

Newsletter

Dear Parents/Carers,

Here we are at the end of another busy term and year at Red Balloon of the Air. Looking back over all the achievements and events of the past year, it makes you realise how much has happened and been enjoyed by learners and staff since the start of September. We will be saying a fond farewell to many of our learners as they take their next steps and join local colleges and other post-16 education providers. These outcomes are a result of all the hard work, resilience and challenge that our learners have shown in their determination to move forwards on their own paths. I know that I speak on behalf of the whole staff group working at RBAir when I say that we all feel extremely privileged to be a small part of all our learners' lives and journeys and will treasure the time they have been part of the RBAir community.

To all those learners who are returning in September, please have a good break, get plenty of rest and we look forward to welcoming you back after the summer holidays. Wishing you all a happy and relaxed summer holiday.

Hannah Curry
Head of Centre

Annual Survey Results

We've now reviewed all the feedback gathered from our **2025/26** Annual Parent/Carer and Learner Surveys.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete them - your input is invaluable and greatly appreciated.

Summaries of the survey results are now available to view on our website www.rbair.org.uk/surveys. We encourage you to take a look and see how your feedback is helping shape our ongoing development.



Academic Reports



You will receive a written academic report this week (the last week of term). Reports will be accessible via the **Parent Portal App** on **Arbor**, following an email notifying you of their availability.

To access the report cards via the Web browser Parent Portal:

- Click *View Student Profile*, then go to *Report Cards* from the left-hand menu.
- The date shows when the report card was released.
- Select the report card, then click *Download*: it will download to your computer as a PDF.



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.

Exam Results Information

Results Day at Willow Lodge is:

Thursday 20th August

Willow Lodge will be open to candidates and families for results collection from **9:30am–11:00am**, with results also being emailed from 10:00am.

Danbury's results will be available via email. If you sat your exams at the Danbury Centre and have any further questions about receiving exam results, please contact Sam or Liz.

All Examinations Policies are on our website - please follow the link: **[Exams Policy Directory](#)**



If you have any exam related questions, please do not hesitate to contact:

gosia.krolak@rbair.org.uk / 07588 734 906 (Willow Lodge) or
liz.smart@rbair.org.uk (Danbury) directly.

End of Term Celebrations



End of Year Party

Weds 8th July from 2pm

Join us for the RBAir End of Year Party on Weds 8th July for an afternoon of ice creams, milkshakes and activities!

Normal sessions will be cancelled for the afternoon (P5 and P6), so anyone who wants to join in would be most welcome.

Please **sign up on Arbor** to give us an idea of numbers.



Online Escape Rooms

Weds 8th July from 2pm to 4pm

On Wednesday 8th July, we will be delving into the mysterious world of online escape rooms. We'll head in from 2pm, and we would be thrilled if learners joined us in our efforts to solve the puzzles, and help us escape!

Normal sessions will be cancelled for the afternoon (P5 and P6), so anyone who wants to join in would be most welcome.

We've chosen a room from [Wolf Escape Rooms](#). Please check out their site for more information and to see whether your young person would like to take part.

Can we crack the case?

In the heart of Miami, in the heat of 1985, you are about to break all the rules in the pursuit of justice ... Only the best detectives escape Miami Bay.

Anyone who would like to take part will need to **sign up on Arbor**, to give us an idea of numbers.

R B A I R Enrichment

Paddleboarding



On 19th June, a small group of learners and staff took to the water for an enjoyable paddleboarding session. While some had tried paddleboarding before, others were complete beginners, making it a fantastic opportunity for everyone to challenge themselves and step outside their comfort zones.

With the sun shining and plenty of encouragement from one another, everyone successfully paddled around the lake. Some were even able to stand up on their boards, while others were happy to master the basics from a kneeling position. Regardless of experience, it was a fun-filled event that built confidence, encouraged teamwork, and ended with smiles all round.

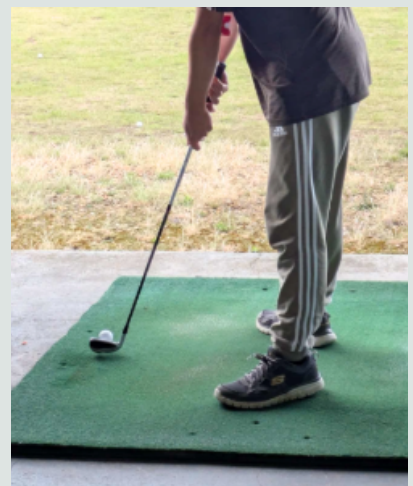




Golf Driving Range

We visited the driving range in Milton with a group of seven young people, all with varying levels of golf experience. Some had played regularly before, while others were trying it for the very first time. The more experienced golfers did a fantastic job of demonstrating techniques and supporting the beginners, offering plenty of encouragement throughout.

Everyone showed great resilience and a positive attitude, and we shared lots of laughter when shots didn't go to plan, particularly when the staff completely missed the ball! It was a fun, supportive and enjoyable session for everyone involved.



Open House Event



Wednesday 24th June 2026 saw us welcome alumni and their families, along with current learners to our Open House at Willow Lodge. We invited visitors to come and see the new updated buildings and to catch up with friends and staff.

Despite the blistering heat of 35 degrees, we were so pleased to have around 20 visitors for the duration of the event. Considering the heat, it was amazing to see so many familiar faces at RBAir and share in their successes. Jackie created a beautiful display of the incredible work that the Arts Award young people have produced, highlighting their hard work through sharing their journals. We have some incredibly talented young people at RBAir, which was a joy to see!

Our Enrichment Programme group baked delicious sweet treats, along with generous colleagues who contributed some yummy cakes to make a wonderful spread. Sue and Kirsty entertained us with their fantastic Science experiments and Andrew got our brains going with some Maths quizzes. Michelle wowed us with some Blackout Poetry and we even had Rock Art under the Gazebo. We had it all!

The ice pops may have melted within seven minutes, but our awesome Mentors and all of our colleagues stood strong, catching up with our young people and their families - despite personally melting! It was such a lovely, relaxed event.

Thank you to everyone who came, contributed, stayed and cleared up – we really couldn't put on events like this without you. It was a real team effort, and we are truly grateful to each and every one of you for making it such an enjoyable afternoon!



Learner Stories

This term, we are proud to celebrate the inspiring journeys of two of our young people.



One young person joined RBAir having lost confidence in themselves and education. With the support of our staff and mentors, they rediscovered their love of learning, have gained GCSEs and worked towards a Silver Arts Award, and are now looking forward to starting college in September. Their parent describes the transformation as 'extraordinary' and credits Red Balloon of the Air with helping them regain both their confidence and their future.



We are also celebrating another young person who completed a photography work experience placement with a professional photographer. The opportunity helped them develop new skills, build confidence and explore future career possibilities. A highlight of the placement was photographing a fellow RBAir learner, with both young people stepping outside their comfort zones to create some fantastic images together.

Please visit our [Learner Stories](#) page on our website to read their full stories and see the wonderful photographs from the photography work experience placement.

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.



CALM



The Kite Trust
(LGBTQ+ Cambs
and P'boro)



Shout



Young Minds



kooth



Centre 33 (Cambs
and P'boro)



Anti-bullying
Alliance



The Samaritans



Anna Freud –
Resources for
families



Mind



Anxiety UK



Family Action



Cruse Bereavement
Support



For women and children.
Against domestic violence.
Refuge



ManKind – Helping
men escape
domestic abuse

Term Dates Reminder

Term Dates 2025-6

Summer Term 2026

Monday 13th April – Friday 10th July

Last day of the Summer Term: Friday 10th July

Term Dates 2026-7

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 3rd May

Half Term: Monday 31st May – Friday 4th June

Staff Training: 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.

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

