

Dates for the Diary

Academic Progress Information Event

Monday 21st October 2024: 4pm - 5pm

Half Term

Monday 28th October - Friday 1st November 2024

Armistice Day

Monday 11th November 2024

Year 9 AP1 Assessments

Monday 2nd - Friday 6th December 2024

Year 8 AP1 Assessments

Monday 9th - Friday 13th December 2024

Student Value of the Term

BLACK LIVES MATTER

House Points - Week Ending 11th October



16,994
ALI



15,904
SEACOLE



13,493
AUSTEN



10,416
HAWKING

Leadership Message - Smartphone Safety

Children and smartphones can present various challenges for parents and carers, making it difficult to decide what's best for your family. Research shows that social media and the messages children are exposed to during their formative years can shape their beliefs about themselves and the world around them, sometimes having a negative impact on their mental health.

A short film, in the link below, looks at some of the dangers of smartphones and social media:

<https://nipinthebud.org/films-for-parents-carers/smartphones-a-stolen-childhood/>

Further information can be found on the 'Nip in the Bud' Smartphones and social media fact sheet:

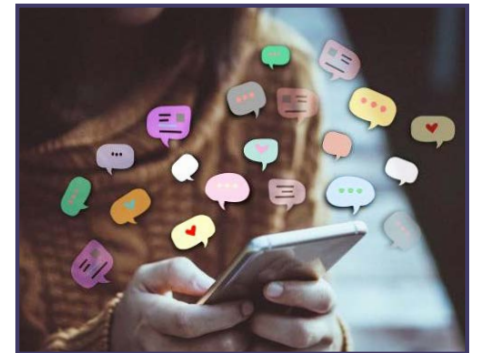
<https://nipinthebud.org/fact-sheet/smartphones-and-social-media-fact-sheet/>

Top tips on smartphone safety

In summary, if you choose to allow your child to have a smartphone, consider the following:

- Waiting until your child reaches the app age limits—or hold off even longer.
- Setting time limits for social media use.
- Using parental control apps to help prevent addiction and teach your child how to monitor their screen time responsibly.
- Establishing family boundaries, such as no phones upstairs at night or at the dinner table, and agreeing on consequences if these are broken.
- Agreeing that new apps require family discussion before downloading, and that some apps may come with specific rules, such as keeping social media accounts set to PRIVATE.
- Familiarising yourself with apps and learning how to make them more secure.
- Talking with friends and your community; can you agree on similar boundaries?
- Staying firm; being a parent isn't about being popular.

S.Peake - Senior Student Development Leader & Designated Safeguarding Lead



Regular feedback is sought from parents, staff, and pupils to identify what is working well, where adjustments are needed and where there are opportunities to enhance provision further. This includes the use of confidence checkers to ensure students have taken on the learning and to identify areas where further teaching is needed.



Excellence in Pupil
Development Award

2023-2026

Lower Academy Honoured with Beacon Peaceful School Trophy

We are proud to announce that the Lower Academy has been awarded a prestigious trophy alongside the Beacon Peaceful School Award, recognising our ongoing commitment to fostering a peaceful and inclusive school community. This honour marks us as only the second school ever to receive such a trophy, and we are the first school chosen specifically by Anna Lubelska, Founder and Coordinator of the Peaceful Schools initiative, for this special recognition.



Anna, who recently revisited the school, was deeply impressed by what she observed during her tour. She praised our dedication to peace, highlighting how our efforts have created a vibrant, student-led environment. Anna emphasised that our students' involvement in daily school life and the way they embody the school's values were key reasons for awarding the Beacon Peaceful School distinction.

She also noted how much she enjoyed the lively atmosphere of the school, commenting on the students' openness and willingness to share their thoughts and ideas. "I loved the bubbly nature of the school, and how happy students were to engage with me and express their opinions," Anna said.

The trophy is a testament to the passion and hard work of our UNICEF Ambassadors, Eco-Committee, and Student Executive Team, who continue to lead initiatives that make a real difference in our school community. Anna particularly praised the Eco-Committee's work in enhancing the school environment, including the creation of a sensory garden, which provides students with a peaceful space for relaxation.

"This award is a big achievement for us. It shows our school will accomplish even greater things in the future. I am very proud to be part of the group that worked to achieve this award." Safreen.S – Year 8

"The award is a huge honour, it took a lot of hard work to get this. We will forever have gratitude." Nathaniel.H – Year 8

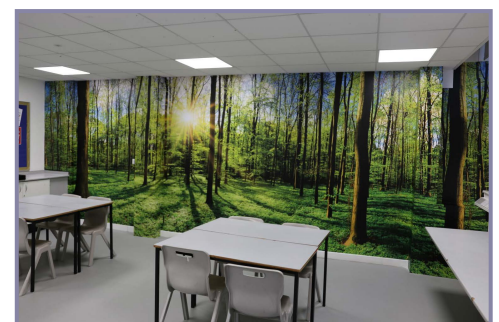
"I love the way this projects the perfect school image, which we are, and reminds everyone that we are a role model school!" Akanni.O – Year 8



SEND Department Coffee Afternoons Every Wednesday 3pm - 4pm

We are delighted to offer our parents/carers the opportunity to meet with members of our SEND Department to discuss their child's progress. Coffee afternoons are held at the Lower Academy from 3pm – 4pm every Wednesday.

To book an appointment please visit the [Contact Us](#) page via the Basildon Lower Academy website and select the option for General Enquiries.



Academic Progress Information Event - Monday 21st October

On Monday 21st October 2024, we are hosting an Academic Progress Information Event on the Lower Academy site between 4-5pm. This will be an opportunity for parents/carers to speak to their child's mentor, view how we promote both Reading and Numeracy across all subjects at the Lower Academy, and learn how to best support your child for their assessment points throughout the year. Parents/carers will also be provided with details of upcoming EBacc events and an overview of our Personal Development Curriculum.

There is no requirement to book a time slot for this event.

Mentors for all year groups will be available for the duration of the event, with Year 7 mentors situated in the main hall and years 8 & 9 in the canteen area.

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.

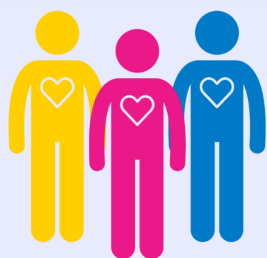
www.basildonloweracademy.org.uk/safeguarding

Young 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.

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).

Year 7 Students Explore Black History Month Through Art and Discussion

Year 7 students have recently been exploring the significance of Black History Month through painting. Each artwork featured a prominent black figure, and students were asked questions and encouraged to share their opinions.

"Black History Month is important, and the lesson was fun." Millie.G

"The best parts about the lesson were that it was a really peaceful, calm and awesome." Lilly.C

"It was important for us to learn about black people and their history. It really helped that the lesson was super fun." Molly.N



BASILDON ACADEMIES

WORD OF THE DAY

14th - 18th October 2024
Black History Month

Monday:	<p>Cultural Heritage (noun) <i>Definition:</i> The legacy of physical artifacts and intangible attributes of a group or society inherited from past generations. <i>Example:</i> Each dish prepared during BHM Food Promo Week reflected the cultural heritage of African and Caribbean communities.</p>
Tuesday:	<p>Authenticity (noun) <i>Definition:</i> The quality of being genuine or true to its origins. <i>Example:</i> The chefs ensured the authenticity of traditional African dishes served during the promo week.</p>
Wednesday:	<p>Diaspora (noun) <i>Definition:</i> The dispersion or spread of any people from their original homeland. <i>Example:</i> The African diaspora has influenced cultures around the world, contributing to art, music, and social movements during Black History Month.</p>
Thursday:	<p>Abolitionism (noun) <i>Definition:</i> The movement to end slavery, particularly in the United States before the Civil War. <i>Example:</i> Black History Month often highlights the contributions of abolitionism to the fight for freedom and equality in America.</p>
Friday:	<p>Reconstruction (noun) <i>Definition:</i> The period after the Civil War in the United States when Southern states were reorganized and reintegrated into the Union, with efforts to establish rights for formerly enslaved people. <i>Example:</i> During Black History Month, many events focus on the successes and challenges of the Reconstruction era for African Americans.</p>

Job of the Week: Occupational Therapist

What Qualifications do you need to do this job?

You'll usually need: a degree or postgraduate qualification in occupational therapy, a background check (as you may work with children and vulnerable adults), Depending on where you live, you may also need to register with the relevant professional body in your country (like the Health and Care Professions Council in the UK, or the Occupational Therapists Board in Hong Kong)

What does an Occupational Therapist do?

You'll adapt treatment programmes to suit each client's needs and lifestyle. Your work could include:

- Teaching an older patient recovering from a stroke how to do things for themselves
- Encouraging someone suffering with depression to take up a hobby or activity

Labour Market Information

- UK jobs: 169,927
 - Essex Jobs: 3,760
 - Growth: +7.2%
- Top 5 LEAs: 1. Kent (4,680) 2. Surrey (4,612) 3. Hertfordshire (4,105) 4. Hampshire (4,061) 5. Essex (3,760)

Let's Talk Money

UK annual median: £38,184



GOLD - RIGHTS RESPECTING

Wellbeing is prioritised for everyone in the school. As well as extensive curriculum content, the leadership have funded Wellbeing Centres on both sites. This support was spoken of very positively by students. Some have timetabled access but "There are break and lunchtime drop ins... anyone can go for help with any problem...it's very accessible.

Unicef RRSB Accreditation Report Gold: Rights Aware

Aspire - Believe - Achieve

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!



Five minutes late per day soon adds up to three days of lost school time

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 16TH OCTOBER



JERK PORK BURGER



CARIBBEAN VEGETABLE CURRY



MANGO FRUIT COCKTAIL



Stronger Starts



The Basildon Academies - Rethink Your Drink

Support the academies to encourage students to swap their sugar filled drinks for a healthier option

WHY?

The project with the highest number of votes across your region will receive £1,500



WHEN?

1st October – 15th January

WHERE?

Pick up your tokens at local stores:
Rayleigh Exp Small unit SS6 7BY
Pitsea Extra Large unit SS13 3JU
Silva Isl Wickfrd Exp Large unit SS12 9NR
Wickford S/End Rd Exp Small unit SS11 8EE
Lond Rd Sth Benfl Exp Small unit SS7 5TH
Rayleigh Ldn Rd Exp Small unit SS6 9BN

Both schools have a range of suitable rooms available for meetings with parents on a 1:1 or group basis, for coffee mornings and training events and make use of well-presented communal areas for community events and information sessions for large groups of parents.



Leading Parent Partnership Award

2023-2026

Follow The Basildon Lower Academy on our social media channels

