

Newsletter

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we move closer to the end of the school year, there's a lot to celebrate and look forward to. This issue includes updates on recent events, important reminders, and upcoming activities across RBAir. Our learners are currently working hard on their exams, and we're proud of their focus, resilience and determination during this busy period.

As shared in our last newsletter, building work at Willow Lodge was delayed due to issues with building control permissions. We're pleased to let you know that permission has now been granted, and the conversion of the garage is now underway. The next phase of building work will continue over the upcoming half-term holiday, with a pause during the exam period to minimise disruption. Work will resume again afterwards, and we look forward to sharing the improvements with you soon.

Annual Surveys

We would like to offer you the opportunity to tell us about your experiences of Red Balloon of the Air via a short online questionnaire. We strive to ensure that our provision offers appropriate support to learners and their families and as such we value all feedback.

The questionnaire is anonymous, giving you the space to be open and honest. However, if you have any concerns about our provision or your young person, please do not hesitate to contact our Headteacher, Hannah Curry, by email (hannah.curry@rbair.org.uk) or telephone 01223 354338.



[Link to Annual Survey](#)

We have also sent a short questionnaire to learners via Arbor. This is also anonymous, and we are keen to hear about their time at Red Balloon of the Air.

Please click the link to the parent/carer questionnaire; we would be grateful if you would complete it by **9 June**, at the latest. Thank you!

Exams

Summer 2025 exams are now in full swing, and the candidates are working hard to gain their qualifications. We are all very proud of them here at RBAir! Please remember - if you have any exams related issues or questions – contact your Exams Officer directly.



Your Exams Officers are:

Gosia Krolak at Willow Lodge: gosia.krolak@rbair.org.uk

Sam Coles at Danbury: samantha.coles@rbair.org.uk

Summer 2025 Exam results will be available to collect in person by the candidate from:

Willow Lodge or Danbury on **Thursday 21st August between 10:00am - 12:00pm.**

Additionally, they will be emailed to the email address specified in writing by the candidate.

Willow Lodge Reception



We're excited to share that the reception area at Willow Lodge has had a revamp! One of the highlights is our beautiful new gallery wall, featuring artwork created by RBAir staff and learners. Their creativity has brought warmth, colour and personality to the space and we are so proud to showcase their work!



Willow Lodge

Another successful Willow Lounge session took place last week. The sun was shining, the BBQ was sizzling and a wonderful group of young people spent time relaxing, chatting and enjoying good food together. Staff were busy setting up the gazebo, hanging bunting and planting flowers, adding to the vibrant and welcoming atmosphere.

We're also excited about the upcoming events we have planned. On Wednesday 21st May, there's a Clip and Climb trip for learners in Years 7 to 11. Looking ahead, we've also got plans for day trips: a picnic at Milton Country Park, bowling. There will also be a fantastic end-of-year party on Thursday 3rd July. These events offer great opportunities for our young people to come together, have fun and connect with their community. Details will be emailed to parents, and sign-ups will be available via Arbor.

Danbury

We started our Spring Term back with a nice 5K walk around Danbury to raise money for Autism Awareness. A mixture of students, staff, parents and grandparents made for a glorious uplifting stroll through the undulating woods surrounding Danbury. We had the weather on our side and even enjoyed a cheeky ice cream to reward our efforts!



Our allotment is coming along amazingly! We now have a bamboo frame propping up our runner beans, constructed by our learners, slightly chewed by the visiting deer.

The garlic and rhubarb are coming through nicely and the herbs are thriving for adding to salads later in the summer.

We have also had a very busy half term at Danbury with the start of the exam period. All our students have done well so far and we wish them all the luck for the remainder of the season!

GCSE Art Exhibition

We are thrilled to showcase the incredible talent and hard work of our Learners over the past two years.

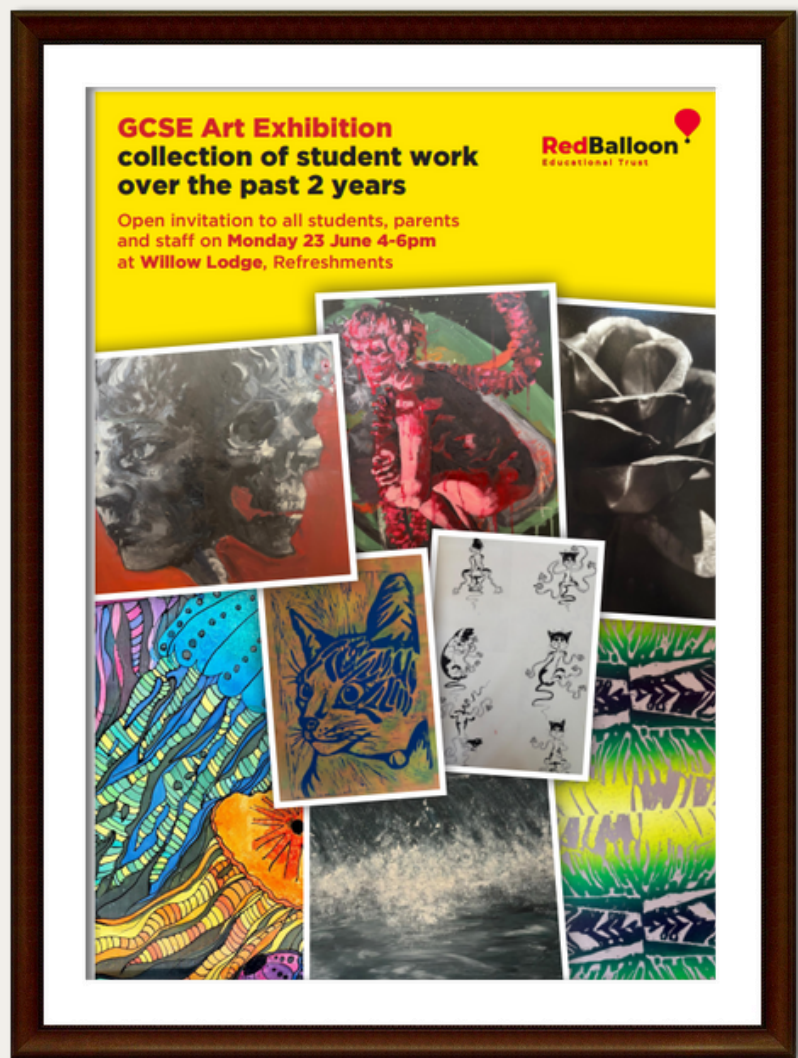
Join us for an open invitation event on:

Monday, June 23rd, from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM at Willow Lodge.

All learners, parents and staff are welcome.

There will be refreshments!

We hope to see you there!



Open Garden

**49 NEW SQUARE
CAMBRIDGE CB1 1EZ**

10am - 5pm

**Saturday & Sunday
7th-8th June 2025**

Free entry and refreshments

All proceeds to Red Balloon Educational Trust

By visiting our garden and donating you will support the recovery of children and young people in our Red Balloon Learner Centres who are missing education, having self-excluded from mainstream school because of severe bullying, mental health problems or trauma.

Registered charity no: 1109606

Open Garden

Join us on Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th June from 10am-5pm to explore the gorgeous garden of Red Balloon's Founder, Carrie Herbert, at 49 New Square, Cambridge, CB1 1EZ.

Open Garden is Red Balloon Educational Trust's most picturesque fundraising event of the year! Discover a hidden floral oasis in the middle of Cambridge. The magnificent blooms never cease to astound us, and we love sharing them with you each June. The garden changes every year, so if you have been before, it's worth coming again to see what's new!

Over the course of the weekend, Carrie will open the gate to this normally private garden, allowing guests to unwind and enjoy the lovely flowers. We are looking forward to showing you the garden- things are looking beautiful already!

We will have free entry and refreshments, with all donations made going to support Red Balloon.

We look forward to seeing you!

Term Dates Reminder

Summer Term 2025

Wednesday 23rd April – Friday 11th July

Early May Bank Holiday: Monday 5th May

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

2025 - 2026

Autumn Term 2025

Monday 8th September – Friday 12th December

Half Term: Monday 27th October – Friday 31st October

Staff Training: Wednesday 3rd September, Thursday 4th September, Friday 5th September

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

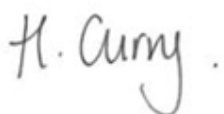
Monday 13th April – Friday 10th July

Early May Bank Holiday: Monday 4th May

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

From all of us here, we wish you a wonderful and restful half-term holiday. Enjoy the break, and we look forward to seeing you all when we return.

With best wishes,



Hannah Curry
Headteacher