

Dates for the Diary

LGBT+ History Month
February 2025

National Apprenticeship Week
Monday 10th - Sunday 16th February 2025

Half Term
Monday 17th - Friday 21st February 2025

National Careers Week
Monday 3rd - Saturday 8th March 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 7th February



52,085
SEACOLE



51,827
ALI



43,469
AUSTEN



37,862
HAWKING

Leadership Message - Online Safety

Navigating how to keep our children safe online can be challenging, confusing and at times quite overwhelming. Here are some tips and guidelines you can talk to your child about;

Think before you share: What you share online can stick around for longer than we think, including our photos, videos, and comments. It's good to always keep this in mind.

Keep private info private: Keep things like your address, phone number, full name, school and date of birth private, and check what people can see in your privacy settings.

Know who you're chatting to: When chatting to others online, keep an eye out for red flags, fake profiles, or anyone who might not be who they say they are.

Spot the fakes: Not everything we see online is always going to be true. Spotting misinformation will help you feel more in control of your feed, your feelings, and your views of the world.

Talk it out: If anything happens or something you're not sure about, you don't need to hide it or pretend it hasn't happened. Chat to a mate, an adult you trust, or you can always contact Childline.

Parent/Carer Online Safety Workshop

We are totally committed to the digital safety and wellbeing of our students. As part of this, we are running a workshop dedicated to helping parents understand the risks their young people face in their online lives and the practical things parents and carers can do to help. Details will be released soon and we hope you will be able to join us for this hour-long workshop in which Lyndsey Vaughton, Training Lead for Education & Wellbeing at SmoothWall, will provide you with lots of valuable insights and tools, including:

- Information on the latest apps and games your young person may have access to.
- The harmful content your young person may be exposed to.
- How you can help your young person to safely navigate online risk.
- How to access our brand new and FREE Online Safety Hub with dedicated guidance for parents.
- An introduction to a parental app that allows you to control what your young person sees online, plus other important features.



By joining us, you can win an enhanced license provided by SmoothWall to cover your children's devices. **A link will be sent to parents and carers before the event.** We hope to see you there.

If however, you are unable to join us for the webinar remember to look at our website where you can find advice and guidance on our safeguarding page; www.basildonloweracademy.org.uk/safeguarding

S.Peake
Senior Student Development Leader & Designated Safeguarding Lead

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, all in a bold, sans-serif font, enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Aspire - Believe - Achieve

Recognising Excellence: EBacc Awards Celebrate Student Achievement

This term, EBacc teachers have continued to nominate students who consistently demonstrate effort and a positive attitude towards learning. As a result, the prestigious EBacc Award continues to celebrate those who show dedication across various EBacc subjects. Award recipients received 30 credits and a certificate in recognition of their hard work and commitment.

We are incredibly proud of our remarkable young students who have aspired and achieved excellence. Nominations were made across a range of departments, including English, Mathematics, Science, French, History, and Geography.

"I was surprised when I got chosen for this award, but I would like to say that I am proud of myself for achieving it." Austeja.P – Year 7

"I was very happy when I received this award and I'm full of pride." Meshach.N – Year 7



Children's Mental Health Week Activities

As part of Children's Mental Health Week, students across the school took part in a range of creative activities designed to promote wellbeing, self-expression, and open conversations around mental health.

Art Club students used their creativity to design inspirational quote artwork and illustrations of the things that bring them happiness. Meanwhile, Art students worked on Happiness Backpacks, beautifully decorated to represent their sources of joy, comfort, and positivity.

In Year 7, students engaged in two meaningful projects. They created memory boxes, which encouraged open discussions about mental health while sharing special memories of family and friends. They also designed emotion and personality posters, using colour and creativity to visually express their feelings and individuality.

"It is important, because teaching us about mental health helps us understand our emotions and provides comfort."
Precious.B - Year 7

"Art makes me feel calm and in control of my emotions. Art creates different emotions to visualise the artists emotions. Mental health is important to me because I can help myself and others." Temi.N – Year 9



Year 9 Students Inspired by Former Arsenal FC Outreach Officer Steve Eadon

Year 9 students were treated to an inspiring and interactive talk from Steve Eadon, a former Arsenal FC Community Outreach Officer who spent over a decade working on innovative projects that combined football and education.

During his time at Arsenal, Steve managed the award-winning 'Arsenal Double Club' modern languages project, using football as a tool to inspire young people to learn new languages. He has worked with internationally renowned players, including conducting interviews with Mesut Özil in German and leading French lessons with the help of Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang. His experiences working around the world, including Barbados and Brazil, have given him unique insights into the power of language in shaping careers.

Steve's talk focused on the advantages of learning a second language, particularly in industries like sports, travel, and business. He encouraged students to persevere with their language studies, as multilingualism can open doors to exciting global careers, from football management and player care to international business and sponsorship.

The session was highly engaging, with students actively participating throughout. After the talk, a Q&A session allowed them to ask Steve about his career, experiences, and advice for the future. Many students also took the opportunity to speak with him individually, gaining valuable insights and inspiration.

Steve's message was clear: learning a language can give you a unique advantage in life and work. His visit left students feeling motivated to continue their studies and explore new possibilities for their futures.

"The assembly opened my eyes to how languages can impact my future and job opportunities." Sofia.D

"I think this was the most interesting assembly I've seen. It was fun and linked to sport, but also extremely educational. I would love to see more assemblies like this." Kenzy.T



Future Forward: A Live Workshop Inspiring Year 9 Students

Last week, Year 9 students took part in an engaging and thought-provoking live workshop, 'Future Forward', delivered by actors from Performance in Education. The interactive performance aimed to provide valuable insights into post-16 education pathways, helping students make informed decisions about their future.

The production explored key topics such as BTECs, T Levels, and A Levels, explaining how different qualifications can be combined and addressing common misconceptions—such as the idea that A Levels are the only route to university. Students also learned about apprenticeships and the variety of options available, including practical-based courses and more traditional classroom-based subjects.

Through interactive discussions and real-life scenarios, students were encouraged to think not only about their future education choices but also about their long-term career aspirations. By understanding the different pathways available, they gained a clearer picture of how their choices now can shape their future careers and opportunities.

"I really enjoyed the show! It made me think about what I want to do when I grow up and how to be successful. I learned so much from this play, and it was more fun to explore future career options this way rather than in a classroom." Alfie.T

"The performance was very humorous, and the actors shared a lot of useful information in a clear and engaging way." Akejah.B



Year 9 Vaccination Programme – Thank You & Further Opportunities

We would like to extend our thanks to the immunisation team for their recent visit to our school as part of the Year 9 vaccination programme. The team expressed their appreciation for the warm welcome from staff and praised our students for their excellent behaviour, describing them as a credit to the school.

For any students who were absent or parents/carers who had not yet consented, further opportunities are available at local clinics. Saturday and school holiday appointments are available, and parents/carers can book by calling the immunisation service.

School Vaccination Catch up Clinics



Essex Partnership University
NHS Foundation Trust

Has your child missed their school vaccinations?

We are running local catch up clinics for their routine teenage vaccinations. **

Your nearest clinic is:

The Lodge, Lodge Approach, Wickford SS11 7XX

10am to 2pm

- Saturday 8 February
- Wednesday 19 February (half term)

Northlands Family Hub, Davenants, Basildon SS13 1QX

10am to 3pm

- Tuesday 18 February (half term)

It's easy to catch up, book your nearest clinic NOW on 0300 790 0597.

For information on school aged vaccinations please visit our website:
eput.nhs.uk/childrensvaccines

**HPV (from Year 8)
DTP & Meningitis (from Year 9)



Basildon Round Table Supports School Allotment with Generous Donation

We are delighted to announce that the Basildon Round Table has generously donated a range of high-quality gardening equipment to support the development of our school allotment. Representatives from the Round Table recently visited the school and were very impressed with the work our students had done. This generous contribution includes gloves, trowels, spades, forks, planting pots, and even hats with lights, providing students with the tools needed to fully establish and maintain the space.

Throughout the week, students from across the school, not just those in the Eco Committee, have been actively involved in using the new equipment to prepare the allotment. Their enthusiasm and commitment highlight the importance of this project in promoting teamwork, sustainability, and practical outdoor learning experiences.

We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to Basildon Round Table for their generosity.



"I'm really grateful for the new tools and gloves, as now everyone can get involved in different gardening tasks. This support will help the Eco Committee take our allotment and outdoor spaces to the next level." Maddsion.A – Year 8

"Having these tools means we can do even more to build on the work we've already started. A huge thank you to the Round Table for their support!" Nathaniel.S – Year 8

"These tools will be really helpful, especially with new members joining. They are so important to us and a fantastic addition to our project." Luke.Z – Year 8

"With more members joining the Eco-Committee, this extra equipment will make a big difference." Riley.D – Year 8

Online Safety Hub Recommended Resource of the Week: WhatsApp

WhatsApp is a hugely popular messaging app. Children and teens will use WhatsApp to send text messages to friends, participate in group conversations, make calls and send pictures/videos. Users connect through a phone number or email address. The app is free to use and runs off a stable WiFi connection or data. [Click here](#) to access a detailed review of WhatsApp Messenger, offering parents valuable insights and guidance on keeping their children safe 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](#)



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.

BASILDON ACADEMIES

WORD OF THE DAY

10th – 14th February 2025
 LGBT+ History Month
 National Apprenticeship week 2025

Monday:	Advocacy (Noun) <i>Definition:</i> Public support for or recommendation of a particular cause or policy. <i>Example:</i> LGBT+ History Month focuses on advocacy for equal rights and recognition.
Tuesday: Safer Internet Day International Day of Women & Girls in Science	Empowerment (Noun) <i>Definition:</i> The process of becoming stronger and more confident, especially in controlling one's life and claiming one's rights. <i>Example:</i> The International Day of Women & Girls in Science highlights the importance of empowerment in achieving gender equality in STEM fields.
Wednesday: Darwin Day	Evolutionary (Adjective) <i>Definition:</i> Relating to the process of evolution or the theory of evolution. <i>Example:</i> Darwin Day is dedicated to celebrating evolutionary science and Charles Darwin's contributions to the field.
Thursday: Galentines & Palentines Day	Companionship (Noun) <i>Definition:</i> The state of spending time together and enjoying each other's company. <i>Example:</i> Galentines & Palentines Day celebrates the value of companionship and friendship.
Friday: St. Valentine's Day	Affection (Noun) <i>Definition:</i> A gentle feeling of fondness or liking. <i>Example:</i> St. Valentine's Day is a time to express affection and love for those close to us.

Job of the Week: Electrical engineer

What does a Electrical engineer do?

Your day-to-day tasks depend on the industry you're in, but could include:

- carrying out feasibility studies for new technical developments
- drawing up project plans and circuit diagrams using computer-assisted engineering and design software
- estimating costs and project timings
- coordinating the work of technicians and craftspeople
- testing installations and systems, and analysing test data

Labour Market Information

UK jobs: 383,043
 Essex Jobs: 8,415
 Growth: +41.4%
 Top 5 LEAs: 1. Hampshire (11,941) 2. Lancashire (9,111) 3. Essex (8,415) 4. Surrey (8,334) 5. Hertfordshire (8,186)



What Qualifications do you need to do this job?

You'll usually need to complete a foundation degree, HND or degree.

Courses include:
 electrical or electronics engineering
 building services engineering
 mechanical engineering
 applied physics
 aeronautical engineering
 mechatronics

Let's Talk Money

UK annual median: £53,488



Leadership and management of TAs is well organised and they play a very important role within Basildon Academy. Teaching and non-teaching staff work closely together on a day-to-day basis, "It is teamwork, we do it together" a teacher commented.



Best Practice with Teaching Assistants 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.

190
Days of education

184
Days of education

171
Days of education

162
Days of education

152
Days of education

143
Days of education

100%
0 days absent

97%
6 days absent

90%
19 days absent

85%
28 days absent

80%
38 days absent

75%
47 days absent

WELL DONE

Good attendance gives the best chance of success.

VERY CONCERNED

Poor attendance gives less chance of success.

SERIOUSLY WORRIED

Very poor attendance has a serious impact & reduces life chances.



FAIRTRADE

By Harsimran K 8E1

WHAT IS IT?

Fair trade is an arrangement designed to help producers in developing countries achieve sustainable and equitable trade relationships. This means the farmers/producers (usually from poorer country) gets a fair treatment and price. 77% of UK consumers had chosen Fairtrade over an alternative.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT & HOW CAN IT HELP?

Fair trade makes the world a better place by it helping businesses source products that are sustainability produced while giving consumers confidence that the people behind the products they buy get a fair deal for their hard work. Fairtrade has shown.

Fairtrade allows you to invest in developing communities around the world and it helps align your money with your values.

FUN FACT

Farmers and workers earned more than €1.5 billion in fairtrade premium over the past 10 years.

WHY SHOULD THE SCHOOL CARE & WHAT TO DO?

Fairtrade can offer students new skills and opportunities to learn about it. It also teaches us how its products we use have been made fairly and sustainably.

We can help fairtrade by

- Taking action in your institution to join a worldwide movement for change.
- Donate or fundraise
- Campaign with fairtrade
- Join fairtrade Community.

FREE HALF TERM ACTIVITY CLUBS IN BASILDON!

Essex ActivAte helps to support eligible children and families during the school holidays and half term breaks, through free engaging and fun activities. Contact one of our clubs to book a space!

Kidbusterz (4-13 years)

Janet Duke Primary School, 105 Markhams Chase, Basildon SS15 5LS
info@kidbusterz.com / 07539066665
Wed 19th, Thu 20th & Fri 21st Feb (10am-2pm)

Kidbusterz (4-13 years)

Whitmore Primary School, Whitmore Way, Basildon SS14 2NN
info@kidbusterz.com / 07539066665
Wed 19th, Thur 20th & Fri 21st Feb (10am-2pm)

Crafty Katie's Make and Move Holiday Club (4-11 years)

Abacus Primary School, Tresco Way, Wickford, SS129GJ
Email, text or call to book - quoting Essex ActivAte in first communication
Craftykatie10@gmail.com / 07929044959
Mon 17th, Tues 18th & Wed 19th Feb (9am-1pm)

Camp 4 Champs (4-14 years)

Mayflower High School, Stock Road, Billericay, CM12 ORT
bookings@camp4champs.co.uk / 02081030101
Mon 17th, Tues 18th & Wed 19th Feb (9am-4pm)

Premier Education, Basildon Sport & Leisure Club (5-12yrs)

Gardiners Way, Basildon, Essex, SS14 3UJ
RClark@premier-education.com / 07387196392
Mon 17th, Tues 18th & Wed 19th Feb (9am-3pm)

Jack Of All Sports (4-12 years)

North Crescent Primary School Wickford, SS12 9AP
jackofallsports@btinternet.com / 07919888093
Mon 17th - Friday 21st Feb (9am-3pm)

ATF - King Edwards, Tea Time Club (11-17 years)

King Edwards School, King Edwards Road, Laindon, Basildon, SS15 6GY
kherring@atfcommunity.com / 07701365822
Fri 21st Feb (5pm -7pm)



ATF Vange Teen (11-16yrs)

Vange Primary School, London Road, Basildon, SS16 4QA
smartin@atfcommunity.com / 07989515757
Thurs 20th Feb (1-3pm)

Flex Youth (11+ years)

3 Gibcracks, Basildon SS14 1PE Call to book
info@flexyouth.com / 07342469249
Thurs 20th and Fri 21st Feb (1-4pm)

5 Elements Kickboxing MMA & Boxing (11+ years)

Adams Business Centre, Cranes Farm Rd, Basildon SS14 3J
01268330049
Contact provider for half term information

ATF Briscoes Primary School (5-12 years)

Briscoe Primary School, Felmores End, Basildon, SS13 1PN
c.mcalden@heartsacademy.uk / 07956770446
Mon 17th, Tue 18th & Wed 19th Feb (9am-1pm)

ATF Vange Primary School (5-12 years)

Vange Primary School, London Road, Basildon, SS16 4QA
smartin@atfcommunity.com / 07989515757
Thurs 20th & Fri 21st Feb (9am-1pm)

JTD ARTS SEND Level 1-3 (5-14yrs)

Northlands Primary School, 45 Winifred Rd, Basildon SS13 3JQ
activejtd@hotmail.com / 07856869296
Mon 17th & Tues 18th Feb (10am-1pm)

Butterflies Club SEND Level 1-5 (8-16 years)

James Hornsby School, Leinster Rd, Laindon, Basildon SS15 5NX
To attend any activities with Butterflies Club, you must have attended a family stay and play session with your child.
jasmine@Butterfliesclub.co.uk / 07884700124
Mon 17th Feb (10am-2pm)
and
Wed 19th Feb (8:30am-12:30pm)
Presidents Hall, Hoover Drive SS15 6LF

Find out more: activeessex.org