Spanish</b> Being very happy or merry.

Leaders make highly effective use of a wide range of data to identify issues, track improvements and guide decision making both on individual pupils and collectively. Recently this played a part in identifying that uniform infringements were linked to the cost of living crisis and led to changes in the school's uniform.



Excellence in Pupil  
Development Award

2023-2026

A top-down view of various fresh vegetables and herbs on a dark wooden surface. The items include onions, potatoes, cucumbers, lettuce, garlic, carrots, broccoli, bell peppers, tomatoes, and basil. Several glass jars containing spices are also visible on the right side.

## VEGANUARY MONTH

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

Follow The Basildon Lower Academy on our social media channels

