

Winter Wonderland

On Thursday 15th December, the Lower Academy hosted a spectacular Winter Wonderland event.

The Dining Hall area was transformed into a festive wonderland with Christmas themed stalls which offered fun games to play, items for sale made by students during Enrichment time and a fundraising raffle. During the event our School Choir entertained the crowd by performing a medley of well-known Christmas songs.

To enhance the festive atmosphere further, a snow machine was installed outside, which proved to be a really popular addition. Despite the cold weather hot dogs and hot chocolate were provided to warm students and staff.

The memorable event raised an amazing £550 for our chosen charity 'Save the Children'. We would like to thank everyone who contributed in making the festive event such a huge success.



Dates for the Diary

Veganuary
January 2023

World Religion Day
Sunday 15th January 2023

Martin Luther King Day
Monday 16th January 2023

Chinese New Year
Sunday 22nd January 2023

Year 9 AP Assessments
Monday 23rd - Friday 27th January 2023

Holocaust Memorial Day
Monday 30th January 2023

Student Value of the Term

**KINDNESS IS
EVERYTHING**

House Points - Week Ending 6th January



16,106
ALI



16,001
AUSTEN



15,691
SEACOLE



15,428
HAWKING

Reading Drop Down Day

On Tuesday 13th December our Year 7 & 8 students took part in a day dedicated to reading and analysing the text of authors Roald Dahl & J.K Rowling.

"In reading drop down day we got to read extracts from Harry Potter, I hadn't read any of the books or seen any of the films before and I felt I gained a lot of knowledge and understanding about the main characters."

"My favourite part of the day was creating a character and how they could become part of the story. Reading Drop Day was a lot of fun and I can't wait to do it again." Ethan.A – Year 8

"Each time we read a chapter we answered questions to test our knowledge and understanding of what we had learned, this included being tested on meanings of certain words. There was a focus on understanding characters and we had the opportunity to create our own character. This was really enjoyable because we would choose what their personality would be like and what skills and talents they would have." Renesmay.J – Year 8



Attendance Reward

During the last week of Autumn Term our Year 7, 8 & 9 students enjoyed a cinema afternoon to celebrate their 100% attendance throughout the term. Students watched the film 'Nativity' in the hall with refreshments after receiving their bronze badge & certificates.



Reading for Pleasure at Christmas

On the last day of Autumn term each Lower Academy student was gifted a book in their chosen genre.



SEND Department Coffee Afternoons Every Wednesday 2:30pm – 3:30pm

We are delighted to offer our parents/carers the opportunity to meet with members of our SEND Department to discuss your child's progress. Coffee afternoons are held at the Lower Academy from 2:30 - 3:30pm 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.



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.

Assessment Point Dates

- Year 9 – w/c 23rd January 2023

These assessment points are crucial in helping us to support students in closing any learning gaps, providing stretch and challenge. Please contact our Quality of Education team if you need any advice on how to support home learning in the lead up to these assessments, via the [Contact Us](#) page found on the Basildon Lower Academy website and select the option for Home Learning/Homework.

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).

School 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 Thursday Breaktime

Location: The Lower Academy Wellbeing Centre



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

Lower Academy Extra-Curricular Clubs

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
<p>After School: 3.30 - 4.30pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Archery (sign up required) Year 7 Football & Elite Football - Boys & Girls Year 8 & 9 Rugby Girls Football (all years) 	<p>Before School: 7.30 - 8.15am</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trampolining (all years) Fitness (all years) <p>After School: 3.30 - 4.30pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basketball (Year 8 & 9 Boys) History Club (D5) (all years) Choir Club (E19) (all years) Art Club (A5) (all years) 	<p>Before School: 7.30 - 8.15am</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fitness (all years) <p>After School: 3.30 - 4.30pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 7 Boys and Girls Basketball (all years) Dance Club – Dance Studio (Top Floor Year 7 Block) Dungeons & Dragons Club (See Miss Wright) Drama Club (Drama Studio) 	<p>Before School: 7.30 - 8.15am</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basketball (all years) <p>After School: 3.30 - 4.30pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volleyball (all years) Netball (all years) Football (Year 8 & 9) Geography Club (Year 7) (D3) Music Club (all years) (E19)

Follow The Basildon Lower Academy on our social media channels



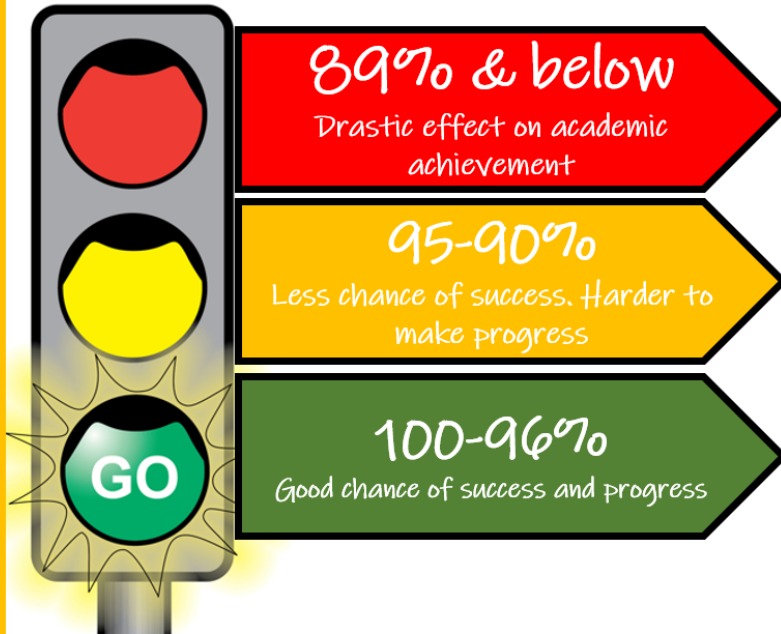
Attendance Expectations

There is a clear link between academic success and attendance and as such our expectations for attendance are that:

- Parents have a legal duty to ensure their child attends regularly.
- Students should have 100% attendance each year.
- Students with attendance below 95% are of concern.

ATTENDANCE

Every Minute Counts!



Absence from school

Children are required by law to attend school 190 days per year. The government states that every child's attendance should be above 95%.

How do YOU measure up?

Attendance	Days Absent	Weeks Absent	Lessons Missed
95%	9 Days	2 Weeks	50 Lessons
90%	19 Days	4 Weeks	100 Lessons
85%	29 Days	6 Weeks	150 Lessons
80%	38 Days	8 Weeks	200 Lessons
75%	48 Days	10 Weeks	250 Lessons
70%	57 Days	11.5 Weeks	290 Lessons
65%	67 Days	13.5 Weeks	340 Lessons

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 should 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

The curriculum, student briefings and assemblies, the website, and the displays and messaging throughout the school all give mental health and wellbeing a high profile and promote its importance to all members of the school community as well as providing guidance to those seeking support.



Wellbeing Award
for Schools

2022-2025



GOLD - RIGHTS RESPECTING

Strong, supportive, and mutually respectful relationships were evident throughout the visit and young people said that the increased emphasis on rights, respect and dignity has added to this, "If you respect people's rights, you respect them as a person."

Unicef RRS Accreditation Report Gold: Rights Aware - July 2022

Join us & try vegan food this January



Throughout January the Dining Hall will be serving a vegan dish everyday.



Free school lunch for all students

**We are delighted to announce that a free lunch
will be available to all students every Monday & Friday
between now & February Half Term 2023**

A free school lunch is a hot meal or sandwich/bagette/roll and a dessert

Aspire - Believe - Achieve

National Online Safety

The online world is posing an ever-increasing risk to children, and it is important that schools, parents and carers work together to take an active role in teaching children about online dangers. Learning how to act safely when using the internet is an incredibly important part of safeguarding our children.

We are therefore delighted to announce that we have shown our commitment to protecting students online by working with National Online Safety- providing resources for all parents and carers. The resources include Parents & Carers courses, online video resources and weekly guides covering a huge range of topics, including:

- Online Relationships
- Fake Profiles & Social Bots
- Online Bullying
- Online Grooming
- Child Sexual Exploitation
- Sexual Harassment & Violence
- Sexting
- Live Streaming
- Online Identity
- Screen Addiction
- Online Challenges
- Overspending
- Social Media Platforms
- Online Gambling
- Radicalisation, Terrorism & Extremism
- Age Inappropriate Content
- Copyright & Ownership
- Hacking
- Fake News
- Online Fraud
- Online Reputation
- Personal Data
- Pornography
- Targeted Adverts & Pop-Ups
- The Dark Web
- Games & Trends



National
Online
Safety®

Download your Free Online Safety App for Parents & Carers

Be #OnlineSafetySavvy

Keep up with the latest apps games and tech your children are using, with the worlds most comprehensive online safety app for parents.

To create your account, please follow <https://nationalonlinesafety.com/enrol/basildon-academies> and complete your details. When you're set up, you'll be able to set 'Parent/Carer' as your user type.

You can access National Online Safety online via any device- including via the brand-new smartphone app.

To download the app, please go to:

<https://apps.apple.com/gb/app/national-online-safety/id1530342372>

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=uk.co.nationaleducationgroup.nos>