

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday 16 May 2016

Two Sussex schools to soar into cool world of aeronautics at Surrey aerodrome

On 19 May, over 60 children from two Sussex schools – Windlesham School in Brighton and St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School in Crawley – will experience the fascinating world of flying, aerospace and engineering at a day-long *Cool Aeronautics* event at Redhill Aerodrome, Surrey, 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.

The 2016 programme is sponsored by Airbus Group, which is enabling the Society to organise the large number of *Cool Aeronautics* events this year.

Commenting ahead of the Redhill Aerodrome event, Rosalind Azouzi, Head of Skills and Careers 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.”

Ann Bartaby, Chief Executive of Redhill Aerodrome, said:

“I am a huge supporter of encouraging young people to experience something ‘different’. We are looking forward to welcoming these schools to Redhill Aerodrome to see aeroplanes close up and learn a little about the world of aeronautics.”

Jeremy Greaves, Vice-President Communications, Airbus Group UK, said:

“We are delighted to be supporting the *Cool Aeronautics* initiative which will encourage and inspire children to pursue a career in STEM; demonstrating the amazing possibilities that exist in our industry. Initiatives like *Cool Aeronautics* are also critical if Britain is to remain a leader in aerospace and aviation, as we need our future generations to have the skills to keep us there.”

ENDS

Notes to Editors:

1. Press and media are invited to attend.
2. Rosalind Azouzi (Royal Aeronautical Society) and Ann Bartaby (Redhill Aerodrome) are available for interview.
3. *Cool Aeronautics* Redhill Aerodrome: 09:45 Registration for 10:00 Start, 19 May 2016. Terminal Building, Redhill Aerodrome, Redhill, Surrey RH1 5YP.
4. 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.



5. For more information about *Cool Aeronautics* and to view photos from past events, visit www.aerosociety.com/coolaeronautics.
6. Redhill Aerodrome was set up in 1933 to train pilots, and this remains a major activity at the site, alongside aircraft maintenance and leisure flying. Redhill is also a base for the Kent Surrey Sussex Air Ambulance and the National Police Air Service. Visit www.redhillaerodrome.com
7. About Airbus Group: Airbus Group is a global leader in aeronautics, space and related services. In 2015, the Group -- comprising Airbus, Airbus Defence and Space and Airbus Helicopters -- generated revenues of EUR 64.5 billion and employed a workforce of around 136,600.

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