

# ABOUT US

Red Balloon provides education for 30 young people who have suffered difficult life experiences, meaning they are no longer able to attend mainstream school. Our staff team work tirelessly to provide a safe and nurturing environment, helping young people to develop the confidence to begin learning again whilst building confident social skills.

We pride ourselves in transforming young people's lives; building resilience/ self-belief and empowering them to be the best they can be.

Pupils attend online, full-time or build up from a reduced timetable, depending on their needs and abilities. They join us from age 11 to 16, staying to the maximum age of 17 to complete GCSEs or alternative qualifications.

# SUPPORT US



**JustGiving™**



**VOLUNTEER TIME**



**DONATE**



**BE AN ACTIVE RB  
SOCIAL MEDIA  
CHAMPION**

# CONTACT US



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[www.redballoonlearner.org/locations/red-balloon-norwich](http://www.redballoonlearner.org/locations/red-balloon-norwich)

## Red Balloon Norwich NEWSLETTER Autumn Term 2022

Registered Charity No.1117092



## ALL CHANGE...

So much has changed at Red Balloon, We welcomed a new Head, Lisa Andrews, and other new staff too. The Centre has moved to a new area. *Read more inside...*

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Wellbeing  
Education  
Trauma Recovery  
Social re-engagement

# LETTER FROM OUR HEAD

## Lisa Andrews



Welcome to our Autumn newsletter and welcome from me as the new Headteacher of Red Balloon Norwich.

In a very short space of time I've really gained a sense of what a sanctuary Red Balloon is for us all, and whilst being new in role, I am fiercely loyal to the values which have brought us all here; that education is too valuable and integral to our wellbeing for any young person to be excluded from it, and that a strong social and emotional curriculum is vital for the pupils to thrive across all areas of their learning.

I hope that our students and families get to enjoy a wonderful winter break together with lots of opportunities to create lovely memories!

# NEWS

## Hello / Goodbye...



Toby Bolton & Silvana Matei have, jointly, taken over our new Science lab. Dee Sagar now teaches Maths, and of course our brand new Head of Centre is Lisa Andrews.

At the end of last year we said Goodbye to Seb Shirtcliff (Maths), Alison Bonnington (Science / External Mentoring Lead), and of course Heather Jolly (former Head).

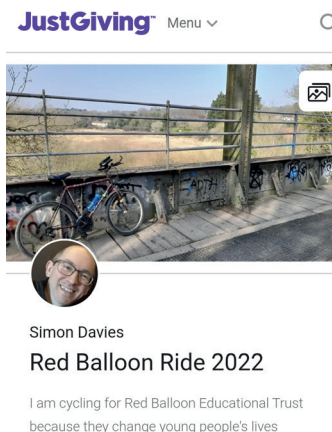


# FUNDRAISING THANK YOUS

Red Balloon Norwich is a registered charity, relying on income from diverse sources, often tied to specific work, pupils, or time periods, whilst core funding can fluctuate. 'Untied' donations are invaluable to us, allowing us to support additional needs in the centre. We want to send a massive THANK YOU out to all those who have raised funds for us recently! If their stories inspire you to do the same then please contact us to talk about ideas!

## Simon Davies - 'Red Balloon Ride 2022'.

Simon taught Science at RB Norwich for 3 years. Through RBet (Red Balloon Educational Trust, our



umbrella body) organising a sponsored ride Simon smashed his targets by cycling over 300 miles in one month, raising over £400 to celebrate his 51st birthday!

## Gareth & Lois Lewis - Norwich AlleyCat, and Wedding gifts.

Norwich's AlleyCat is the longest running cycle treasurehunt in the UK! Riders and walkers regularly raise funds for local charities. When Coordinator Gareth visited the centre with his fiancée they liked what we do so much that they pledged to take up their wedding donations for us too.

## Dylan, Emily and their network - 'pound-a-square' sponsorship

New to the centre, Dylan felt that we needed newer gaming kit. It took him just a week to raise enough money to buy it for us all to use. We can hardly believe it... What a legend!!!





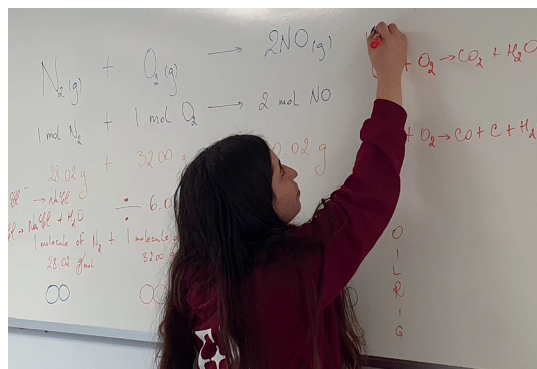
# SUBJECT OVERVIEWS

## Science By Toby & Silvana



With Toby in Biology, Year 8's have delved into food webs, animal adaptations and the importance of Biodiversity conservation. Year 9 investigated the importance of plants to life, as well as the genetic inheritance involved in natural selection. The Year 10 pupils entered the world of animal and plant cells, microscopes and the life dependent chemical reactions. Our Year 11 group explored the intriguing world of genes, inheritance and natural selection, excelling at genetic crosses.

With Silvana, in Physics, KS3 groups built electromagnets and explored the ways in which they are used in everyday life - speakers, recycling separation, hard-drives and even levitating trains, which proved rather popular. Our KS4 group has been exploring the meaning of energy in physics, and the ways in which we can transfer energy: mechanically, electrically, heating and radiation. We also explored the process of radioactive decay, fusion and fission, and tackled misconceptions about nuclear power.



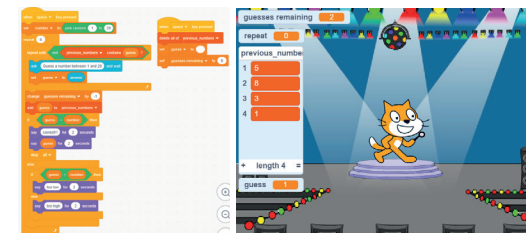
## ICT / Creative Media By Elaine



Every Red Balloon Norwich pupil is allocated their own laptop, and work online in GoogleSuite. This approach builds readiness for the workplace, experience of using networks, safe conduct and confidentiality online, good organisational practise, as well as the basic skills for exams... and for personal play, learning and research. Pupils become highly adaptable, learning new hard/software, instinctively. During the pandemic this proved invaluable - not a day's work was lost from lack of access, shared resources, space, or communication.

ASDAN ICT is based on bespoke investigations, to suit pupils' varying paces and ability levels. We practise interpreting tasks, then becoming proactive and considerate in how we complete them. Vitally, we build our online research skills; using key terms, source discernment and data filtering. We aim to become safe, discerning, and competent technology users: understanding computer systems' uses, opportunities, issues and risks, both in our own lives and globally.

Creative Digital Media Production (a BTEC) uses client briefs to design and make innovative interactive media. We explore genres, channels, and audiences, then product development including UX, testing and iterations.



## Humanities By Helen

Year 8 and 9 have a bespoke curriculum; in History, focussing on 'Industry, Reform and Empire,' they are immersed in an exploration of what our country was like in the

1750s, an era prior to the Industrial Revolution, through to the 1900s. They also explore aspects of Geography, in which we have been exploring the countries in the United

Kingdom and creating fact files. In Religious Studies we have been learning about the nature of God in major religions, with a focus on Christianity leading up to Christmas. Meanwhile, Year 10s are learning about many aspects of people's

health in the Middle Ages through to Renaissance Britain, focusing on 'The Great Plague', which they know so much about now. Year 11's are currently sitting mocks, then doing final revision and exams, in History the focus is on Medicine through time.

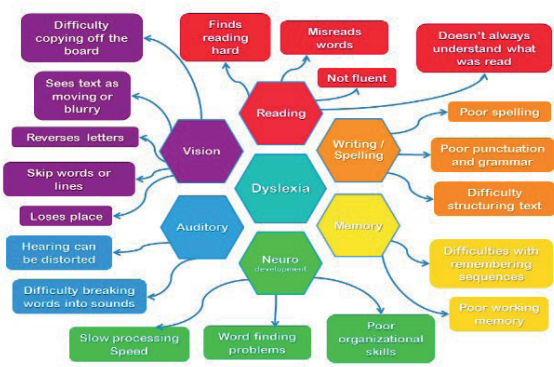


# SEND UPDATE

## (Special Educational Needs & Disability)

By Julie Clements, RB Nch SENDCO

### NEURODIVERGENCE FOCUS - Dyslexia



#### Characteristic Traits

- Difficulty with accurate and fluent word reading and spelling
- Difficulties recognising sounds and how they make up words
- Difficulties with verbal memory - grouping sounds that constitute speech

#### Where to find support

British Dyslexia Association: [www.bdadyslexia.org.uk](http://www.bdadyslexia.org.uk)

The Dyslexia-SpLD Trust: [www.thedyslexia-spldtrust.org.uk](http://www.thedyslexia-spldtrust.org.uk)

#### Famous people who live with Dyslexia

Orlando Bloom - Actor, Dr Maggie Aderin-Pocock - Astronomer,  
Albert Einstein – Scientist, Benjamin Zephaniah - poet, writer and musician

**"...Dyslexic minds have exactly the skills for the workforce of tomorrow!  
We can simplify things. We see the big picture."**

*Richard Branson*

## GALLEY HILL, IN PHOTOS:

