

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday 22 February 2016

Aeronautics aren't too cool for two Southend schools

On 25 February, 71 children from two Southend-on-Sea schools – Bournes Green Junior and Trinity Road Primary – will experience the fascinating world of flying, aerospace and engineering at a day-long *Cool Aeronautics* event at London Southend Airport organised by the Royal Aeronautical Society.

Pupils will participate in fun, interactive workshops, listen to themed talks delivered by aerospace and aviation professionals, including a pilot and air traffic controller, and watch drama performances that bring aviation stars like pioneering aviatrix Amy Johnson back from the past.

All children go home from the event with a special goody bag containing aviation inspired contents which they can then share with their parents, siblings and friends.

First launched in 2007, *Cool Aeronautics* is the Royal Aeronautical Society's primary school outreach programme that aims to showcase aerospace and aviation to 7 and 11 year-old children and their teachers and parents to encourage from an early age an interest in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) subjects, as well as the amazing opportunities that the sector can offer.

Cool Aeronautics sessions are free to attend and offer a fantastic opportunity for young people to meet inspirational people from across the industry and to engage with activities that are relevant to the current Key Stage 2 National Curriculum.

The events represent a crucial part of the Society's efforts to provide a 'through-life' approach to its outreach and careers activities. In particular, *Cool Aeronautics* embodies the Society's aim to promote aerospace and aviation to a new generation.

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the Royal Aeronautical Society's formation and *Cool Aeronautics* is an integral part of the celebrations. One of the anniversary goals is 'to inspire young people about past and future aerospace achievement' and the Society has set an ambitious target of reaching 150 schools with *Cool Aeronautics* in 2016 – particularly schools in more disadvantaged areas that may not regularly take part in STEM activities.

Commenting ahead of the London Southend Airport event, Thomas Blowers, Careers and Outreach Officer at the Royal Aeronautical Society, said:

“A love of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) often begins at primary-school age but schools do not always have the resources to get their pupils excited about the possibilities of these subjects. Through *Cool Aeronautics* we aim to open up to children the wonderful world of STEM, as well as the incredible opportunities available in aviation and aerospace, in an interactive, entertaining and, most importantly, fun way.”

Jon Horne, Chief Operating Officer of Stobart Aviation that owns London Southend Airport, said:

“We are really pleased that the Royal Aeronautical Society are bringing their *Cool Aeronautics* event to Southend, where there is a long tradition of aviation and aeronautical engineering. We are delighted to work with them on giving local children the chance to experience the fascinating world of flying, aerospace and engineering.”

ENDS

Notes to Editors:

1. Press and media are invited to attend.
2. Thomas Blowers (Royal Aeronautical Society) and Jon Horne (Stobart Aviation that owns London Southend Airport) are available for interview.
3. *Cool Aeronautics* London Southend Airport: Starts at 09:45, 25 February 2016. London Southend Airport, Southend-on-Sea, Essex, SS2 6YF.
4. *Cool Aeronautics 2016* is kindly sponsored by Airbus Group.
5. The Royal Aeronautical Society (RAeS) is the world’s only professional body dedicated to the entire aerospace community. The Society promotes the highest professional standards in all aerospace disciplines; provides specialist information; acts as a central forum for the exchange of ideas; and plays a leading role in influencing opinion on aerospace matters. Visit www.aerosociety.com for more information.
6. For more information about *Cool Aeronautics* and to view photos from past events, visit www.aerosociety.com/coolaeronautics.
7. Over £140 million has been invested in London Southend Airport by owner Stobart Group since it was acquired in 2008. New facilities include a station adjacent to the terminal on the London Liverpool Street line, an Air Traffic Control Tower, radar, terminal building, runway extension and a 4-star Holiday Inn. London Southend Airport has flights to 17 destinations – Amsterdam, Alicante, Barcelona, Faro, Geneva, Ibiza, Jersey, Lyon,



**ROYAL
AERONAUTICAL
SOCIETY**

Royal Aeronautical Society
No.4 Hamilton Place
London W1J 7BQ
United Kingdom

T: +44 (0)20 7670 4300
F: +44 (0)20 7670 4309
E: raes@aerosociety.com
www.aerosociety.com

Malaga, Menorca, Majorca, Tenerife and Venice with easyJet. A new easyJet route to Paris starts on 26 February 2016. Flybe, operated by Stobart Air, has departures to Rennes, Groningen and Caen Normandie. London Southend Airport has been named the 'Best Airport in Britain' by *Which?* Magazine three years running (2013/14/15). More at www.southendairport.com.

For media enquiries contact:

Simon Whalley

Head of Policy and Public Affairs

Royal Aeronautical Society

T: +44 (0)20 7670 4362

M: +44 (0)7919 213 597

E: simon.whalley@aerosociety.com

Follow us: **@RAeSCareers** and **#RAeSCoolAeronautics**

Tracy Jones

Press and PR

London Southend Airport

M: +44 (0)7887 514 984

E: tracy@brera-London.com