

RIPLEY ST THOMAS

CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

ripleystthomas.com
Ashton Road Lancaster LA1 4RS



01524 64496
admin@ripley.lancs.sch.uk

April 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian,

COMBINED CADET FORCE – UPDATE AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES

We re-commenced face-to-face cadet parades on 23 March 2021, just before the Easter break, and they will be restarting this term on Tuesday 13 April. However, it will be some time yet before Off-Site visits will be authorised by either school or the MoD. Plenty has gone on over the last 12 months or so and this letter is intended to update you on cadet activities:

Lockdowns

Upon the return to school in September 2020, we managed to restart cadets until Lockdown 2 in November. We did manage a low-key parade in front of school with a few selected cadets on Remembrance Day and participated in a social media video made for the diocese for Remembrance Sunday. We purchased a lot of new equipment to assist with our training in December but sadly Lockdown 3 meant it has not yet been used. We switched to conducting virtual parades 3 evenings a week for the different year groups, using internet connections/Microsoft Teams in November 2020 and this continued until 19 March 2021. We have encouraged the cadets to complete their online training and assessments in the aviation syllabus, in combination with the learning we could provide on the virtual parades.

Change of Command

Our first Contingent Commander resigned during the winter due to a change in personal circumstances not permitting him the time to commit to the cadets. I took over as Contingent Commander in November 2020.

Change of Role for CCF Staff

After the New Year all the CCF staff were heavily involved in providing the Lateral Flow Testing system for the staff, key worker pupils and eventually all school pupils upon their return. Therefore, they have had limited time for cadet planning over the last 3 months.

Staff Qualifications

We have some considerable work to do; all the qualifications staff held to enable them to conduct particular cadet activities have to be renewed/refreshed due to lack of implementation throughout the last year. The MoD requires that we keep currency in such qualifications. Therefore, the staff are now working weekends to complete this as quickly as possible.

Future Activities

Now that we are permitted to parade within the school, we intend trying to do as much practical training as possible, whilst still operating within Covid-Secure systems, consolidating the theory training conducted on the virtual parades.

There are some tentative plans to have summer camps, subject to Covid restrictions being lifted by July according to the current national roadmaps. The camps will be limited this year, as the cadet forces of all types throughout the UK seek to recommence full activities as soon as they are able to and the MoD reopen facilities to the cadet forces.

Believe.....

To prepare cadets to take up the opportunity for summer camp places and other opportunities later in the year, we may need to conduct some weekend training within the school, as we have very limited access to some of the military training equipment required. A lot of activity planning is being undertaken and we will pass on details to the cadets and you in due course.

Subscriptions

You may remember that due to the limited activities we could provide last year we reduced Term 1 subscriptions to £20 instead of the usual £40. Despite the virtual parades that we have done through Lockdown 3, we have decided to cancel subscriptions for Term 2; those who have already paid have now been fully refunded. As we return to activities we have set the Term 3 subscriptions back to the usual £40. Payment is now available through ScoPay.

Finally, all my staff are working hard to recommence full cadet activities as soon as they are permitted to do so and get requalified, etc. What has impressed us all throughout the last 12 months is the attentiveness, enthusiasm, and tenacity of your son/daughter/ward in maintaining interest in the CCF over a particularly difficult period for everyone. As plans firm up over the next month or so, I intend to provide you with further updates. However, if you do have any questions at this stage, please email ccf@ripley.lancs.sch.uk.

Yours faithfully

C R HALE
Pilot Officer
Contingent Commander
Ripley St Thomas CCF