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Combined Cadet Force Joining Notes

INTRODUCTION

Your son/daughter has just joined Shrewsbury School Combined Cadet Force. The purpose of these joining notes is to inform you about the CCF, its aims and administration. The CCF is administered by the Ministry of Defence using volunteer staff from the school. It is not part of the armed forces nor are its members liable for service in the armed services.

FORMS!

As your son/daughter has just started a CCF activity this term I would be grateful if you would return the attached **CCF Consent Certificate** as soon as possible.

Downloadable copies of these are available via this link <https://www.shrewsbury.org.uk/page/combined-cadet-force-ccf>

Completed forms can be posted or scanned and should be returned to Mrs Lisa Beddows on lbeddows@shrewsbury.org.uk.

CAMP DATES 2019

Camps are a vital part of our programme and they are always much enjoyed by the cadets. We operate a number of camps/expeditions throughout the year. **It is very much hoped that all fourth form cadets will attend EITHER EASTER OR SUMMER CAMP (they can of course attend both)!** I would be grateful if you would bear this in mind when booking family holidays this far in advance.

Every Easter the Rovers (school mountaineering club) takes a group of pupils to Talargerwyn, the school Outward Bound Lodge in North Wales, for a week of adventurous training activities and this option is open to CCF cadets.

At the end of the academic year all cadets are encouraged to attend one of our Summer Camps, (the RAF have a separate gliding camp.) These events represent very much the highlight of our year.

The programme for a Summer Camps is a full one and usually comprises such events as:

- Leadership training
- Gliding (RAF only)
- Range shooting
- Overnight military exercise
- Assault course and other competitive events
- Climbing/canoeing and other adventure training activities
- Survival Training/ First aid training

CAMP DATES

Easter Adventure Camp (Snowdonia)	Sat 30 March to Fri 5 April 2019
CCF Summer Camp (loc tbc)	Sat 29 June to Sat 6 July 2019
RM Camp (Lympstone)	3 x alternative weeks: 23-29 June, 30 June-6 July, 7-13 July 2019
RAF Gliding Camp (Salop)	Sun 30 June to Sat 6 July 2019

Costs for camps varies from £100 to £200 – and include all transport, food, accommodation and ancillary costs. We believe this represents good value, and camps are always greatly enjoyed by the pupils.

AIM

The general function of the CCF is “to provide a structured and challenging environment in school so that cadets may develop powers of leadership by means of training to promote self reliance, responsibility, resourcefulness, endurance, perseverance and a sense of service to the community”.

Pupils in the CCF are known as cadets and, whilst they undertake some military training, the emphasis is on teamwork, leadership development and enjoyment rather than military skills.

Shrewsbury School CCF represents all three arms of the Armed Forces. We have naval representation in the form of a Royal Navy Section and a Royal Marines Section, and in addition we have Royal Air Force Section and Army Sections.

Cadets will be given the opportunity to experience new challenges and those who find they may have an interest in a military career are encouraged to pursue enquiries through the service liaison officers who visit the school. I must emphasise the CCF is not a recruiting tool, and recruitment is confined strictly to the schools career office. Times have changed and CCF's are not just about 'square bashing'. Team work, adventure training, experience and fun are key elements of what we do now. Our emphasis is on leadership and skills development in a fun atmosphere.

TRAINING

It is expected that cadets will remain in the CCF for at least three terms. During the first few weeks they will complete a combined recruit training package and a basic training package depending on the Section they join. These include topics such as foot drill, shooting and safety, map reading, self-reliance, campcraft and theory of flight. Later on, training topics are bent slightly towards the arm of the service they represent. For example the Royal Navy focus on afloat activities and leadership, the Royal Marines section undergo watermanship training in the school pool, rope work, climbing and survival. The RAF Section provides self reliance and technical training, theory of flight and the excitement of flying or gliding. The Army Section engage in field craft training, shooting, section and platoon level tactics and so on,

All cadets meet once a week for CCF training afternoons. Additional Field Days (one per term), termly overnight exercises, an Easter Adventurous Training Camp and a Summer Camp during the first week of the summer holidays are other major aspects of the programme. See 'Camp Dates' for details.

PROMOTION

Those cadets who wish to continue beyond their minimum 3 terms are encouraged to develop their skills by attending internal NCO Cadre courses. During these they will be taught to plan and deliver training lessons and are prepared, generally, for non commissioned rank within the CCF. If they are considered suitable they will be promoted to Junior Corporal or Corporal, further promotion being on merit and experience. The Senior NCOs will be those cadets in the Lower and Upper Sixth who are responsible for the general conduct of training. As much training as possible is delivered by senior cadets, the Senior NCOs (Non Commissioned Officers). To enable this they are encouraged to attend internal cadre courses and external courses held at military establishments, for example leadership, adventure training, and other skills such as first aid, fieldcraft & signals.

COSTS

We aim to keep costs as low as possible, indeed many costs are subsidised by the MOD. We charge a one-off Joiner's Fee of £75. For this your son/daughter will receive a pair of CCF boots (also suitable for DofE expeditions), a 'Recruit' sweatshirt and other small items. Cadets will receive a full set of uniform, exercise equipment and other items free of charge and there are no other charges apart from losses and Camp charges.

INSURANCE

Cadets are insured for activities via a collective insurance scheme administered by the Cadet Force Association, based in London. The school also covers personal accident and public liability (though not personal possessions) whilst on school activities including CCF. In addition there is a level of MOD indemnity for authorised cadet activities.

It should be noted that the RAF Section gliding activities take place at a local gliding club and are therefore not MOD sponsored. The club operates under BGA (British Gliding Association) rules and participants are insured under the School's comprehensive insurance cover.

THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

Membership of the CCF counts as the 'Volunteering' Activity for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award at each level. The school has a comprehensive DofE programme and many of cadets gain multiple levels of the Award. If your child is using CCF as their Volunteering Activity for DofE Bronze, which many are, we would expect them to attend one of the camps on offer.

Finally, I hope you find this information to be useful and informative and hope that your child will gain much from their experience in our CCF.

Nick David
Lt Colonel
CCF Contingent Commander
September 2018