

Newsletter

Dear Parents/Carers,

Here we are in December, and the end of another busy term at RBAir is in sight. It has been fantastic to see learners across both Centres accessing a variety of lessons, sessions and activities alongside their online programme. The staff at RBAir are always endeavouring to help our learners make progress towards meaningful goals and outcomes that hold value and significance for the individual. As we come to end of 2025, please take the time to reflect on those successful experiences. These may range from being in an individual online lesson to working as a pair or small group, starting to type back longer phrases in Teams Chat or using Teams Audio, coming into the Centre to see what it looks and feels like just for a short time plus many, many more. These interactions and small steps are so important and highly valued by the whole RBAir community.

Please find below some updates and information about what has happened this term and what we are looking forward to next year.

Academic Reports

You will receive a written academic report at the end of this term. Reports will be accessible via the Parent Portal app on Arbor, following an email notifying you of their availability.

In the meantime, if you have any questions or concerns about your young person's learning sessions, please get in touch, and we will arrange for the relevant teacher to give you a call.



Curious Connections:

This half term, Curious Connections learners have been exploring World War II during their in-person and online sessions that run on a Tuesday afternoon.



One learner in Year 9, who has been attending the session in person at Willow Lodge, gave their feedback. They explained:

'We've been learning about World War II, including looking at maps of France and how the Germans invaded. We also learned about the Channel Islands and what happened when they were occupied by the Nazis as well as ration cooking - we made some scones'

They found the impact on everyday life particularly interesting:

'It was really interesting learning about the different effects of the Nazi occupation in the Channel Islands and the new rules they put in place – for example, people weren't allowed to have more than three people together at one time. You weren't allowed any boats, and many belongings were confiscated.'



The learner was especially struck by how difficult life became due to food shortages:

'People became so desperate for food that people even used wallpaper paste and shoe leather to survive.'



Enrichment



Animal Experience Visit

Recently, learners enjoyed an interactive visit from The Animal Experience, where they handled a variety of animals including a python, bearded dragon, blue-tongue skink, chinchilla and tenrec.



Willow Lounge



Our most recent Christmas-themed Willow Lounge was full of festive fun! We were joined by some of our regular young people, along with some new faces experiencing Willow Lounge for the first time. Everyone enjoyed playing games, sharing their favourite Christmas movies and taking part in our Christmas quiz. It was a wonderful way to celebrate the season and bring our community together.

In the New Year, we aim to continue offering engaging opportunities that build confidence, promote wellbeing, encourage social interaction and provide enjoyable new experiences.

End of Term Activities

Cambridge:
1pm - 4:30pm

Pizza and a film at Wildwood Restaurant, Ely

Join us for a pizza lunch followed by a film at 2:30pm shown right inside Wildwood Restaurant.

RBAir
Winter Activities
Wednesday
10th December

Online:
2pm - 4pm
Escape Rooms!
The Pharaoh's Tomb

Step into 1901 with Sherlock Holmes & Dr Watson - solve puzzles, crack codes, and follow the trail from London to a mysterious Egyptian tomb.

An email will be sent out to parents/carers on Friday 28 November with more details about sign-up

To end the term, learners in Cambridge can look forward to a pizza lunch followed by a film at the **Wildwood Restaurant, Ely**. Lunch begins at 1:00pm, with the film shown at 2:30pm, providing a relaxing and enjoyable experience.

For those joining online, we have an exciting escape room adventure, **The Pharaoh's Tomb**, from 2:00pm – 4:00pm. Step into 1901 with Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson - solve puzzles, crack codes and follow the trail from London to a mysterious Egyptian tomb in this family-friendly challenge.

Next Year ...



Mock Exams

January mocks will take place on **Tuesday 27th and Wednesday 28th January 2026** and will be held in-Centre (either at Willow Lodge or Danbury), where the final exams will take place.

The subject for your January mock paper will be decided by teachers, based on what offers the maximum benefit for your overall development. The main focus is to introduce you to the experience of what it's like to sit an in-Centre exam, and to get used to arrangements such as using extra time or taking brief rest breaks.

Your individual January mock timetables will be sent to you at the beginning of January. Your teachers will share the results with you on or after Wednesday 11th February. If you have any exam-related questions, please do not hesitate to contact:

Gosia Krolak gosia.krolak@rbair.org.uk (Willow Lodge) or

Sam Coles samantha.coles@rbair.org.uk (Danbury) directly.

A full mock period will take place from **Tuesday 17th to Thursday 19th March 2026**. During this period, learners will complete one full paper for all subjects to be examined in the summer of 2026. These full mocks will give learners a greater sense of the exam season and the support that will be in place for them.

PSHE

During the first half of Spring Term, all learners, apart from those working on their Online Safety course, will be covering topics within the **Relationships, Sex and Health Education** strand of our PSHE scheme of work. The session content is age appropriate and carefully developed to be relevant to the needs of our young people. The main theme of the sessions for **Spring 1** is **'Relationships'**.

If you have any concerns or questions about any of the topics we'll be working on, please do not hesitate to contact elaine.beattie@rbair.org.uk, our Head of PSHE. Elaine will be happy to talk to you and guide you through the sessions in more detail.

PSHE: Spring 1 - Relationships

Lower Key Stage 3 learners will cover:

- **Healthy Relationships** – an exploration of the features, and the rights and responsibilities we have, in healthy relationships.
- **Online Relationships** – the benefits, challenges and risks of social media use and online relationships.
- **Gender Stereotypes** – how to assess and challenge gender stereotypes and their impact on relationships.
- **Gender Equality** – an exploration of the importance of gender equality to a healthy, functioning society.

Upper Key Stage 3 learners will cover:

- **My Values** – what our core values are and their importance in relationships.
- **Commitment** – the features and benefits of commitment and how that relates to our core values.
- **Communication** – key skills of effective communication in relationships of all types.
- **Reducing Conflict** – an exploration of some of the communication strategies that support reconciliation.
- **Being a Positive Bystander** – how to safely be a positive bystander in different situations.

Lower Key Stage 4 learners will cover:

- **Friendship and Bullying** – how to recognise and safely challenge bullying behaviour in a range of contexts, unhealthy attitudes towards bullying, how and where to seek support.
- **Teenage Relationship Abuse** – how to identify abusive relationship behaviours, where and how to seek support.
- **Consent** – understanding what consent is, how and where to seek support and advice about consent.
- **Sharing Sexual Images** – the risks associated with sharing sexual images and ways to manage the pressure to send sexual images.

Upper Key Stage 4 learners will cover:

- **Gender Stereotypes and Relationships** – an exploration of the impact of enforcing gender stereotypes in relationships.
- **Unhealthy Relationships** – recognising abusive behaviours in intimate relationships, how and where to seek support.
- **Consent** – understanding authentic consent, the role of communication and respect in romantic relationships.
- **The Impact of Pornography** – an exploration of the impact of pornography on understanding and respecting consent, and the expectations of consent.

Post-16 learners will cover:

- **Consent: Responsibilities and Consequences** – legal and moral responsibilities in relation to consent, and the consequences of failing to respect others' right to give, not give, or withdraw consent.
- **Consent: Communicating Wants and Needs** – how to assert wants and needs, how to identify and respond to risky situations.
- **Consent: Unwanted, Inappropriate and Illegal Behaviours** – managing, responding to, and reporting unwanted, inappropriate and illegal behaviours.

Term Dates Reminder

2025-2026

Last day of the Autumn term: Friday 12th December

Spring Term 2026

Wednesday 7th January – Friday 27th March

Half Term: Monday 16th February – Friday 20th February

Staff Training: Monday 5th January, Tuesday 6th January

Summer Term 2026

Monday 13th April – Friday 10th July

Early May Bank Holiday: Monday 4th May

Half Term: Monday 25th May – Friday 29th May

Contact Over the Holidays

Members of the Senior Leadership Team will regularly check their emails, so if there is information to pass on, it will be noted. In an emergency, please follow the guidance given in the Out-of-Office email replies.

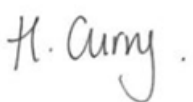
Additional Support

We understand that young people and their parent(s)/carer(s) often experience difficult challenges in life, and that finding the right support is not always easy.

Please visit our Additional Support page on our [website](#) for a list of organisations that may be able to help.

We look forward to seeing your young person again online or in person from **Wednesday 7th January 2026.**

With best wishes,



Hannah Curry
Headteacher