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#  Combined Cadet Force

 **Joining Notes**

## **INTRODUCTION**

Your son/daughter has 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 now started CCF activities I would be grateful if you would return the attached ***CCF Consent Certificate***as soon as you are able.

*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

## **AIM of CCF**

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 Marines Section, and in addition we have Royal Air Force 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 careers office. Times have changed and CCF’s are not just about ‘square bashing’. Team work, adventure training, experience and enjoyment 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 the Royal Marines section undergo fieldcract work, 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 (two per year), 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.

## **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 NCO's will be those cadets in the Lower and Upper Sixth whom are responsible for the general conduct of training. As much training as possible is delivered by senior cadets, the Senior NCO's (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.

**CAMPS**

We run two camps each year. Both these weeks are busy, adventurous and fun (and good value) but different in format:

**Easter Adventure Camp** – **Saturday 23rd to Friday 29th March 2024**

An adventure training camp based at the school mountain hut in Snowdonia. A six day mulit activity package involving biking, climbing, gorge walk, go karting and a two day mountain expedition. Cost £150

**Summer Military Camp - Sat 29th June to Friday 5th July 2024**

A camp run by British Army personnel – based at Nesscliff in Shropshire and includes an overnight exercise, shooting, leadership exercises etc. Both these weeks are busy, adventurous and fun. Cost for the Summer Camp is £100

## **COSTS**

We aim to keep costs as low as possible, indeed many costs are subsidised by the MOD. We charge a one-off Joiners Fee of £75. For this your son/daughter will receive a pair of CCF boots ( also suitable for DofE expeditions) a T shirt, rucsac 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.

**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 mulitiple levels of the Award. If your child is using CCF as their Volunteering Activity for DofE Silver or later on at Gold, which many are, we would expect them to attend at least one of the camps on offer or have attained a leadership role (ie Lcpl and above) as well as show initiative and commitment in various ways.

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

October 2023

**CCF FORECAST OF EVENTS**

CCF activity starts Thursday 7th Sept 2023

Pringle Competition (RM) 29th Sept – Sun 1st October

Brigade SAAM 29th Sept – Sun 1st October

**Field Day 1** Thursday 19th October

*All section Nitex Wed pm*

Infantry Battle Camp Friday 27th Oct – Friday 3rd Nov

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Remembrance Sunday Parade Sunday 12th November

RAF RAST Comp (Cosford) Sun 19th November

Contingent Parade/Dinner Saturday 2nd December

NCO experience presentations Thursday 7th December

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##  **CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS**

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**Field Day 2** Thursday 21st March 2024

**EASTER HOLIDAYS**

**Rovers/CCF Easter Camp** Saturday 23rd March to Friday 29th March

North Wales (Talargerwyn)

Brigade Military Skills Comp Friday 19th to Sunday 21st April

RAF Air Sqn Trophy Com date tbc

Long Mynd Navex Saturday 11th to Sunday 12th May

Cambrian Patrol Competition May – exact date tbc

**Last Thursday PM session Thursday 23rd May**

 **SUMMER HOLIDAYS**

CCF Summer Camp Sat 29th June to Friday 5th July

RM Summer Camps TBC