

Dates for the Diary

Winter Wonderland Christmas Fayre

Monday 16th December 2024 - 3:30pm-5pm

Christmas Dinner (Free for all students)

Year 7 - Tuesday 17th December 2024

Year 8 - Wednesday 18th December 2024

Year 9 - Thursday 19th December 2024

Last Day of Autumn Term

Friday 20th December 2024 - *Students finish at 12:30pm*

First Day of Spring Term

Tuesday 7th January 2025

Year 9 Options Process Event (Venue: Upper Academy)

Monday 13th January 2025 - 4pm-5pm

Student Value of the Term

**NO HUMAN
IS ILLEGAL**

House Points - Week Ending 13th December



38,217
ALI



35,689
SEACOLE



31,612
AUSTEN



26,368
HAWKING

Leadership Message

As we approach the end of this term, I would like to take a moment to express our gratitude for the hard work, dedication, and spirit of collaboration that have made this term so successful. It's been a time of growth, learning, and building connections, and we couldn't be more proud of the achievements across our school community.

It's a season to celebrate the bonds we share, to show appreciation for one another, and to spread goodwill throughout our community. Let us embrace the true meaning of this season — of hope, peace, and joy.

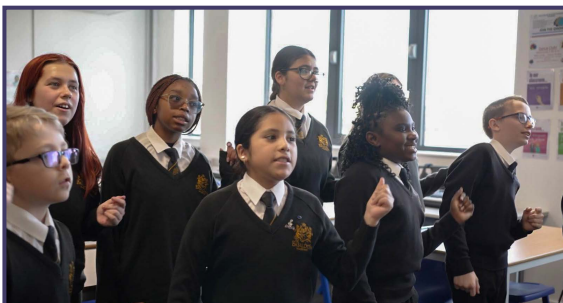
Whether in the classroom, on the sports field, or through extracurricular activities, everyone has contributed to making this term special. We hope that you take pride in all that has been accomplished, and that you enjoy a well-deserved break to recharge.

I look forward to the new opportunities the next term will bring, and am excited to continue our shared journey of learning and growth in the year ahead.

Wishing you all a restful and rejuvenating break, and I look forward to welcoming you back for another term of success!

Thank you for being part of our wonderful school family.

R.Rees, Headteacher



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

Aspire - Believe - Achieve

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 Thursday
Breaktime

Location: The Lower
Academy SEND
Department



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).

Winter Wonderland Christmas Fayre Monday 16th December - 3:30pm-5pm

We are delighted to announce that we are holding our annual Winter Wonderland Christmas Fayre at the Lower Academy on Monday 16th December 2024. The event is open to all parents, carers, families and students and will take place from 3:30pm – 5pm.

Preparations for the fayre are in full swing. Students are busy designing exciting games and stalls, all in friendly competition to raise the most funds. Every penny will go to support our chosen charity, Save the Children.

The Lower Academy Choir 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.



Non-uniform/Christmas Jumper Day 20th December

All students are invited to take part in this year's Christmas Jumper Day on the last day of term, Friday 20th 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.



The admin team on both sites are welcoming to visitors and parents and have access to the new EAL translator tools which enable them to speak to each parent or child in their own language when needed.



Leading Parent
Partnership Award

2023-2026

Lower Academy Choir Spreads Christmas Cheer

On Friday 13th December, the Lower Academy Christmas Choir took part in a spectacular festive event at the Brentwood Centre, performing alongside the Essex Youth Chamber Orchestra.

The event brought together over 1,000 students, teachers, and families from local schools, all joining voices to celebrate the Christmas spirit. Attendees were treated to excerpts from Tchaikovsky's famous ballet The Nutcracker, performed by the orchestra.

Our choir then took to the stage, impressing the audience with a stunning Christmas medley alongside the orchestra and other school choirs. Their performance included classic festive songs such as O Come All Ye Faithful, Stop the Cavalry, and Merry Christmas Everybody.

Well done to all involved for spreading holiday joy with their talent and enthusiasm!



Year 9 Options Process Event

On Monday 13th January, we would like to invite all Year 9 students and their parents/carers to The Basildon Upper Academy from 4pm to 5pm.

This event marks the launch of the Year 9 Options process. We will explain the timeline and provide guidance on the next steps. Additionally, you'll have the opportunity to discuss subjects with Upper Academy teaching staff.

R.Earley, the new Year Leader for Year 9, will also be in attendance and looks forward to meeting you all.

Online Safety Hub Recommended Resource of the Week: Top Tips to Protect Your Child's Digital Privacy

Being mindful about sharing personal information, understanding how an app or platform tracks, collects, stores, and uses data, and practising good digital hygiene can go a long way in helping to protect your child's privacy online. [Click here](#) to access information and top tips to help protect your child's digital privacy.

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](#)



Eco Committee Repairs Storm Damage

Storm Darragh recently caused significant damage across the region, with our Lower Academy's quad gardens among the areas affected. Members of the Eco Committee worked diligently to repair the impact, which included broken composters and scattered debris.

Students creatively repurposed damaged items, such as broken plant pots, to construct wildlife habitats, while also tidying the gardens they had cultivated with care over the past year. Their committee's dedication highlights the resilience and commitment to sustainability in the face of adversity.

"It was good to repair the damage so the insects could have a home." Molly.N – Year 7

"It was good to be outside and help the animals." Lilly.C – Year 7



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 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.

BASILDON ACADEMIES

WORD OF THE DAY

16th - 20th December 2024

Monday:	<p>Festivity (Noun) <i>Definition:</i> The celebration of something in a joyful and lively manner. <i>Example:</i> Christmas is a time of great festivity, marked by decorations, music, and gatherings.</p>
Tuesday:	<p>Tradition (Noun) <i>Definition:</i> The transmission of customs or beliefs from generation to generation. <i>Example:</i> The Christmas season is rich with tradition, including carolling and gift-giving.</p>
Wednesday:	<p>Revelry (Noun) <i>Definition:</i> Lively and noisy festivities, especially when these involve drinking a large amount of alcohol. <i>Example:</i> The Christmas revelry often includes parties and social events.</p>
Thursday:	<p>Observance (Noun) <i>Definition:</i> The action of celebrating or marking an event or tradition. <i>Example:</i> The Christmas observance includes a variety of cultural and religious practices.</p>
Friday: <i>International Human Solidarity Day</i>	<p>Solidarity (Noun) <i>Definition:</i> Unity or agreement of feeling or action, especially among individuals with a common interest; mutual support within a group. <i>Example:</i> International Human Solidarity Day is dedicated to promoting solidarity among people across the globe.</p>

Job of the Week: Yacht Deckhand

What does a Yacht Deckhand do?

- You may work on deck, below deck or on the bridge of a range of different ships.
- You'll help deal with safety equipment and lifeboats, help the officers and carry out watch duties
- You'll help look after navigation, radar, satellite and computer systems, and carry out watch duties
- You'll help with deck operations and maintenance, cargo handling and storage

Labour Market Information

- 723 jobs in the local area of Essex
- National jobs 171,912
- Growth +9.3% in East of England, an increase of 18,750 jobs

What Qualifications do you need to do this job?

You can join the commercial shipping industry (also called the Merchant Navy) from age 16 as a marine apprentice and start training as a deckhand.

- You'll need at least 4 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A* to C), including English, maths and physics (or combined science).
- You could also do an industry-backed HND, foundation degree, or degree in a subject like nautical science or marine engineering.
- You'll need to pass an eyesight and medical exam.

Let's Talk Money

UK annual median:
£27,750

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

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.



Christmas Dinner

Year 7 - Tuesday 17th December

Year 8 - Wednesday 18th December

Year 9 - Thursday 19th December

Main Meal Options

Roast Turkey & Pigs in Blankets
Vegan Wellington

Served with: Roast Potatoes, Carrots, Peas,
Brussel Sprouts, Yorkshire Puddings,
Stuffing & Gravy

Dessert Options

Christmas Pudding
Mince Pies
Chocolate Yule Log
Mini Blackforest Gateau
Jelly

Christmas Dinner comes with
Fruit Juice & a Christmas Cracker

Christmas Dinner is free to all of our students



FREE HOT CHOCOLATE & COOKIE



Free hot chocolate and cookies will be available to all students in the Dining Hall during breaktime on

FRIDAY 20TH DECEMBER



VEGANUARY MONTH

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

Uniform Price Increase

We have been advised by our school uniform suppliers, SWI Schoolwear, that from **February 1st 2025**, there will be an increase in price across uniform of 3.4%, in line with Retail Price Index (RPI).

Should you require any additional uniform for your child, please order before the end of January to benefit from the current price.

Essex

ACTIVate

Free holiday clubs, fun activities and food
across Essex and Thurrock!

- ✓ Specialist SEND, mental wellbeing and youth clubs
- ✓ Sports and games, arts and crafts, cooking and so much more!
- ✓ Nutritious snacks and tasty meals
- ✓ Run by qualified, local club providers
- ✓ Family support, resources and guidance
- ✓ Discretionary paid and paid for spaces

WHAT IS ESSEX ACTIVATE?

Essex ActivAte is the name for the exciting activity clubs run by Active Essex! During school holidays, local club providers across the county deliver free holiday clubs and fun activities to get eligible primary and secondary children active, as well as support young people to make friendships and learn new skills, helping to enhance their wellbeing.

Please only book your child/ren a space at an Essex ActivAte club if they will attend. If they are booked on and do not attend, other children may miss out on this beneficial opportunity across the holidays.

www.activeessex.org



@EssexActivAte



Turn this flyer over
to read more on how
to book a space!

SCAN ME



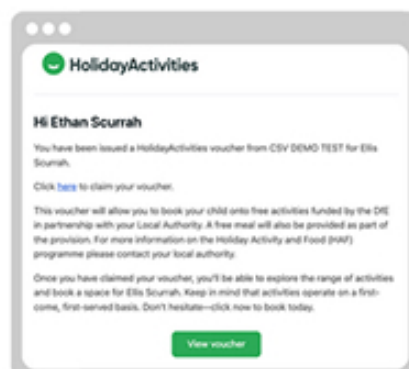
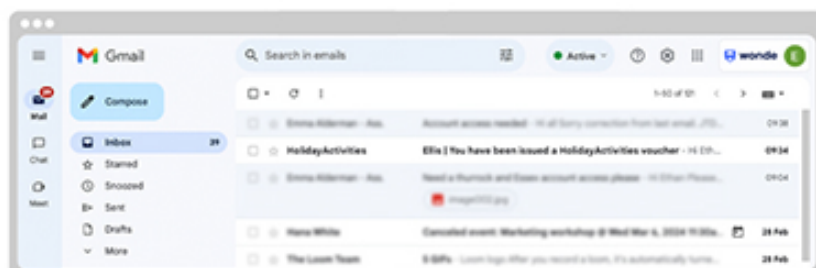


HolidayActivities

A guide on claiming your voucher and booking activities

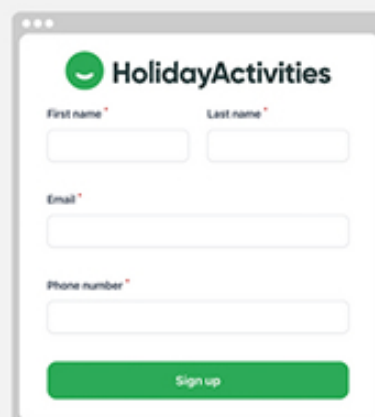
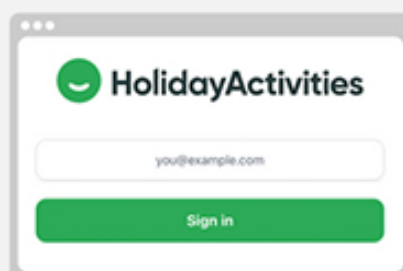
Step 1 - Open the email and click the green button

This voucher will come from hello@holidayactivities.com



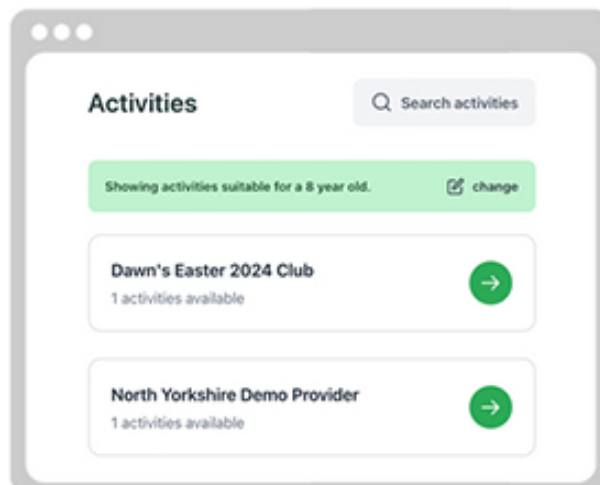
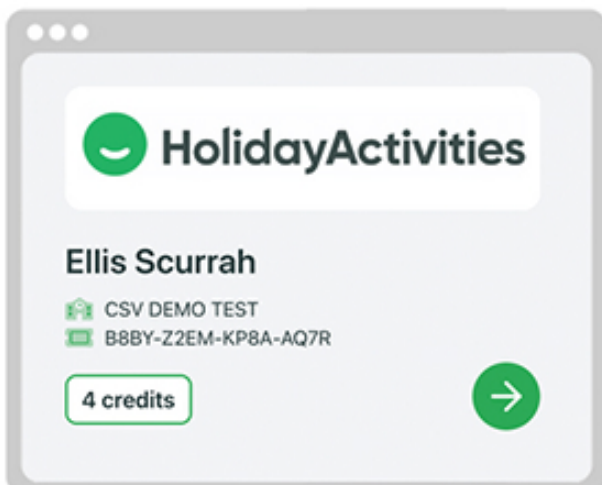
Step 2 - Select *Continue with email* and log in/sign up

After selecting Continue with email, you will be asked to enter your email address. If you do not have an account, you will be asked to sign up



Step 3 - Making a booking

Clicking the green arrow on the voucher of your child will take you to a list of providers. From here, you can browse available activities and, once you find one suitable, you will be asked to complete a booking form.



Better Housing Better Health

The Warmth & Wellbeing Service

HOME ENERGY ADVICE

Better Housing Better Health (BHBH) is a service working locally to improve your domestic warmth & wellbeing. In a preventative approach, our free helpline provides you with a single point of contact for advice and support in order to help improve the energy efficiency of your property and lower your bills.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Our team of experts can work with households to apply for grants and funding to help with your home energy. Schemes like the Warm Home Discount can take £150 off your bills and ECO Funding can replace heating systems as well as install insulation. Call us to see if you're eligible and start the process.



WE ARE HERE.

GET IN TOUCH

0800 107 0044

WWW.BHBH.ORG.UK