

Dates for the Diary

LGBT+ History Month
February 2025

Children's Mental Health Week
Monday 3rd - Sunday 9th February 2025

National Apprenticeship Week
Monday 10th - Sunday 16th February 2025

Half Term
Monday 17th - Friday 21st February 2025

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

Student Value of the Term

**KINDNESS IS
EVERYTHING**

House Points - Week Ending 31st January



48,515
SEACOLE



48,356
ALI



41,507
AUSTEN



35,150
HAWKING

Leadership Message - Academic Achievements

I would like to begin by saying a massive congratulations to students in Years 7, 8 and 9, for successfully completing their first AP series over the past month. It has been fantastic to witness students' dedication and aspirations for success during each exam series and it has been inspiring to see their independence, resilience and growth in what can be a daunting process for learners.

It's important to recognise that academic success is not just about the grades your child has achieved, but also about growth, curiosity, and resilience. Whether your child has excelled in specific subjects or made significant progress in areas where they initially faced challenges, we are thrilled with the efforts they've put forth.



As always, we encourage our students to stay focused, maintain their curiosity, and continue striving for excellence. With your continued support, we know they will continue to thrive in the months ahead. Whether it's in the classroom, through extra-curricular activities, or personal milestones, all of our students have shown remarkable perseverance and dedication to the BA Way. We are proud of the effort they put into their learning and the positive attitude they bring to each new challenge-keep it up!

E.Cahill - Deputy Headteacher

Online Safety Hub: Location-Tracking Apps: Spying or Good Parenting?

When it comes to deciding whether to use a location-tracking app on your child's device, it's not just a matter of convenience; it's a debate that often stirs mixed emotions. Some parents may worry about invading their child's privacy, while others find peace of mind knowing where their children are, especially as they start to become more independent.

[Click here](#) to access information and support relating to location-tracking apps.

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](#)



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.



NATIONAL PIZZA DAY



FEBRUARY 7TH

To celebrate National Pizza Day on Friday 7th February the Dining Hall will be serving pizza during morning breaktime for just 50p per slice

Pizza toppings available:
Cheese & Tomato
Vegetable
Pepperoni



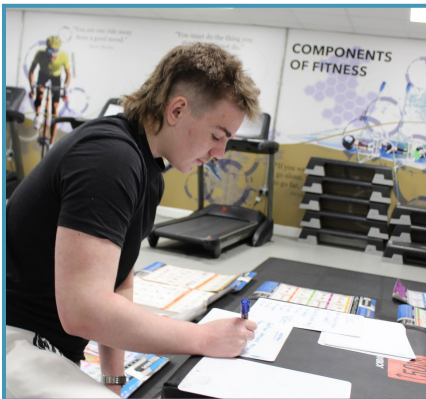
Taste Your Future: Year 9 Students Explore Exciting Career Paths

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, we hosted a Saturday morning Taste your Future session on the 1st of February.

Our Year 9 students engaged in a variety of different careers sessions based around their future aspirations and 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 to be successful, they need to fully understand the opportunities that are available to them and understand more clearly about what they need to be employable.

Mrs Gray ran a PT training session in which students learned about routes into this career alongside the workings of the gym equipment and some practical training. Mrs King ran a session focused on Hairdressing in which students learned how to use styling equipment, practice on models and discuss all avenues into apprenticeships. We held a session focused on Cooking with Ms Penkalla making Spaghetti Bolognese with the students. There was also a session on Music run by Miss Stoddard which allowed students time to develop their skills on the drums, guitars, singing and much more!

The engagement from our students has been fantastic to see; they arrived full of enthusiasm to immerse themselves in their chosen session. It was wonderful to see our students reflect on their individual strengths, capabilities, interests and, discuss careers that suit their aptitude and abilities. We will continue to foster academic and creative enthusiasm and will host a further session next half-term.



"I have a real passion for music; especially playing the drums. I have been developing my drumming skills for 7 years or so and I really enjoyed the music session as I had an opportunity to play with other Year 9 students." Exalted.I

"I have a passion for hairdressing. I have secured an apprenticeship for the future and this session enabled me to gain more skills into my chosen career." Chloe.G

"I found the session really useful as I was able to learn new recipes to cook for myself and others; I want to be a chef in the future and can't wait for more Taste Your Future sessions." Oliver.W

Students Celebrate Chinese New Year

Last week, students took part in activities to mark Chinese New Year celebrations. Selected for their effort in lessons, they created bookmarks, ceiling hangers, and colourful artwork.

Well done to all the students who participated and embraced the festivities!



Students Explore Biodiversity with New Bug Tools

After recently winning the 'Best Student Voice' award from Plastic Clever Schools, our students received a £50 voucher to support their eco-initiatives. Using the voucher, they purchased a power plant for investigations, bug viewers, two educational books, and a bug exploration set.

Last week, the students put their new tools to use, heading outdoors to explore the biodiversity of the school grounds. This hands-on activity allowed them to observe and learn more about the variety of insects and plant life in their environment.

Well done to the students for their creativity and commitment to sustainability!



BASILDON ACADEMIES

WORD OF THE DAY

3rd – 7th February 2025
Children's Mental Health Week

Monday:	Resilience (Noun) <i>Definition:</i> The capacity to recover quickly from difficulties; toughness. <i>Example:</i> Building resilience is a key focus during Children's Mental Health Week, helping children cope with challenges.
Tuesday:	Empathy (Noun) <i>Definition:</i> The ability to understand and share the feelings of another. <i>Example:</i> Encouraging empathy among peers is vital for supporting mental health during Children's Mental Health Week.
Wednesday: World Nutella Day	Well-being (Noun) <i>Definition:</i> The state of being comfortable, healthy, or happy. <i>Example:</i> Children's Mental Health Week emphasizes the importance of overall well-being in promoting healthy development.
Thursday:	Intervention (Noun) <i>Definition:</i> The action or process of intervening, especially to improve a situation. <i>Example:</i> Effective mental health interventions are critical for supporting children during times of stress.
Friday: National Pizza Day Charles Dickens Day	Literary (Adjective) <i>Definition:</i> Concerning the writing, study, or content of literature. <i>Example:</i> Charles Dickens Day celebrates the literary contributions of one of England's most famous novelists.

Job of the Week: Dental hygienist

What does a Dental hygienist do?

You'll encourage patients to look after their teeth and gums by:
demonstrating tooth brushing and flossing to individuals and groups
giving advice on diet

You'll provide treatments and use dental instruments for:
scaling teeth (at times under local anaesthetic)
removing plaque, cleaning and polishing teeth to help prevent gum disease

Labour Market Information

UK jobs: 106,915

Essex Jobs: 2,684

Growth: +87.5%

Top 5 LEAs: 1. Kent (2,863) 2. Essex (2,684) 3. Hampshire (2,599)
4. Lancashire (2,461) 5. Hertfordshire (2,047)

What Qualifications do you need to do this job?

You'll need to complete a diploma, training programme, foundation degree, or bachelor's degree in a relevant subject, such as:
dental hygiene
dental therapy
oral health science

The programme may need to be approved by the relevant professional body in your country

Let's Talk Money

UK annual median: £25,978

The schools support for mental health and wellbeing is well led and the school have invested significantly in training and additional staff within their wellbeing centres and wider pastoral teams over recent years to build capacity and expand what they can offer.



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

 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!



FREE HALF TERM ACTIVITY CLUBS IN BASILDON!

Essex ActivAte helps to support eligible children and families during the school holidays and half term breaks, through free engaging and fun activities. Contact one of our clubs to book a space!

Kidbusterz (4-13 years)

Janet Duke Primary School, 105 Markhams Chase, Basildon SS15 5LS
info@kidbusterz.com / 07539066665
Wed 19th, Thu 20th & Fri 21st Feb (10am-2pm)

Kidbusterz (4-13 years)

Whitmore Primary School, Whitmore Way, Basildon SS14 2NN
info@kidbusterz.com / 07539066665
Wed 19th, Thur 20th & Fri 21st Feb (10am-2pm)

Crafty Katie's Make and Move Holiday Club (4-11 years)

Abacus Primary School, Tresco Way, Wickford, SS129GJ
Email, text or call to book - quoting Essex ActivAte in first communication
Craftykatie10@gmail.com / 07929044959
Mon 17th, Tues 18th & Wed 19th Feb (9am-1pm)

Camp 4 Champs (4-14 years)

Mayflower High School, Stock Road, Billericay, CM12 ORT
bookings@camp4champs.co.uk / 02081030101
Mon 17th, Tues 18th & Wed 19th Feb (9am-4pm)

Premier Education, Basildon Sport & Leisure Club (5-12yrs)

Gardiners Way, Basildon, Essex, SS14 3UJ
RClark@premier-education.com / 07387196392
Mon 17th, Tues 18th & Wed 19th Feb (9am-3pm)

Jack Of All Sports (4-12 years)

North Crescent Primary School Wickford, SS12 9AP
jackofallsports@btinternet.com / 07919888093
Mon 17th - Friday 21st Feb (9am-3pm)

ATF - King Edwards, Tea Time Club (11-17 years)

King Edwards School, King Edwards Road, Laindon, Basildon, SS15 6GY
kherring@atfcommunity.com / 07701365822
Fri 21st Feb (5pm -7pm)



ATF Vange Teen (11-16yrs)

Vange Primary School, London Road, Basildon, SS16 4QA
smartin@atfcommunity.com / 07989515757
Thurs 20th Feb (1-3pm)

Flex Youth (11+ years)

3 Gibcracks, Basildon SS14 1PE Call to book
info@flexyouth.com / 07342469249
Thurs 20th and Fri 21st Feb (1-4pm)

5 Elements Kickboxing MMA & Boxing (11+ years)

Adams Business Centre, Cranes Farm Rd, Basildon SS14 3J
01268330049
Contact provider for half term information

ATF Briscoes Primary School (5-12 years)

Briscoe Primary School, Felmores End, Basildon, SS13 1PN
c.mcalden@heartsacademy.uk / 07956770446
Mon 17th, Tue 18th & Wed 19th Feb (9am-1pm)

ATF Vange Primary School (5-12 years)

Vange Primary School, London Road, Basildon, SS16 4QA
smartin@atfcommunity.com / 07989515757
Thurs 20th & Fri 21st Feb (9am-1pm)

JTD ARTS SEND Level 1-3 (5-14yrs)

Northlands Primary School, 45 Winifred Rd, Basildon SS13 3JQ
activejtd@hotmail.com / 07856869296
Mon 17th & Tues 18th Feb (10am-1pm)

Butterflies Club SEND Level 1-5 (8-16 years)

James Hornsby School, Leinster Rd, Laindon, Basildon SS15 5NX
To attend any activities with Butterflies Club, you must have attended a family stay and play session with your child.
jasmine@Butterfliesclub.co.uk / 07884700124
Mon 17th Feb (10am-2pm)
and
Wed 19th Feb (8:30am-12:30pm)
Presidents Hall, Hoover Drive SS15 6LF

Find out more: activeessex.org



Support with your Education, Health & Care Needs Assessment (EHCNA)

When

4 February 2025

Time 10.30am – 12.30pm

Where

King Edward Community Centre

King Edward Road

Laindon

Basildon

SS15 6GY

Experienced Family Support Advisers will walk you through the EHCNA application process, offering clear guidance on when and how to make your request, what supporting evidence you'll need, and the next steps to take.

To book your place please [CLICK HERE](#)
or email us at basildonp4p@outlook.com
or call us on 07923 426502



**Families
InFocus** Essex

Understanding special needs



Supporting Families
in our Community