

## Dates for the Diary

### Academic Progress Information Event

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2024: 4pm - 5pm

### Half Term

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October - Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2024

### Armistice Day

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2024

### Year 7 AP1 Assessments

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> - Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2024

### Year 8 AP1 Assessments

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> - Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2024

## Student Value of the Term

# BLACK LIVES MATTER

## House Points - Week Ending 4<sup>th</sup> October



13,590  
ALI



12,593  
SEACOLE



10,750  
AUSTEN



8,382  
HAWKING

## Leadership Message

It was a pleasure meeting many of our new Year 7 parents at the recent Settling Event. We greatly appreciated the opportunity to have meaningful conversations about the SEND support we provide, as well as the resources available at our Wellbeing Centre.

Our Wellbeing Centre has long established links with The West Ham United Foundation and on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October, we welcomed former West Ham player Anton Ferdinand to one of our Wellbeing Intervention sessions. The intervention, led by the foundation's Senior Education Officer, Madison Hooper, gave students the opportunity to listen to Anton Ferdinand and ask questions as he discussed the importance of looking after both physical and mental health.

After Anton's talk, students were invited to design and create t-shirts featuring positive mental health messages. The students came up with fantastic designs, and the t-shirts were later given to the first team players, who proudly wore them during their training session last Friday.

We continue to encourage students who need help to speak with any member of the SEND team, and they will be directed to the most appropriate support available.

**T.Smith**  
Assistant Headteacher & SENCO



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



## Students Meet Anton Ferdinand for Inspiring Mental and Physical Health Workshop

Lower Academy students were recently treated to a special visit from former West Ham United footballer Anton Ferdinand, who took part in an engaging Positive Mental and Physical Health Workshop. Organised in partnership with the West Ham United Foundation and the Premier League Inspires programme, the workshop provided students with valuable insights into mental health and wellbeing.

Ferdinand, joined by Madison Hooper, Senior Education Officer at the West Ham United Foundation, spoke candidly with students about his personal mental health journey. He emphasised the importance of open conversations and sharing emotions, encouraging students to find things that bring them happiness and to seek support when needed.

During the workshop, students had the unique opportunity to design training t-shirts. Students created bright and colourful designs, featuring positive mental health messages, and were proudly worn by West Ham United players during a training session just ahead of Saturday's Premier League victory against Ipswich Town. The hands-on workshop allowed students to interact with Anton and Madison, making the experience both educational and enjoyable.

The West Ham United Foundation also deliver 1:1 mentoring sessions to Lower Academy students, helping to promote wellbeing and positive mental health. The workshop was not only a memorable experience for the students but also reinforced the importance of mental health awareness in everyday life.



"I loved creating the West Ham training tops and felt really proud that so many people liked my design. Meeting Anton Ferdinand again was great, it was nice of him to come and see our work. I'm glad we talked about mental health, as I think it's important to let people know they're heard. I really enjoyed the whole experience!" Rhiannon.E – Year 9

"I really enjoyed this project. I thought it was fun using creativity as it helps to take your mind off anything else. We focused on ways to support our mental health; this was a great way of expressing ideas together." Kenzy.T – Year 9

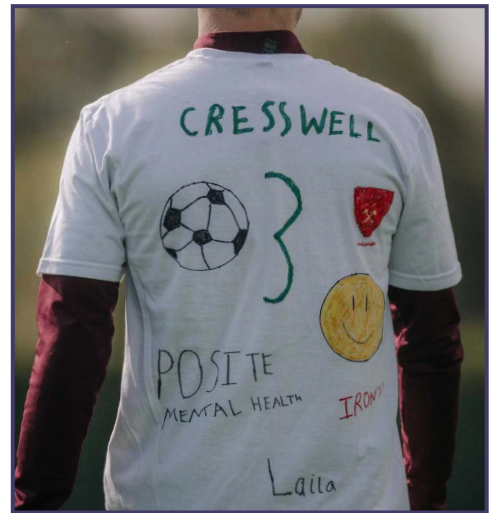
"My experience was amazing, I had a bunch of fun meeting Anton Ferdinand and spending time with friends." Jaxon.G – Year 8

"Designing artwork for the t-shirts was extremely challenging but also very fun." Oskar.M – Year 9

"Creating West Ham training t-shirts was such a fun and positive experience. Meeting Anton Ferdinand was amazing, he was really friendly, and so was everyone else there." Corey.D – Year 9

"I was keen to take part in this workshop. It was a very good and calming experience." Izzie.H – Year 8







## Lower Academy Open Evening

On Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> October, the Lower Academy welcomed prospective Year 7 students and their families to our annual Open Evening. Our student volunteers did an outstanding job guiding guests on tours of the school, proudly showcasing our facilities and sharing their experiences of lessons and activities.

As guests arrived, they were treated to a fantastic performance by the school choir, singing from the atrium balcony, setting a welcoming tone for the evening. There was a wonderful sense of community as young visitors participated in engaging activities, and parents had the opportunity to speak with our staff throughout the event.

We were delighted to receive fantastic feedback from our community, and we look forward to welcoming current Year 6 students to the academy in September 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](http://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](http://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.

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".

## National Poetry Day

Students across all year groups spent the afternoon engaging with poetry in celebration of National Poetry Day 2024. This year's theme was "counting," and our students participated in a range of activities focused on making their voices count. One highlight was the creation of a class poem, where each student contributed a line.

"Overall, I enjoyed the fun way we spent the afternoon discussing poetry." Darius.B - Year 7

"I enjoyed listening to poems about real people and their feelings, as well as how those people are respected." Maria.U - Year 7

I enjoyed this afternoon learning about the poems and 'the voice'. Jayeda.S - Year 7



# Basildon Academies Word of the Day

7<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> October 2024

**Black History Month**

Monday:	<p><b>Heritage</b> (noun) – <b>Dziedzictwo in Polish</b>  <i>Definition:</i> Property that is or may be inherited; valued objects and qualities such as cultural traditions passed down from previous generations.  <i>Example:</i> Black History Month celebrates the rich heritage of African and Caribbean communities.</p>
Tuesday:	<p><b>Diaspora</b> (noun) – <b>Diáspora in Portuguese</b>  <i>Definition:</i> The dispersion of any people from their original homeland.  <i>Example:</i> The African diaspora is a key topic during Black History Month events.</p>
Wednesday:	<p><b>Emancipation</b> (noun) – <b>Emansipatsiya In Russian</b>  <i>Definition:</i> The fact or process of being set free from legal, social, or political restrictions.  <i>Example:</i> The emancipation of slaves is a central focus during Black History Month.</p>
Thursday:	<p><b>Activism</b> (noun) – <b>Aktivizmus in Slovak</b>  <i>Definition:</i> The policy or action of using vigorous campaigning to bring about political or social change.  <i>Example:</i> Activism played a crucial role in advancing civil rights, a topic often discussed during Black History Month.</p>
Friday:	<p><b>Legacy</b> (noun) – <b>Dhaxalka in Somali</b>  <i>Definition:</i> Something handed down by a predecessor.  <i>Example:</i> Black History Month reminds us of the enduring legacy of figures like Martin Luther King Jr.</p>

## Job of the Week: Nanotechnologist

### What does a Nanotechnologist do?

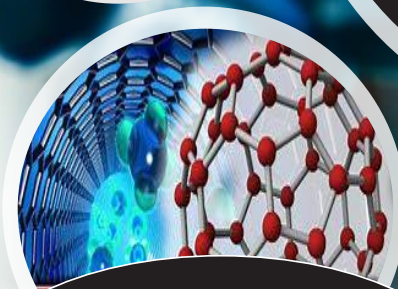
#### Your day-to-day tasks may include:

- creating devices and materials on the nanoscale - 0.1 to 100nm in size
- operating scientific instruments to separate and analyse your products
- performing experiments to test the nanotechnology you have produced

#### Labour Market Information

- UK jobs: 383,043
- Essex Jobs: 8,415
- Growth: +41.4%

Top 5 LEAs: 1. Hampshire (11,941) 2. Lancashire (9,111) 3. Essex (8,415) 4. Surrey (8,334) 5. Hertfordshire (8,186)



### What Qualifications do you need to do this job?

You'll usually need a degree or a master's qualification in nanotechnology or a related course, and experience of working in a laboratory. Some employers may also expect you to have a PhD.

Courses related to nanotechnology include; nanoscience, maths, physics, chemistry, electronics, engineering, materials science, computer science, websites or blogs.

### Let's Talk Money

UK annual median: £46,340



GOLD - RIGHTS RESPECTING

Diversity and inclusion are actively promoted, staff recognise their duty to help students to value and appreciate difference. The school's values, voted on by the students, and displays such as one depicting LGBTQ+ musicians reflect and reinforce this. Pupil comments included, "We have PSHE lessons on this and during Ramadan we were provided with a prayer room to use."

Unicef RRS Accreditation Report Gold: Rights Aware



# 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](http://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.

CELEBRATING

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH

OCTOBER 2024

TO CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH, EACH WEDNESDAY IN OCTOBER WE WILL BE SERVING AUTHENTIC DISHES IN THE DINING HALL

## DISHES FOR WEDNESDAY 9TH OCTOBER



JERK HALLOUMI BURGER



HONEY & TURMERIC CHICKEN



BAJAN SWEET BREAD



## EXTRA-CURRICULAR SPORTS CLUBS

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p><b>Lunchtime:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Football (courts)</li> </ul> <p><b>After School: 3.30 - 4.30pm</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Archery (Sign up required)</li> <li>Football – Girls (all year groups)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Lunchtime:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Football (courts)</li> </ul> <p><b>After School: 3.30 - 4.30pm</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rugby - Boys &amp; Girls</li> <li>Fitness / Cross Country</li> </ul>	<p><b>Lunchtime:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Basketball (courts)</li> </ul> <p><b>After School: 3.30 - 4.30pm</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Football – Year 7 Boys</li> <li>Football – Year 8 Boys</li> <li>Football – Year 9 Boys</li> <li>Gym – Year 9</li> </ul>	<p><b>Lunchtime:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tennis (courts)</li> </ul> <p><b>After School: 3.30 - 4.30pm</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Basketball</li> </ul>	<p><b>Lunchtime:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pick your sport (courts)</li> </ul>

There are well established systems to listen to and respond to the views of parents as key partners. This includes a parents forum led by a parent governor and regular questionnaires. The school use the “We Asked - You Said - We Did” mechanism effectively to ensure parents understand when changes are made in response to their input.



Leading Parent Partnership Award

2023-2026