



RIPLEY ST THOMAS

CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY



ripleystthomas.com
Ashton Road Lancaster LA1 4RS



01524 64496
CCF@ripley.lancs.sch.uk

RIPLEY ST THOMAS ACADEMY COMBINED CADET FORCE – ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW UNIT 2018

1. We are introducing a new opportunity to pupils in 2018, with the establishment of a Combined Cadet Force (CCF) unit (*known as a “Contingent”*) in conjunction with the Ministry of Defence. In this 100th Anniversary year of the Royal Air Force, we have decided that our new CCF will initially be an RAF lead. As we grow we may add on additional sections for the Navy, Royal Marines and Army.

2. The predecessors of the CCF have been in schools since the late 1850's, many producing the cadre for men to serve in the Army in late 19th/early 20th Centuries. In 1948 the CCF was launched with the support of all 3 of the armed forces. Whilst CCF units use the ethos of its parent service (RAF), the focus is now on offering young people a broad range of challenging, exciting, adventurous and educational activities. Cadets will receive a “Cadet CV” upon completion of the required activities, this can greatly assist in job interviews once they leave school, able to show commitment, self-discipline, motivation and potential to employers.

3. What We Do. The CCF-RAF has a progressive training syllabus including:
 - a. Drill
 - b. First Aid Skills
 - c. Sports
 - d. Skill at Arms (Safe Weapon Handling) and Shooting
 - e. Fieldcraft Skills
 - f. Air orientated academic subjects (e.g. Principles of Flight, Air Power, Pilot Navigation, etc.)
 - g. Gliding
 - h. Flying

4. When Will We Do It. The contingent will parade just after the school timetable every Tuesday in term time, between 1515 and 1730 hours. Additionally, there will be occasional weekend trips, pre-notified to participate in off-site activities (e.g. Shooting, Fieldcraft, Sports, Adventurous Training & Gliding). There will also be occasional term time day trips to gain Air Experience Flights (based out of Prestwick [Glasgow] Airport), again pre-notified.

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5. Staffing. Whilst the contingent staff are already employed by the school, as they will wear uniform of the armed services, some will be commissioned into the Cadet Forces, others will be Warrant Officers/SNCO and Civilian Instructors. All of whom will receive regular periodic Security Checks and DBS renewals as is required by the MOD rules applying to adults dealing with cadets.
6. Camps. There will be opportunities for some of the cadets to attend camps during the holidays at RAF Bases or Adventurous Training Centres around the UK. Later, they may also get the opportunity to get on overseas camps in Cyprus or Germany.
7. Clothing and Equipment. The cadets will be issued with RAF blue/grey uniform to wear during weekly parades/camps, etc. However, with the many growth spurts of youngsters the MOD will not provide socks/shoes/boots. These will have to be purchased by parents/guardians/friends or with pocket money. The RAF does not issue "green" camouflaged uniforms. Initially, most will be able to use the old style Disruptive Pattern Material (DPM) combat clothing which has been acquired for CCF units. We will eventually hope to bulk purchase the new style Multi Terrain Pattern combat clothing through a mixture of personal contribution and grants we will be applying for.
8. Costs. There will be a monthly subscription of £10, payable by direct debit, to assist with the running of the unit. For weekend camps to RAF units with overnight accommodation provided, cadets will pay a meals contribution (approximately £2 per person for 3 meals a day), for Adventurous Training camps of a week, including equipment hire/specialist instructors and food, the cost will be approximately £90. Later for the overseas camps, the costs will be considerably more but again kept to an absolute minimum. Camps/Courses are opportunities for all cadets, but they are not compulsory. They do help to build self-reliance and confidence within youngsters.
9. More detailed information will be handed out to pupils who wish to join the CCF. If you child is interested in joining, we would ask them to return the "Expression of Interest" form by Monday 21st May 2018 to the DofE Office. They will then receive additional paperwork for them to join the new unit, including parental consent forms. We will also hold an "open evening" for parents who wish to find out more, or potentially help (particularly if they have an ex-military background).



Mr S Cameron
Contingent Commander (Designate)