

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

This edition highlights our students drive for success, ambition for leadership and passion for learning and enrichment.

This half term is a key time of year for our Year 13 students as they prepare for their pathways beyond the academy. Well done to all our students that have applied for university places – those offers are coming in each day. A special well done and congratulations to Kamran Rauf for securing an offer from Cambridge University, the first academy student to achieve this! We are rightly proud of all our students that secure university places, well done to you all.

University success is also evident in Year 10 where our Brilliant Club Scholars Programme students spent the day at Royal Holloway University of London embarking on a university style research project.



Congratulations to the newly elected Lower Academy Student Council. The successful candidates did an outstanding job to secure their places on the council following a tough selection process. I look forward to working with you on the many ideas you have to improve academy life.

Gary Smith

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Year 11 AP2 Assessments:
1st March - 9th March 2018

Year 12 AP2 Assessments:
12th March - 16th March 2018

ACADEMY HISTORY MADE

Student Kamran Rauf has made school history following an offer from Cambridge University.

Currently at the Basildon Academies Sixth Form, Kamran Rauf is studying a record number of A-Levels which demonstrate his passions of Science and Maths. His six A-Levels include Physics, Chemistry, Computer Science, Maths, Further Maths and Further Additional Maths.

Kamran is delighted to be offered a place at Queen's College to pursue his lifelong ambition to study Natural Sciences with a focus on his favourite aspect of Physics.

Kamran is a strong role model in the Basildon Academy Learning Community, and has excelled during his time in school, taking part in a wide range of activities to continue to represent the Academies across the region, from the Regional Finals of the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge to a wide range of Selective Chess Competitions.

The Basildon Academies were delighted to help him attend a wide range of preparation events from Open Days to Oxbridge Application courses to the Interviews themselves and have supported him every step of the way. All the hard work and determination paid off with his interviewers commenting on his 'communication to show his great maths and physics skills and knowledge', further commenting on his instincts in the subject areas he will now continue with.

His achievement has been one which have filled both his school community and own family with a sense of pride.



History maker; Kamran Rauf

The ambitious student has many thoughts about where this opportunity can bring him in the future. He hopes to continue in the scientific fields and deepen his passion for learning in the future.

Kamran has already had the opportunity to experience the freedom university will bring. He has participated in the National Citizens Service which allowed him to experience a range of activities which will prepare him for leaving home to encounter his university life style. As he looks forward to the independence this will bring, he is also looking forward to the opportunity to develop other passions he enjoys including astronomy and history. A close friend from the Basildon Academies also leaving for university stated Kamran is 'always learning and wanting to learn', the positive relationships built during his time at the Basildon Academies have equipped him for what he knows will be 'an adventure'.

JACK PETCHEY SPEAK OUT WORKSHOP

On Tuesday January 23rd, 22 of our Year 10 students took part in a public speaking workshop with a facilitator from The Speakers' Trust. It was a whole day workshop where the students participated in a variety of activities focussing on development of self-confidence and honing their speaking skills.

I was so proud of our students who threw themselves enthusiastically into the challenge of mastering a skill the majority of us are terrified of speaking in public.

Two of the students, Christopher Hawkins and Aliyah Bashorun did very well and were highly commended for their speeches. Five other students were selected to go on to the next stage. They were Ethan Levitt, George Osborne, Jennifer Brooker, Kullen Leader and Sarah Poolaw. From these talented students, we will select two and one reserve to represent our school at the Regional Final on April 19th.



Students taking part in warm up speech exercises.

I would like to thank all students who actively took part and made the most of a wonderful opportunity.

Ms Trounson

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).

INFORMATION POINT UP AND RUNNING

We are delighted to announce that the new School Information Point at the Upper Academy is now open. Our Sixth Form Student Mentors have created a welcoming & friendly environment where fellow students can come and seek advice.

"We offer a place where students can come and talk in confidence about any concerns they may have - anything from worrying about exams, anxiety or maybe what their next steps are after finishing Year 11. In some situations we can help by speaking from personal experience, we also have the ability to refer students to experienced professionals if required." **Kurtis Pope – Sixth Form Student Mentor**

After their initial training with staff from the Essex Youth Service, our Student Mentors worked hard in preparing for the opening, taking the lead in delivering awareness assemblies to all students and producing leaflets with key information.



The Information Point is located along the Maths Corridor within the Attendance Heart Space area. It is open to all students during break time and lunch time every day. Our Student Mentors look forward to seeing you there.



Sixth Form Student Mentor Sashanne talking to Year 11 students during the launch event.

The students were welcomed to a very successful launch event where they had the opportunity to not only meet the Student Mentors but also talk with Kirby & Melinda from the Essex Youth Service.

Well done to all of our Student Mentors: Kurtis Pope, Sashanne Hibbert, Jehanny Pombo, Kirstan Van Beek, Chloe Caine, Rebekah Galley and Jordan Osborne.

BRILLIANT PROJECT UNDERWAY

As part of the Brilliant Club Scholars Programme a selection of Year 10 students spent the day at Royal Holloway University of London. The visit marked the launch of the programme which will see our students take part in a university-style project led by tutor and postdoctoral research scientist, Christopher Schultz.

During the introductory session, Christopher, who has a PhD in Immunology and Molecular Medicine, explained what the students will be researching for their project 'Feeling Better: From Holistic Healing to Magic Bullets'.

The University itself was established in 1886 by Queen Victoria and was originally set up as a female-only college. During a guided tour, our students could not help but be inspired by the impressive history and architecture of the buildings.

"In the Art Gallery there was a painting of polar bears that is believed to be haunted, during exams they cover the painting up as it is believed to be an omen of failure" said Year 10 student Abby Dangerfield. Abby has ambition to study at university and become a teacher.



During their last session of the day, the Year 10 group were shown techniques on referencing and research. Student Alicia Pitt, who wants to be become a Clinical Psychologist, was really impressed, commenting: "In our miniature lecture we were taught about Chicago-style referencing and in-text citations. It was interesting and I hope to learn and develop these skills."

LOWER ACADEMY STUDENT COUNCIL ELECTED

The Lower Academy has recently appointed members to a new Student Council, following the election for Head Boy and Head Girl.



"From the moment I found out about the Head Boy application process I knew that it would be exciting, and something that I would want to be part of."

Leading the Student Council is an honour and we are proud to be developing ideas into how we can make this school an even more exciting place to be."

Colby Nicol - Lower Academy Head Boy

"I have wanted to become Head Girl at the Lower Academy ever since I joined in Year 7, as I've always wanted to make a difference. Finding out I got the role felt amazing!"

I really enjoy drawing and love to read! I have a passion for engineering and developing designs to see my ideas come to life."

Taite Greenland - Lower Academy Head Girl



Students who showed an interest in representing the Lower Academy were invited to complete a formal application explaining, in their own words, what would make them suitable for the role and what visions they had for the academies.

The finalists were interviewed by Headteacher Mr Smith, Deputy Head Mrs Sherman and a member of the school Governing Body, Mr Bobbin, to decide upon the candidates' suitability for the positions that they had applied for.

The Student Council has made a successful start, having already completed a survey about the Enrichment programme on offer at The Academies, which yielded positive results. The Council are currently canvassing the student body to collect inspirational quotes from students to be put on display around the academies.



Nicole Barrett
Deputy Head Girl



Jack Dangerfield
Deputy Head Boy



Eden-Rose Whellams
Year 8 Student Ambassador



Ruhul Miah
Teaching & Learning Ambassador



Oghenetega Atomre
Year 8 Student Ambassador



Lukasz Mrozowski
Environmental Ambassador

"They are very keen students who have taken on their respective roles with a maturity. I look forward to working with the Student Council more closely over the remainder of this academic year." Mr Davis - Raising Standards Leader, Key Stage 3.

ROAD SAFETY ADVICE FOR YEAR 12

With many of our Sixth Form students soon to be getting behind the wheel for the first time, the recent visit from the Essex Roadster Team was perfectly timed! The Essex Roadster Team, which includes members of the Essex Fire Brigade and Road Safety Officers, brought with them expert advice and very some important safety messages.



During the morning session, Road Safety Officer, Gillian Beale, pictured above, explained to students the dangers of driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs. Real life scenarios were discussed, along with some hard hitting facts and figures.

A recurring message throughout the morning was how one person's 'misguided' actions can lead to devastating effects for many others. Guest speaker Darren Goldie, who has visited the Academies before, spoke to our students from his own personal experience and explained how he had discovered the hard way that drugs ruin lives.

INTERIOR DESIGNER VISITS SIXTH FORM

Our Sixth Form students recently welcomed professional interior designer, Stephanie Bland, who came in to share her experiences and talk about opportunities available to study art related courses at degree level.

During her career, Stephanie has been part of many exciting projects, including designs for various prestigious overseas casinos and hotels. She has also worked on the Royal Opera House in London.

Many of the degree courses give students the opportunity to work on live projects and gain experience whilst studying which will be invaluable when applying for jobs.

For more information about the diverse range of courses available, visit: <https://www.southessex.ac.uk/>

STUDENTS ACHIEVE FIREBREAK QUALIFICATION

A small group of Upper Academy students spent a week at Basildon Fire Station to train for, and gain a Firebreak qualification. Working alongside serving firefighters, the course aims to develop confidence, teamwork, self-esteem, self-belief and a sense of citizenship and community engagement in all those taking part.

Participants received a high level of education around fire safety in the home and safety on the roads. New life skills were learnt, such as effective communication, leadership and first aid. Skills were delivered through fire-service based activities such as high pressure hose drills, casualty rescues, breathing apparatus scenarios, search and rescue, ladder pitching and climbing, and many more.

On the final day of training skills were put on display in front of family members, friends, schools and supporters in a very special Passing out Parade. All participants were awarded with a personalised Certificate of Achievement from the Chief Fire Officer of Essex Fire Service, as well as a Level 1 AQA Award in Community Firefighting training skills, which is of GCSE standard.

Photos of the event can be found on our website: www.basildonacademies.org.uk/firebreak

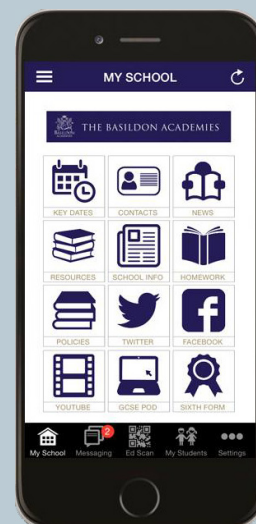


"All the students worked extremely hard throughout the week, in some cold and very wet conditions - without any fuss!" commented Gary Dyer, Watch Manager of Basildon Fire Station, Essex County Fire & Rescue Service.

STAY IN TOUCH WITH THE 'MY ED' PARENT APP

Parents and carers have access to school information available to them via our 'MY ED' app. The app is available for Android & iPhones and is free to download.

One of the features of the app enables parents and carers to message the school to report their child's absence and because the technology is similar to WhatsApp sending messages is completely free of charge, subject to your phone's standard data charges.



Downloading the parent app couldn't be easier, just go to www.myedschoolapp.com and follow the instructions.

SPOTLIGHT ON ENRICHMENT - COOKING

As part of the Lower Academy Cooking Enrichment group, students have been introduced to the amazing variety of food and culinary traditions that exist around the world.

Part of the enrichment activity is to study a different country every week, learning about the cuisine, heritage and celebrated foods that each country has to offer. Students have really been enjoying the tasting sessions, and watching celebrity chefs like Jamie Oliver and Gordon Ramsay give their unique spin on particular recipes.



Year 7 student Kaitlin samples Greek cuisine.

Once a week, students have also been getting hands-on with food, learning recipes and practising techniques before taking their creations home.

MONTHLY ENRICHMENT ATTENDANCE AWARDS

Enrichment attendance award winners for December: Miss McCarthy EN13 (Lower Academy) and Mr Bishop EN42 (Upper Academy).

Enrichment attendance award winners for January: Mrs Pereira EN4 (Lower Academy) and Miss Hayers EN38 (Upper Academy).

STAY SAFE ONLINE

Internet safety company Parent Zone have devised handy parent guides for popular apps and games used by young people. The guides can be found here <https://parentzone.org.uk/advice/parent-guides>



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