

Newsletter

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we approach the end of the Spring term, I wanted to take a moment to share some key updates and reflect on the progress made throughout these past months. It has been a busy and productive period, with our learners who are taking exams this year successfully completing two sets of mock exams, demonstrating their hard work, resilience and dedication.

We have experienced some delays with the scheduled building works at Willow Lodge due to issues with the building control permission required for the conversion of the garage. However, work will begin in earnest at the start of the Easter holidays and hopefully you will start to see improvements when you return after the Easter break. Thank you to everyone for your patience when navigating the reduced space in the car park. We have put up some temporary signs to indicate reserved parent parking to help manage the space while the contractors are on site

New Website

We are delighted with our new website, www.rbair.org.uk, launched earlier this month, that is specifically aimed at giving information about the provision delivered by Red Balloon of the Air. The initial phase has focused on creating a new design, being user-friendly, ensuring that all essential information is included and that our Ethos and Aims are visible throughout. We hope that you enjoy visiting the site and welcome any feedback or suggestions (email admin@rbair.org.uk).

Over the next few months, we aim to include curriculum plans, learner testimonials, use more images, expand accessibility settings, signpost to external support agencies and link to social media. Please encourage your young people to look at the site too, we are keen to involve learners as much as possible (we will also be working with learners in sessions to hear their thoughts and input).

**Red Balloon of the Air
launches its own
website!**

**Visit
www.rbair.org.uk to
find out more!**

Updating parental consent



We are in the process of reviewing some of our consents, so you will see a consent notification on Arbor relating to **Relationships and Sex Education, (RSE)**.

At various points during the academic year, age-appropriate Relationships and Sex Education sessions are delivered where learners have opportunities to ask questions that help prepare them for relationships of all kinds in the modern world, and include teaching about:

- healthy relationships, including friendships and intimate relationships;
- families;
- growing and changing, including puberty, personal hygiene and changing feelings;
- becoming more independent;
- keeping safe and understanding consent;
- sexual health, pregnancy and contraception.

Following discussion with the Headteacher, parents have the right to withdraw their child from any or all aspects of the Sex Education elements, other than those which would form part of the Science curriculum, up to and until three terms before the age of 16. Further guidance from the Department for Education can be found [here](#). You can also contact our Head of PSHE, Elaine Beattie elaine.beattie@rbair.org.uk for further information.

Exams

We will be heading into exam season at both RBAir's Centre in Milton, Cambridge and RBET's Learning Hub in Danbury, Essex, from the **6th May** and the final exam is on **16th June**. Due to the size of our buildings, we sometimes struggle to run in person sessions for learners alongside exams, especially the core subjects such as English and Maths. Where possible, staff will be running alternative sessions that could be off-site or confined to one part of the building, so we can maintain a quiet and peaceful environment for our learners sitting their exams. We are working on creating an individualised timetable for each student that will clearly show where their sessions are affected by exams and what alternative will be provided. We will endeavour to keep as much of each learner's programme up and running as possible. A revised timetable will be issued at the beginning of the summer to each learner.

Please note that this is an additional timetable to the exams timetable mentioned below which will list all the formal exams a student has been entered for with the dates and times. Exam times are issued by the exam board and cannot be changed unless there is a clash between subjects.

For students who are taking exams, the following arrangements will be made:

Summer 2025 Exams Individual Candidate Timetables will be sent out to all candidates and parents in the last week of term before the Easter break. Please make sure you check them and report any issues to your Exams Officer. Your Exams Officers are Gosia Krolak (Willow) gosia.krolak@rbair.org.uk and Sam Coles (Danbury) samantha.coles@rbair.org.uk

Please note the following information in connection with the exams:

- All timetabled sessions will run as normal from the beginning of the summer term and up until the May half term break.
- Learners should follow their normal timetable on any day where they do not have an exam.
- On any day when a learner has a formal exam, they will not be expected to attend sessions on their timetable. Absences will be marked as study leave.
- Learners may ask permission of their teachers to revise for other subjects on the day before an exam but note that attendance will be marked as study leave rather than present.
- Once all exam papers have been completed in each subject, those subject sessions will be removed from the timetable.

Exam Revision Hub

Here is our updated Exam Revision section on the Student Hub in the Education section. Each subject has information on what to revise for the exams and useful links to further your knowledge of the topics. There is also general revision preparation advice and how to get ready for taking the exams.



**PREPARING
FOR EXAMS**

Click [here](#) for Exam Revision

Please sit down together to look through to the end so that you can all make the most of the resources

Willow Lodge

This has been a busy half term for social activities, we have taken a group of girls ice-skating, visits out into the community, sports sessions at lunchtimes plus Willow Lounge sessions which have been very successful in terms of bringing young people together.



After Easter we have two more dates for the **Willow Lounge** – Wednesday 30th April and 14th May. These are drop in sessions for any young person to just come into Willow Lodge and hang out, no expectations and no pressure.

Looking ahead to the next half term, we hope to be able to be out a lot more as the weather will be warmer. Plans are afoot for more social activities, creating opportunities for our learners to be together, having positive social experiences and some fun times!

Danbury

As we head into Spring, we are focused on adding more movement and activity into the programme for learners. We have experienced Boxing with KVFit, where we were put through our paces, archery with Danbury Outdoors, which brought out the competitive spirit in trying to get nearest the bullseye and a bit of bowling for fun!



We have also used the local community and the outdoor learning equipment in Danbury Park, to develop an appetite for lunch and a spot of mini golf for developing an eye for accuracy. Being outside whether at the allotment or taking the dog for a walk or just having a breather by the pond, all helps to bring some calm and a break from the academic programme.

We are very proud and excited to be taking part in World Autism Acceptance Month on 29th April. We have invited our learners, families and Community members to take part in a lovely woodland walk around Danbury.



Finally...

Finally, a safeguarding message in relation to the Netflix drama **Adolescence** which has highlighted significant challenges that young people face online, such as online grooming, radicalisation, and exposure to inappropriate content. At Red Balloon of the Air, we address these issues head-on through our comprehensive Online Safety content integrated within our PSHE curriculum and pastoral model which includes regular mentoring sessions for each young person.

While we tackle these themes during sessions, the conversations that occur at home are equally, if not more, important. As parents and carers, talking to our children about their online lives, being interested in the apps and games they play and using parental controls on the internet, are all valuable tools in supporting them as they navigate their way through the increasingly complex online world.

You may find these sources of information, discussion and support could help your family in continuing these discussions at home:

The NSPCC logo is displayed in a green, bold, sans-serif font within a white rounded rectangular box.

NSPCC support and advice for parents of children of all ages covering a range of issues.

The Barnardo's logo features the word 'BARNARDOS' in a stylized, green, bubbly font with a white outline, set against a dark green, wavy background, all contained within a white rounded rectangular box.

Barnardo's have a Family Space with a wealth of advice and information on a range of issues for parents of young people aged between 13 –19.

The YoungMinds logo consists of the word 'YOUNGMINDS' in a bold, sans-serif font, with 'YOUNG' in yellow and 'MINDS' in grey, all within a white rounded rectangular box.

Young Minds App has an interesting article giving a parent's perspective on the series.

Term Dates reminder

Staff Training: Tuesday 22 April

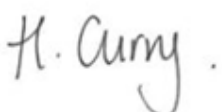
Summer Term 2025

Wednesday 23rd April – Friday 11th July

Early May Bank Holiday: Monday 5th May

Half Term: Monday 26th May – Friday 30th May

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in grey ink that reads 'H. Curry'.

Hannah Curry
Headteacher