

Dates for the Diary

Last Day of Spring Term

Friday 4th April 2025 - Students finish at 12:30pm

Easter Holidays

Monday 7th - Monday 21st April 2025

Bank Holiday

Monday 5th May 2025

Year 9 AP2 Assessments

Monday 12th - Friday 16th May 2025

Year 8 AP2 Assessments

Monday 19th - Friday 23rd May 2025

Half Term

Monday 26th - Friday 30th May 2025

Student Value of the Term

**WOMEN'S
RIGHTS
ARE HUMAN
RIGHTS**

House Points - Week Ending 28th March



72,278
SEACOLE



68,992
ALI



56,823
AUSTEN



52,195
HAWKING

Leadership Message

As we near the end of this term and look forward to a well-deserved Easter break, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on something truly important to us — the voices of our students.

This term, we've been focused on actively listening to our students, gathering their insights, ideas, and feedback about their experiences at school. Our commitment to student voice is stronger than ever, as we know that when students feel heard, it creates an even more positive and engaging school environment that fosters a sense of belonging.

We are thrilled to share that we have already begun reviewing the feedback we received, and we are excited to put plans into action. To ensure transparency and celebrate the positive changes, we will be sending home a "They Said, We Did" letter after the break. This letter will outline the key points shared by the students and the steps we are taking in response to their thoughts and suggestions.



Thank you for encouraging your child to share their perspective with us. Your support in encouraging this open dialogue is invaluable and truly helps our school community thrive.

Wishing you all a joyful and restful Easter break. We can't wait to continue our journey together after the holidays, with our students' voices guiding us forward.

R.Rees
Headteacher

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 jumpers, 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.



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.



Aspire - Believe - Achieve

Jane Austen Memorial Challenge Winners Announced

As part of the Lower Academy's World Book Day celebrations, students were set an exciting challenge: to create their own Jane Austen Memorial in recognition of the 250th anniversary of her birth, which is being celebrated in 2025.

Embracing the challenge with creativity and enthusiasm, students dedicated their afternoon to designing unique and thoughtful tributes. The competition saw a fantastic range of entries, making it a tough decision for the judges.

After much deliberation, the winners from each year group were:

- Precious.B – Year 7
- Agata.O – Year 8
- Amani.L – Year 9

A huge congratulations to these three students! They were recently presented with their winning prize — a signed book from author and illustrator Sarah Horne, who visited the academy last year.



Online Safety Hub: Unmasking the World of Digital Disguise

The Basildon Academies' Online Safety Hub has published an insightful article titled "Unmasking the World of Digital Disguise," which explores the various ways individuals may conceal their identities online, the potential risks associated with such practices, and offers guidance on how parents can educate their children to navigate the digital world safely. Read more here: <https://basildonacademies.onlinesafetyhub.uk/parent/articles/unmasking-the-world-of-digital-disguise>

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.

Safeguarding Week

Last week, the Lower Academy dedicated a full week to Safeguarding Awareness, providing students with valuable insights into online safety, peer respect, self-esteem, and aspirations. The week was packed with engaging lessons, guest speakers, and interactive activities designed to educate and empower students.

Guest Speakers & Special Events

The week launched with an exciting live performance and safeguarding talk from boyband CTRL, who spoke about online safety, mental health, and overcoming personal struggles. Their engaging performance and messages left a lasting impact on students.

External agencies, including Essex Fire and Rescue and Essex Youth Service, delivered informative sessions covering essential safeguarding topics. A special assembly on consent provided students with vital knowledge about personal boundaries and respectful relationships. Additionally, Student Voice representatives met with Headteacher Ms Rees and our Designated Safeguarding Lead, Mrs Peake, offering students a platform to share their thoughts and suggestions for further school improvements.

Engaging Lessons & Respect Activities

Throughout the week, students took part in a variety of sessions focused on safeguarding and respect. The Respect Tree activity and respect poster competition encouraged students to express what respect means to them, while lunchtime drop-in sessions provided further discussion opportunities. The Respect Ambassador recruitment drive also aimed to empower students to lead by example in promoting a positive school culture.

Empowering Students for the Future

As the week came to a close, students reflected on key safeguarding principles through a recorded video and live quiz, reinforcing important takeaways; with a strong focus on respect, wellbeing, and online safety.

"Understanding the importance of safeguarding is crucial because it helps you know where to turn when you need help. Being brave enough to speak to someone you trust and share your situation is the best thing you can do; After all, knowledge is power." Agata.O – Year 8

"All the assemblies were incredibly helpful, as they taught us how to stay safe while also having fun."Ariadna.L – Year 7

"During Safeguarding Week, I learned a lot about the true meaning of consent and who I can turn to if I need to talk, share, or report something." Stevie-Lee.G – Year 9





EASTER TREATS



On Friday 4th April the Dining Hall will be serving a selection of Easter themed cakes & biscuits at breaktime

Each item will be 50p



EXTRA-CURRICULAR CLUBS

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunchtime: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Art After School: 3.30 - 4.30pm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Archery (Sign up only) 	After School: 3.30 - 4.30pm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> History STEM Science Art Football Y7 	Before School: 7.30 - 8.15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basketball After School: 3.30 - 4.30pm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maths Y8 	After School: 3.30 - 4.30pm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Football Y9 Maths Computer Club 	Lunchtime: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Art After School: 3.30 - 4.30pm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basketball

New Essex Sexual Health Service Webpages Dedicated to Secondary Parents & Carers

The Essex Sexual Health Service has a website dedicated to parents and carers. Parents can find a wealth of resources, including FAQs, insights into RSE, and advice on how to have those important conversations.

www.essexsexualhealthservice.org.uk/parents-and-carers/



BASILDON ACADEMIES WORD OF THE DAY

31st March - 4th April 2025
Eid al-Fitr

Monday:	Festivity (Noun) perayaan in Malay Definition: The celebration of a religious or other festival. Example: Eid al-Fitr is a major festivity marking the end of Ramadan, celebrated with feasts and community gatherings.
Tuesday: <i>April Fool's Day</i>	Hoax (Noun) păcăleală in Romanian Definition: A humorous or malicious deception, often intended to trick someone. Example: Many playful hoaxes are carried out on Hoax Day, also known as April Fools' Day, as part of the tradition of light-hearted pranks.
Wednesday: <i>World Autism Awareness Day</i>	Neurodiversity (Noun) niwroamrywiaeth in Welsh Definition: The concept that neurological differences are to be recognised and respected as any other human variation. Example: World Autism Awareness Day promotes neurodiversity, advocating for understanding and acceptance of autistic individuals.
Thursday:	Sensory (Adjective) pūoko in Maori Definition: Relating to sensation or the physical senses. Example: Sensory processing issues are often discussed on World Autism Awareness Day, highlighting the unique experiences of autistic individuals.
Friday:	Inclusivity (Noun) inklusiwiteit in Afrikaans Definition: The practice or policy of including people who might otherwise be excluded or marginalised. Example: World Autism Awareness Day focuses on promoting inclusivity in all areas of society for autistic individuals.

Job of the Week: Lighting Engineer

What does a Lighting Engineer do?

You'll usually specialise in film and TV, or theatre, concerts and live events. Your work would range from basic spotlighting to operating strobes, lasers and pyrotechnics.

Depending on your role, your day-to-day tasks may include:
interpreting a lighting designer's plan
carrying out risk assessments for health and safety purposes
planning where to run cables and place lights at film locations
helping to rig and check the equipment

Labour Market Information

UK jobs: 342,899

Essex Jobs: 6,251

Growth: +.2%

Top 5 LEAs: 1. Surrey (8,868) 2. Hackney (8,587) 3. Kent (8,466) 4. Hertfordshire (8,120) 5. Lambeth (7,261)



What Qualifications do you need to do this job?

You could qualify as an electrician and get practical experience in production lighting. You could also do a college course to learn skills like stage electrics and lighting design. You'll need relevant practical experience, like a traineeship with a specialist lighting company, or work experience in: lighting equipment hire theatres or concert venues
amateur theatre



Let's Talk Money

UK annual median: £29,047



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.



Wellbeing Award
for Schools

2022-2025

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

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.