

Airbus Foundation Launches the First Flying Challenge in the UK

- Olympian and astronaut launch programme for Bristol students
- The programme aims to motivate young students to continue towards higher education

Bristol, 14 September 2016 – At the launch of the UK's first Flying Challenge programme, 30 young people from Bristol Metropolitan Academy in Fishponds met Olympian Kriss Akabusi and French Astronaut Claudie Haigneré. The programme sees the 13 and 14 year old students embark on a unique and potentially life-changing opportunity to work with Airbus employees. During the year-long programme they will learn about flight, careers in aviation, develop new skills, and gain practical experience.

The Flying Challenge programme, which is the Airbus Foundation's largest youth mentoring programme, will include 20 weekly sessions at Airbus where they will get "behind the scenes" access to aviation design and test experts and facilities on the Filton site. They will also visit other aviation organisations in the Bristol area including Rolls Royce and Bristol airport and have a flying lesson. By the time they graduate from the Flying Challenge, participants will have undertaken a wide range of aerospace experiences, worked with committed employee mentors, completed a skills portfolio and worked towards a nationally recognised qualification.

This Airbus Foundation programme is being supported by two local charities ABLAZE, who aim to raise young people's aspiration, attainment and skill levels, and fly2help, who use the power of flight to help people change their lives.

Trevor Higgs, UK Head of Engineering at Airbus said: "This cohort of students will be the UK's first to embark on the journey. We at Airbus in Filton are proud to be a part of these students' lives, and look forward to seeing their talents develop over the coming year."

Phillipa Evans, Design and Technology Teacher at Bristol Metropolitan Academy said: "Today has been a really great opportunity to engage and meet with the team from Airbus at the start of this amazing project, our students are really excited and looking forward to this huge challenge. Our students were also inspired to hear from three times Olympic medallist, athlete Kriss Akabusi and Astronaut Claudie Haigneré about their hard work and effort that took them to the top of their professions! A truly inspiring morning for staff and students alike."

Since the start of the Airbus Flying Challenge in 2012 around 1,460 young students across France, Spain and the USA have completed the programme. They have been mentored by 585 Airbus Group employee volunteers.

Photo caption: Students, employees and special guests celebrate the launch of the Airbus Foundation Challenge in the UK

Notes to editors:

The **Airbus Foundation**, chaired by Tom Enders, CEO of Airbus Group, includes Airbus, Airbus Helicopters and Airbus Defence and Space as founding and contributing members. It is the company's vehicle for corporate philanthropy, using the Group's resources, aeronautic and space products, competencies, diverse workforce and culture for driving innovation to address societal issues. In particular, the Foundation supports the global humanitarian community and inspires and prepares young people for the challenges of tomorrow. Since its launch in December 2008, the Airbus Foundation has facilitated more than 47 relief or goodwill flights to numerous destinations around the globe. More information can be found at: www.airbusgroup.com/foundation

Bristol Metropolitan Academy (BMA) is a multicultural academy set in the heart of Fishponds, Bristol with over 50% of its students who have English as an additional language. BMA is part of the Cabot Learning Federation. Rated officially 'Good' by Ofsted their results improve year on year.

The Cabot Learning Federation is the largest non-diocesan academy group in the South West. The CLF currently sponsors 14 academies, eight of which are secondary, six of which are primary and one studio school. In addition the CLF has a discrete Post 16 provision, located across five of our sites in the East Bristol / South Gloucestershire area, and a cross-phase re-engagement centre serving the same area. In September 2015 the range of provision increased with the opening of Digitech Studio School Bristol in Warmley and the conversion of King's Oak Academy, currently 11-19, into the CLF's first 4-19 all through provision.

ABLAZE is a Bristol based charity that aims to raise young people's aspiration, attainment and skill levels for employability and life and inspire today's youngsters to empower tomorrow's workforce. Airbus participates in the ABLAZE 'Reading Buddies and Numbers Partners' programme which sees Airbus volunteers visiting local primary schools to help young people with their reading and maths. There are currently circa 70 volunteers who read regularly in their own time during school term times. Airbus has won the ABLAZE '2014 business of the year' for their work in this area.

fly2help is an aviation charity founded in 2006 by pilot Phill O'Dell (Chief Test Pilot and Head of Flying at Rolls-Royce Aero Engines, who supported the A380 flight-test programme) and built up by a group of passionate aviators who wanted to share the excitement that surrounds flying with people who have not, or think they could not, experience it for themselves. The charity runs Air Smiles days for disadvantaged children and families (two of which are sponsored annually by Airbus) and Aim High scholarship weeks which aim to inspire young people to go into careers in aviation (Matt Crouch, an Aim High 2010 scholar, is now First Officer for Monarch Airlines). Airbus has a trustee as part of the fly2help Board and has supported the charity with project management activities through the Airbus project management graduate scheme.

Contacts:

Daniel Werdung + 49 89 607 34275

Vicky Runcie + 44 11 793 64061