

Dates for the Diary

Literacy, Numeracy & Science Parental Event

Monday 4th March 2024 - 4pm-5pm

National Careers Week

Monday 4th - Saturday 9th March 2024

International Women's Day

Friday 8th March 2024

British Science Week

Friday 8th - Sunday 17th March 2024

Year 9 Progress Review

Wednesday 13th March 2024 - 4pm-6pm

French & Humanities Parental Event

Monday 18th March 2024 - 4pm-5pm

Student Value of the Term

**WOMEN'S
RIGHTS
ARE HUMAN
RIGHTS**

House Points - Week Ending 16th February



22,884
HAWKING



22,305
ALI



22,060
SEACOLE



20,660
AUSTEN

Leadership Message

It was a busy few weeks at the Lower Academy in the run up to the half term break, with students and staff working hard in and outside of the classroom.

Our 'Taste Your Future' sessions came to the end of their current run; it was a fantastic opportunity for students to engage in activities that they could experience in the world of work. The sessions included Catering, Hairdressing, Personal Training, Music and Make Up Artistry. The students were fully engaged in their chosen activities and their feedback was extremely positive. I would like to thank the staff who ran and supported the sessions and we hope to build on this fantastic start with further sessions in the future. It is very important to us that we continue our commitment to ensuring our young people have all the relevant information, delivered in a practical real-life way, in order for them to make informed decisions about their future.

Year 9 students were extremely fortunate to be invited to participate in the inaugural Creative Tech Fest. This was an opportunity for our students to practically engage and gain knowledge of innovations and developments in technology that support the environment, health and industry. This local event brought to the forefront global issues that may have an impact on our students in the future. We hope our involvement in this important event goes from strength to strength.

It was wonderful to hear and see the musical talents of not only our students, but younger students in our local community when we welcomed over 200 students from 6 local primary schools to the 'Play-it! Live' event hosted in our main hall. It was amazing to witness the collaboration between students, staff and external guests.

We have a busy start to the new term ahead of us. On March 8th we will be celebrating International Women's Day, supporting this term's Student Value 'Women's Rights are Human Rights'. Students will also be included in activities to celebrate the upcoming National Careers Week and, British Science Week.

I hope that you will join us for planned parental events this term; including our Literacy, Numeracy and Science event on March 4th, Year 9 Progress Review on March 13th and a French and Humanities event on March 18th. These events are opportunities for all parents and carers to engage with the work that is being produced in classrooms and to see the progress our students are making.

L.Sherman
Headteacher



Students Inspired by Technology Festival

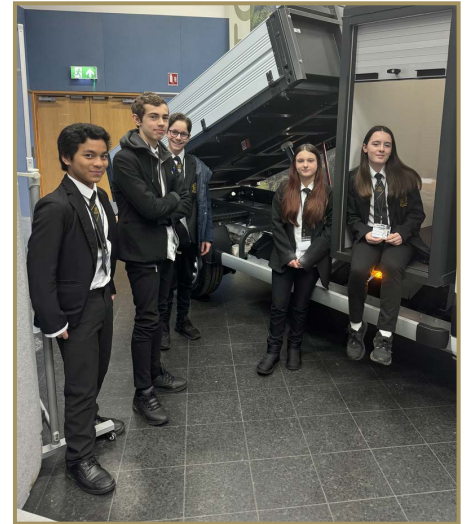
Year 9 students recently attended the first ever Creative Tech Fest, a celebration of the dynamic connection between creativity and technology.

The event provided a platform for our students to immerse themselves in hands-on activities and workshops; gaining valuable insights into cutting-edge technologies, including a VR experience which enabled them to visualise medical procedures. Students were able to investigate STEM related career opportunities by speaking with industry experts.

There was also focus on the role that technology plays in addressing global challenges and, learners listened to an inspirational speech from Councillor Peter Schwier, Climate Czar and Cabinet Member for Environment, Waste Reduction and Recycling.

"The Tech Fest was an inspiring event and informed me about the crisis of climate change. I also found the drones and the vehicles to be such a wonder." Rigel.D – Year 9

"I found the event really educational and was able to learn about careers in the medical field including a Scrub Practitioner and Pharmacist. I really enjoyed being able to ask the experts questions." Dorcas.A – Year 9



Play-it! Live

On Thursday February 15th, the Lower Academy welcomed six primary feeder schools, to bring together over 200 children for a day filled with musical fun.

Organised by the Essex Music Hub, the 'Play-it! Live' event showcased the talents of young musicians as they collaborated, rehearsed, and performed with great enthusiasm.

In addition to the musical performances, our primary school students were treated to a fun and engaging DJ session in the Lower Academy's music department. Led by DJ Kingsley, the interactive experience provided a unique opportunity for the children to explore the world of music in a dynamic setting.

"Our choir represented our school wonderfully, with impeccable behaviour, inspiring the primary children for when they become Year 7's. I heard a few times throughout the day - 'I can't wait to come to this school!'" G.Stoddard - Music, Performing Arts and Creative Arts Lead

"The whole experience was very enjoyable and fun to be part of. I loved the collaboration between schools." Micah-Josiah.P

"I really liked the song choice and I think the instruments made the song better. All the primary school kids were really nice and I would definitely do this again. It was fun." Sasha.B



Taste Your Future

As part of our drive to ensure all of our young people get quality advice to make informed decisions on the skills needed for a successful career, The Lower Academy recently hosted Saturday morning Taste Your Future sessions. Our students engaged in a variety of different careers sessions based around their long-term goals.

Our aim is to raise our young peoples' aspirations, giving them skills and knowledge for a successful transition into adult life. We want our students to be successful, and for that, they need to fully understand the opportunities available to them and to further understand the requirements for employment.

Z.Spencer ran career guidance sessions using our online careers platform Unifrog, to steer students to reflect on their own strengths and what careers may suit their motivations and interests. M.Ogden ran Personal Training sessions for students to understand routes into this career; students had the opportunity to use gym equipment and received some practical training. L.King ran Hairdressing sessions where students learned how to use styling equipment, practice on models and discuss all avenues into apprenticeships. We held three cooking sessions - one with C.Penkalla making the famous 'Pain Perdu', R.Joseph made a Jerk Chicken feast and Chef Stav created a 'fakeaway' of Chinese Salt & Pepper Chicken. There were also one-off sessions including Make-Up Artistry and Music, ensuring a diverse range to engage all of our students.

The engagement from our students has been fantastic to see; they arrived full of enthusiasm to immerse themselves in their chosen session. It was amazing to see our students reflect on their individual strengths, capabilities and interests and, discuss careers that suit their aptitude and abilities. We will continue to foster academic enthusiasm to ensure our students make informed decisions during the upcoming options selection process in March.

"Taking part in the Taste Your Future sessions allowed me to understand how I can use my skills to reach the careers that I want. The career guidance that the sessions have provided have been incredibly useful and showed us multiple routes available to achieve our goals." Annie.R

"I found it very useful because I learned about a variety of careers and qualifications." Regan.C

"I really recommend the Personal Training session; it was a lot of fun. The people there were really nice." Jake-James.N



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

THE BASILDON ACADEMIES WORD OF THE DAY

26th February- 1st March 2024

Monday:	Lingual: dil sesi in Turkish Articulated with the aid of the tongue.
Tuesday:	Lexical: foclóireachta in Irish Of or relating to the words or vocabulary of a language, especially as distinguished from its grammatical and syntactical aspects.
Wednesday:	Grammatical: Grammatica in Latina Conforming to standard usage/relating to grammar.
Thursday:	Dialectal: Дialecten in Bulgarian Characteristic of a specific dialect pertaining to a particular area.
Friday: (<i>St David's Day</i>)	Phonological: Yīnyùn xué in Chinese Of or relating to phonology, the study of the distribution and patterning of speech sounds in languages generally.

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.

The logo for Young Minds, featuring the word "YOUNG" in yellow and "MINDS" in grey, with a small yellow dot above the 'i' in "MINDS".

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.

Leadership and management of TAs is well organised and they play a very important role within Basildon Academy. Teaching and non-teaching staff work closely together on a day-to-day basis, "It is teamwork, we do it together" a teacher commented.



Best Practice with
Teaching Assistants Award

2023-2026

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.
- 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

Categorising attendance and learning hours lost

Descriptor	Threshold attendance	Actual attendance (days)	Whole days absent	Lost learning hours	Level of concern
Excellent	100%	190	0	0	Green
	99%	188	2	10	
Good	98%	186	4	20	Green
	97%	184	6	30	
	96%	182.5	7.5	37.5	
Cause for concern	95%	180.5	9.5	47.5	Orange
	94%	179	11	55	
	93%	177	13	65	
	92%	175	15	75	
	91%	173	17	85	
Unsatisfactory	90%	171	19	95	Red
	89%	169	21	105	
	88%	167	23	115	
	87%	165	25	125	
	86%	163	27	135	
Critical	85%	161.5	28.5	142.5	Red
	84%	159.5	30.5	152.5	
	83%	158	32	160	
	82%	156	34	170	
	81%	154	36	180	
	80%	152	38	190	

Job of the Week: Market Research Analyst

What does a Market Research Analyst do?

Your day-to-day duties may include:

- Going up to people in the street, phoning them or visiting them at home
- Persuading people to take part in a survey
- Asking people questions and possibly video them
- Recording people's answers
- Organising the results and passing them to your supervisor

Labour Market Information

- UK jobs: 408,627
- Essex jobs: 8,322 (4th of 214 UK LEAs)
- Top 5 LEAs: Hampshire (8,798), Kent (8,648), Lancashire (8,334), Essex (8,322), Birmingham (7,776)



Let's Talk Money
UK annual median: £23,056

What Qualifications do you need to do this job?

- You'll need:
- IT skills
 - maths skills
 - the ability to record information accurately.

There are no set requirements. Customer service experience or a course in customer service could help you get a job.



4th - 10th March 2024

To celebrate British Pie Week The Dining Hall will be serving a different choice of pie every day in addition to the normal lunchtime menu.

Monday: **Cheese, Onion & Potato**

Tuesday: **Steak & Kidney**

Wednesday: **Chicken**

Thursday: **Minced Beef**

Friday: **Chicken & Vegetable**

As staff have felt empowered and confident to come forward with their own ideas new developments have flourished. A great example of this is the school play currently taking place which is the first for many years and has been a great opportunity for students and the school to showcase their talents to their school community and the wider community.



Excellence in Pupil
Development Award

2023-2026

Follow The Basildon Lower Academy on our social media channels

