

Dates for the Diary

LGBT+ History Month
February 2025

National Careers Week
Monday 3rd - Saturday 8th March 2025

International Women's Day
Saturday 8th March 2025

British Science Week
Friday 7th - Sunday 16th March 2025

Year 7 Parents Evening (Online)
Wednesday 12th March 2025 - 4pm-6.30pm

Easter Holidays
Monday 7th - Monday 21st April 2025

Student Value of the Term

**WOMEN'S
RIGHTS
ARE HUMAN
RIGHTS**

House Points - Week Ending 14th February



55,610
SEACOLE



54,733
ALI



45,467
AUSTEN



39,719
HAWKING

Leadership Message

The SEN department at Basildon Lower Academy values your partnership and insights as we strive to create the best possible learning environment for our students with Special Educational Needs (SEN). To better understand your experiences and improve our support, we kindly invite you to complete our SEN Parent Feedback Form.

By sharing your thoughts and experiences, you help us:

- Understand what's working well.
- Identify areas where we can improve.
- Ensure that every student receives the support they need to thrive.

To make sure we have a holistic understanding, we'll also be gathering feedback from students and staff. This comprehensive approach will allow us to identify strengths and address any challenges collaboratively.

We've made it simple for you to complete. Just use your smartphone or tablet to scan the QR code provided below or click the link: [BLA - SEN Parent/Carer Feedback Form](#) This will take you directly to the feedback form. If you have more than one child at BLA, please repeat this process. If you have any trouble accessing the form or require assistance, please don't



We kindly ask that you complete the form by **Monday 10th March at midday**. Your input is greatly appreciated, and it will directly influence the development of our SEN strategies and practices.

Thank you for taking the time to share your perspective, and for your continued support.

C.O'Keefe
Assistant Headteacher & SENCO



BLA - SEN Parent/Carer Feedback Form

The schools approaches to SEND provision and managing behaviour have been adapted to be consistent with the underlying principles of supporting wellbeing first. This is reflected in the schools' policies and the practice seen across both sites.



In partnership with
**NATIONAL
CHILDREN'S
BUREAU**

Wellbeing Award
for Schools

2022-2025

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

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).



Aspire - Believe - Achieve

Young Carers Club



Tuesdays

3:30pm-5pm

Venue: Learning Support
Centre

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

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

Celebrating Our Passion for Reading Champions

Students from Key Stage 3 were recognised for their outstanding dedication to reading in their Reading and English lessons. Their teachers nominated them for enthusiasm, engagement, and commitment to developing their literacy skills.

As a result of their hard work, these students have been awarded the prestigious 'Passion for Reading Champion' certificate. This award highlights their exceptional efforts in fostering a love for reading and improving literary abilities.

We are incredibly proud of the students for their achievements. Well done to everyone who has earned this well-deserved recognition—keep up the fantastic work!

S.Forecast - Reading Leader



Celebrating Student Success: Recognising Academic Excellence

As last term came to a close, we were thrilled to celebrate the incredible academic accomplishments of our students!

They continue to set new standards of excellence, and to recognise some of their academic successes thus far this academic year. Students were invited to receive certificates and other prizes during the last day of term.

Their dedication, passion, and hard work are truly inspiring. Keep up the fantastic work!

E.Cahill
Deputy Headteacher



School Community Enhances Garden Spaces

Before the school break, students from all year groups, not just those in the Eco Committee, have been working hard on our school's garden and allotment areas.

So far, students have planted onions, potatoes, and broad beans and, are busy preparing outdoor spaces for even more planting; including raspberry plants.

With over 50 students getting involved in gardening this month, it's fantastic to see so much enthusiasm for sustainability and growing our own produce!



Students Build Key Safeguarding Skills

Lower Academy students recently completed a Safeguarding Skill Builder learning activity focused on Consent, Privacy, and Boundaries. Delivered by Mrs Peake, the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), the sessions helped students understand the importance of giving and receiving consent, respecting personal space, and recognising boundaries both online and offline.

The aim of the activity was to help students feel more confident in managing uncomfortable situations, respecting others' privacy, and understanding personal boundaries. By developing these key skills, students are better equipped to navigate social interactions safely and responsibly.

Safeguarding Skill Builder – Lower Academy

Boundaries, Privacy and Consent

Year 9 Support Macmillan at Basildon Hospital

Year 9 students have been exploring cancer awareness and prevention over the past few weeks, learning vital skills such as how to perform testicular and breast cancer checks.

As part of their learning, they have created informative posters and heartfelt letters, which will be donated to Macmillan at Basildon Hospital to support those affected by cancer.

This initiative not only deepened students' understanding of cancer prevention but also allowed them to contribute meaningfully to their community. Their efforts highlight the importance of education and awareness in the fight against cancer.

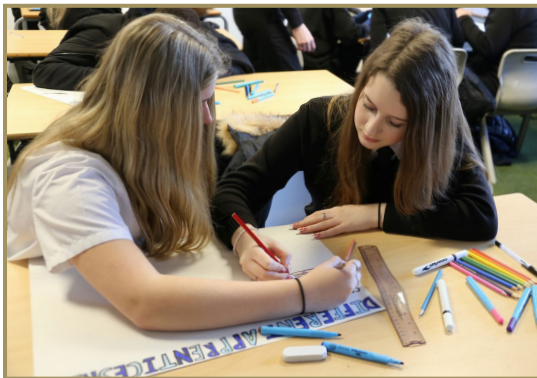
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Students Engage in National Apprenticeship Week

Lower Academy students recently took part in a range of engaging activities to celebrate National Apprenticeship Week.

They attended an informative assembly, designed posters, and explored motivational and subject-specific videos to learn more about apprenticeship opportunities. The week offered students valuable insights into apprenticeships, helping them consider future career pathways.



Online Safety Hub: Cryptocurrency: The Risks for Teen Traders

Have you heard your teen mentioning 'crypto' and 'Dogecoin' or noticed they've developed a sudden interest in Elon Musk's X feed? The number of teens entering the world of cryptocurrency trading is on the rise; however, some wellbeing experts are starting to raise concerns about this growing trend.

For more information on the risks of teen cryptocurrency trading and guidance for parents and carers, visit: www.basildonacademies.onlinesafetyhub.uk/parent/articles/cryptocurrency

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](http://www.basildonacademies.onlinesafetyhub.uk)



BASILDON ACADEMIES WORD OF THE DAY

24th- 28th February 2025

AQA Command Words

Monday:	Elucidate (Verb) Definition: To make something clear; explain. Example: The exam requires students to elucidate their understanding of complex concepts.
Tuesday:	Articulate (Verb) Definition: To express an idea or feeling fluently and coherently. Example: Students should be able to articulate their arguments clearly in their written responses.
Wednesday:	Evaluate (Verb) Definition: To form an idea of the amount, number, or value of; assess. Example: To achieve a high mark, you need to evaluate the effectiveness of different strategies.
Thursday:	Synthesise (Verb) Definition: To combine a number of things into a coherent whole. Example: The task is to synthesise information from various sources to create a comprehensive analysis.
Friday:	Justify (Verb) Definition: To show or prove to be right or reasonable. Example: You must justify your choice of methodology with solid evidence in your coursework.

Job of the Week: Forensic Scientist

What does a Forensic Scientist do?

Forensic scientists use a range of techniques to find and study evidence from a variety of sources, like blood and other body fluids, hairs, textile fibres, glass fragments and tyre marks.

Your main role will be looking for evidence to link a suspect with a crime scene, but you may also specialise.

Your day-to-day tasks may include:

blood grouping and DNA profiling

analysing fluid and tissue samples for traces of drugs and poisons

Labour Market Information

UK jobs: 97,714

Essex Jobs: 1,751

Growth: +41.4%

Top 5 LEAs: 1. Cambridgeshire (4,830) 2. Oxfordshire (4,457) 3. Hertfordshire (2,914) 4. Surrey (2,392) 5. Hampshire (2,379)



What Qualifications do you need to do this job?

You'll usually need a degree or postgraduate award in forensic science. You may also be able to get into this career with a science-based degree like chemistry, biology, life sciences, applied sciences or medical sciences.

If you want to specialise in electronic casework, you may need experience and qualifications in computing, electrical engineering, electronics or physics.

Let's Talk Money

UK annual median: £33,477



What the schools stand for and promote is highly visible and consistent on each site from the values agreed with students to the diversity represented by the key figures the school's houses are named after.



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

 Essex County Council
Education

GOOD TIMEKEEPING



What to do the night before:

Get everything you need for school ready



Set your alarm allowing plenty of time

Make your lunch and drink if you bring a packed lunch to school



Turn off devices half an hour before bedtime

Have a good night's sleep - a minimum of eight hours!



Pancake Day - Tuesday 4th March



To celebrate Pancake Day on Tuesday 4th March, the Dining Hall will be serving pancakes in addition to the regular dessert menu options



3rd - 7th March 2025

To celebrate British Pie Week, the Dining Hall will be serving a different pie each day, alongside the usual lunchtime menu.

Monday: **Cheese, Onion & Potato**

Tuesday: **Steak & Kidney**

Wednesday: **Chicken**

Thursday: **Minced Beef**

Friday: **Chicken & Vegetable**