



Newsletter

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you will read, this half term has been very busy for learners and staff at RBAir and it already seems a long time since the new year started. We have included some photos and updates about activities and clubs, so that you can find out about all the other elements of RBAir provision that run alongside the education programme. We are always keen to hear from learners and parents about what is working well and enjoyed as part of our offer and to find out if there are other ideas for activities and trips that we may not have thought about, so please speak to your child's mentor (or any other member of staff) if you have any suggestions.

Next half term is going to be a short yet lively as it is only 5 weeks long and there is a lot to fit in. We hope that the newsletter provides you with all the information you need to guide you through the next half term but as always, if you have any questions or queries - please ask.

Mock Exams

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.



Individual March mock timetables have already been sent out earlier this week. Teachers will share the results with learners on or after Wednesday 25th March 2026.

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.

In-Centre sessions during mocks

Please note that we will have to **cancel** the in centre sessions on **17th, 18th and 19th March** due to a lack of space. As a small organisation, we don't have the physical space or staff availability to run the much-needed mocks series alongside the regular in person timetable. I understand and appreciate that this means learners who are not taking exams will miss out on their sessions during the mock exam period but where possible, the in-person sessions will be converted to an online session. The member of staff responsible for the session will ensure that any conversion of an in person session to an online session is communicated clearly to the learners but if you have any queries, please contact the Admin team.

Learners who are sitting their mock exams are **not expected in their lessons if they are sitting an exam that day**. The lessons will still be available, and the teachers will be ready to deliver the lesson at the allocated time, but we understand that exams are exhausting, so we will authorise study leave where requested. Please just make sure that you inform the Admin team.

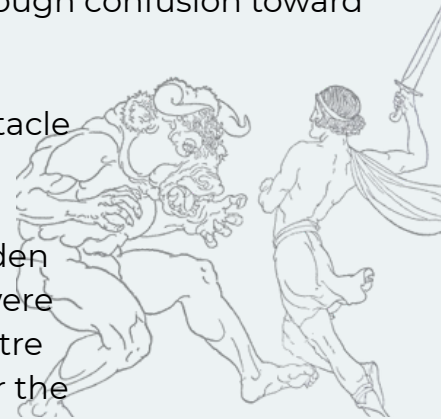
Curious Connections:

Learning about theatre and magic has revealed some fascinating connections across time, from ancient Greece to Elizabethan England.



Greek theatre began as ritual, closely tied to religion and myth. Stories like Theseus and the Minotaur were not just dramatic tales but ways to explore fear, heroism, and the unknown. The labyrinth itself feels theatrical- a space of illusion and suspense where meaning is slowly revealed. This idea of guiding an audience through confusion toward understanding sits at the heart of theatre.

Roman theatre built on Greek foundations but shifted toward spectacle and entertainment. While Greek drama focused on moral and philosophical questions, Roman performances emphasized visual effects, comedy, and dramatic surprises. Stage machinery and sudden appearances created moments that felt almost magical. Romans were fascinated by magic yet wary of it, a contradiction that mirrors theatre itself: audiences know it isn't real, but they choose to believe in it for the experience.



Elizabethan theatre brings these ideas together. Greek myths influenced story structures, Roman comedy shaped characters, and magic became an explicit theme on stage. In plays like *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, enchantment and illusion drive the plot, showing how theatre itself functions like magic - using language, timing, and imagination to transform reality.

Studying the history of magic alongside theatre makes these links clearer. Both magicians and actors depend on misdirection, storytelling, and audience engagement. Practicing simple magic tricks shows how easily perception can be shaped. Whether it's Theseus escaping the labyrinth, fairies manipulating lovers, or a magician making something vanish, the goal is the same: to create wonder and spark curiosity by blurring the line between reality and illusion.

REARR

Cambridge United Football Stadium



Our trip to Cambridge United Football Stadium showed how much work goes into running a football club beyond what fans see on matchdays. The club relies on many behind-the-scenes roles, including coaches, medical staff, groundskeepers, media teams, finance staff, stewards, and catering workers, making it a significant local employer.

We also learnt about the large amounts of money required to run the club, such as staff wages, stadium maintenance, equipment, travel, and youth development. Careful financial planning is essential to keep the club sustainable and competitive.

A major focus at Cambridge United is their scholarship and academy programme. The club supports the “whole person” by combining football training with education, life skills, and personal development. They also provide transition and life support, helping players prepare for careers both in and outside of football.

Overall, the visit highlighted that a football club is much more than just a team - it is a complex organisation that values education, welfare, and long-term development.

Shepreth Wildlife Park

Despite the rain, we had an amazing visit to Shepreth Wildlife Park! Our group of eight young people - some brand new learners and others more established - came together brilliantly. It was fantastic to see everyone supporting one another, and the positive buzz throughout the visit was truly inspiring.

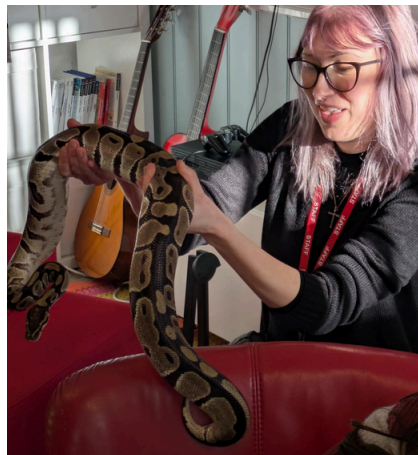
We were able to spot such an awesome variety of animals, including a tiger, capybaras, lemurs, and bats! There was much excitement and curiosity at every enclosure. Jackie couldn't wait to go back to the 'Bat Cave' for more! A brilliant time was had by all!



Animal Experience Visit

This is the second Animal Experience visit to Willow Lodge, and once again, it was an epic afternoon full of 'wow' moments. Everyone who attended was able to be up close with the visiting creatures and the session started with a snake who stole the show with its beautiful colours. There was an owl that had everyone entranced with its huge wings and calm vibes.

Things got extra exciting when a tarantula was brought out.....creepy for some, fascinating for others! This was then followed by a bunch of awesome reptiles, showing off their scales and unique skills. Everyone enjoyed a fun and interactive afternoon with the opportunity to ask lots of questions and get involved. It felt like a real-life wildlife adventure right here at Willow Lodge and the young people (and staff!) loved every minute.



Upcoming Events ... save the date!!

Are you interested in learning about

STREET ART & IT'S HISTORY?

Do you want to create some

GRAFFITIART, KILO DESIGN & SPRAY PAINT?

We have **KILO**, a local street artist,

Willow Lodge

on Wednesday 11th & Wednesday 25th March
1.30pm - 3.00pm

Sign up on Arbor or let your mentor know you'd like to come!

DREAM BIG!



Bushcraft

at The Dell,
Milton Country Park

Friday 27th March
From 2-4pm

We will have a fire and marshmallows and whittling with Russ, who will teach us the skills to make something out of wood.

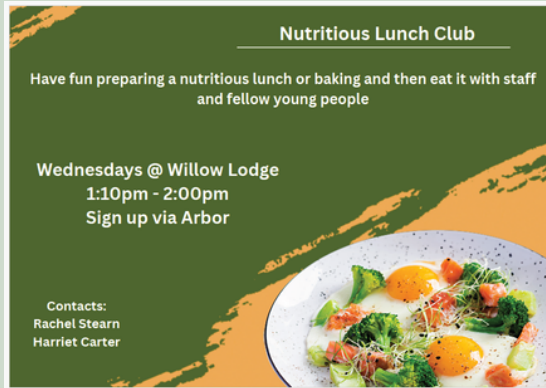
Sign up on Arbor if you'd like to come.



 Fire Lighting	 Shelter Building	 Woodland Skills
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RBAir Clubs

We currently have a range of clubs running for our learners, designed to be fun, inclusive, and shaped around your interests.



Lunch Club

Wednesdays@Willow Lodge
1:10 - 2:00pm

Lunch Club is a relaxed, social space where learners can prepare a nutritious lunch or do some baking. It's a great opportunity to learn practical cooking skills, try new recipes, and enjoy food together with staff and fellow young people.

Sign up via Arbor!



LGBTQ+ Club

Wednesdays 1:20 - 14:00pm

Our LGBTQ+ Club is a safe, welcoming space for LGBTQ+ learners and allies. It's a place to hang out, connect with others, and take part in shared activities in a supportive and inclusive environment.

Let Jackie P
jaclyn.paules@rbair.org.uk or your mentor know if you intend to come or are interested.



Learners - Have your say...

We want to hear from you!

Scan the QR code to access a short form where you can tell us what types of clubs you'd like to see in the future and what interests you most.

You can suggest:

- Online clubs
- In-person clubs at Willow Lodge
- Any activities or ideas you'd love to be involved in

Your voice matters - help us shape clubs that work for you

PSHE: Spring 2

During the second half of Spring Term, all learners, apart from those working on their Online Safety course, will be covering topics within the Health and Wellbeing 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.

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.

Year 8: Health & Wellbeing

- **Understanding Puberty** - the physical and emotional changes and feelings during puberty
- **Appearance Ideals** - exploring and managing the pressures are appearance ideals
- **Media Messages** - exploring and understanding the manipulated and curated images on social media
- **Confronting comparisons** - addressing the comparisons we make with others and building body confidence
- **Banish Body Talk** - setting goals to increase positive body talk and managing negative thoughts and feelings

Year 9: Wellbeing & Community

- **Discrimination and Prejudice** - what discrimination is and how we can support those who experience it
- **Forms of discrimination and Allyship** - different forms of discrimination and how to become an ally
- **Resisting Online Influence** - strategies to avoid being exploited online by manipulation and misinformation
- **Using the Internet to Improve the World** - exploring how the internet can be a tool for social good

Year 10 - Making Healthy Choices

- **Balancing the pressures of modern life** - balancing the key pressures & identifying strategies to manage wellbeing
- **Reframing Negative thinking** - strategies to build resilience by reframing negative thinking
- **Change, Loss and Grief** - understanding how change, loss and grief make us feel and strategies to manage those feelings
- **Cosmetic and plastic surgery** - how to manage risks and influences related to cosmetic and aesthetic body alterations
- **Body Modifications** - making informed decisions about modifications such as tattoos and piercings

Year 11: Sexual Health & Wellbeing

- **A Guide to Fertility** - reproduction, fertility and factors affecting decisions relating to fertility
- **Fertility and Pregnancy Choices** - how fertility changes over time, factors affecting pregnancy
- **Sexual Health** - STIs (1) - STI symptoms, how they are contracted and the importance of testing for them
- **Sexual Health** - STIs (2) - how to access testing, the testing process and how to protect against them

Post-16: Mental Health & Wellbeing

- **Conversations about Mental Health** - understanding the stereotypes surrounding mental health in the media
- **Wellbeing and Mental Health** - exploring strategies for accessing support for mental health, First Aid for Mental Health
- **Online Wellbeing** - how to be a critical consumer of online information and recognising bias, propaganda and extremism
- **Using Social Media Responsibly** - an exploration of the positives and negatives of social media
- **Media Influence** - evaluating and challenging the media's presentation of identities and relationships

Parent information Evening

Michelle Masters, Head of the Reading Red Balloon Learner Centre, has arranged a talk delivered by a solicitor for parents around writing Wills and Trusts as parents of vulnerable children with Additional Needs and Social, Emotional and Mental Health issues.

Paul Lowrey, a partner at Boyes Turner Law Practice, will be giving a presentation to parents that will cover the following:

- Why you should make a will
- Trusts and how they can be used in wills to provide for vulnerable beneficiaries
- A very brief overview of inheritance tax and some reliefs
- Lasting Powers of Attorney

The session will also include a short presentation from the Court of Protection Team focusing on property and finance deputyships.

The information evening will be held through an online Teams meeting on:

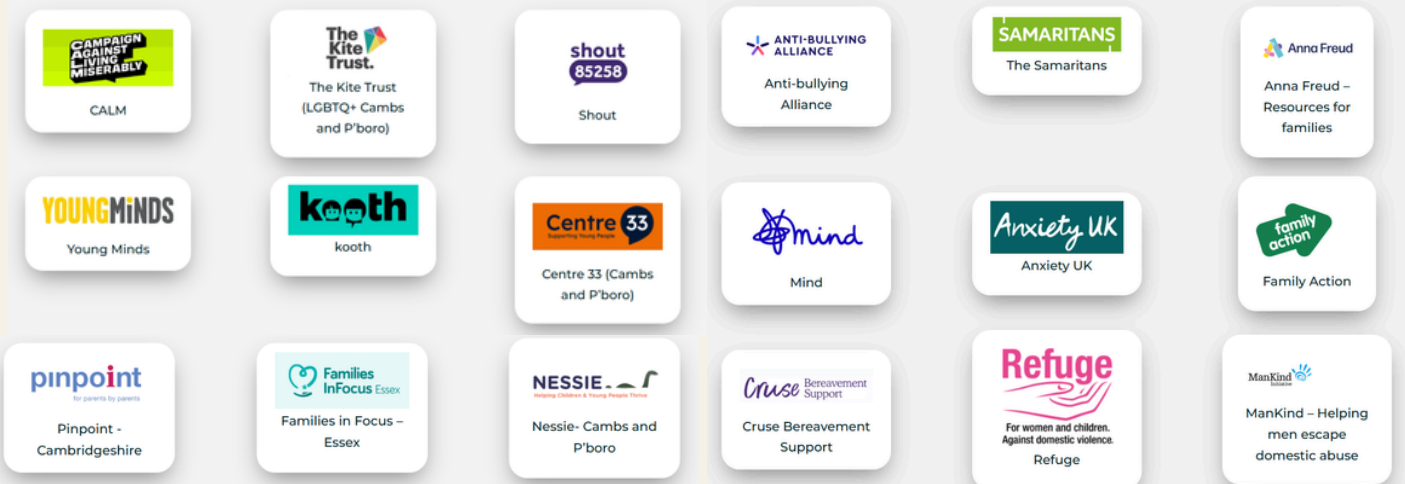
Wednesday 25th March between 7pm – 8pm.

If you would like to attend, please can you send an email to admin@rbair.org.uk, so they can make sure you receive an email notification with the link to the meeting.

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.



Term Dates Reminder

2025-2026

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

2026 -2027

Autumn Term 2026

Monday 7th September – Friday 11th December

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

Staff Training: Wednesday 2nd September, Thursday 3rd September, Friday 4th September

Spring Term 2027

Tuesday 5th January – Thursday 25th March

Good Friday Bank Holiday: Friday 26th March

Half Term: Monday 15th February – Friday 19th February

Staff Training: Monday 4th January

Summer Term 2027

Tuesday 13th April – Friday 16th July

Early May Bank Holiday: Monday 31st May – Friday 4th June

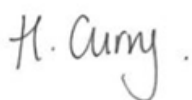
Half Term: Monday 12th April

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.

We look forward to seeing your young person again online or in person from **Monday 23rd February 2026.**

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "H. Curry". The signature is written in a cursive style with a period at the end.

Hannah Curry
Head of Centre