



Dear Parents,

SCWA is establishing a Combined Cadet Force initially comprising a Royal Marines Section. As such it is one of only 21 schools in the whole of the United Kingdom that is able to offer the Royal Marines training experience to school students. Students are eligible to join the CCF from September in Year 10, with the main entry points being the starts of years 10, 11 and 12. To gain any real benefit from the training provided a cadet should aim to remain in membership for a minimum of 3 terms and ideally for 2 years.

SCWA currently has 3 adult volunteers who pride themselves on the delivery of valuable skills which benefit boys and girls in whatever walk of life that they choose to follow. The CCF offers a range of activities, including leadership training and development, self-discipline and drill, first aid, navigation, survival, shooting and adventurous training. Whilst the medium for our training is military skills and the MOD provides most of our uniform, equipment and financial grants, I must emphasise that the CCF is not a recruitment tool for the MOD. However, exposure to military ethos and training techniques will be invaluable to those who are considering a career in the Armed Forces.

As well as attending the weekly activities, cadets are encouraged to go on camps and courses and complete leadership training courses. These courses contribute to the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme at Bronze, Silver and Gold, which all cadets have the opportunity to complete within their home schools.

There is an annual membership fee of £10 per annum, payable each January. This covers items such as badges and insurance, which are not provided through the MOD. However, uniform is provided free of charge from the MOD, with the exception of boots. Cadets are expected to provide their own military style boots (either black or brown).

Cadet training will also focus on safe weapon handling, shooting and tactical training and they will be able to attend field days and range camps throughout the year. They have the opportunity to attend a wide range of other training and courses, including adventure training and leadership courses. Cadets also have the opportunity to attend sailing and sub-aqua courses with the Royal Navy, and to go aboard naval vessels whilst they were at sea.

CCF training will take place from 3.00 pm to 5.00 pm on Thursdays (up to 5.30pm in the summer term when it is lighter), so it should not interfere with schoolwork, homework or membership of other organisations. Cadets and adults will wear uniform all day at school on Thursdays when training is taking place. Cadets may also belong to the CCF in addition to community cadet organisations such as the Army Cadet Force, Royal Air Force Cadets or the Sea Cadet Corps and membership of the CCF should not interfere with this. Whilst it is the adult volunteers that ensure a spectrum of the syllabus is taught, it is ultimately the senior cadets who deliver the training; consequently, those cadets who attain NCO status gain further opportunities for self-development. In addition to the weekly training and the summer camps, there is the opportunity to attend a weekend training camp once a term. These overnight camps are organised to give cadets an opportunity to practice the skills and techniques that have been taught over the previous weeks. Whilst some of the training days do take place in term time, dates are arranged to minimise the impact on their studies.

Although the CCF activities are heavily subsidised by the MOD, there are additional costs that need to be met. Costs that you can expect from CCF activities are around £50 for week-long Summer and Easter camps and around £10 for short courses and exercises. In cases of financial hardship, we can call on funds to subsidise some of the expense. Students of free school meals are exempted from food charges.

If your son or daughter would like to join our CCF please complete the attached form, and return it to the General Office or myself as soon as possible. The size details will allow us to order uniform, so that it is ready to issue as soon as possible next term. We also require permission to hold the most basic records on a secure MOD database known as "Westminster". Please be assured that the minimum amount of information will be held for accountability purposes. The final aspect of the form is to make the CCF volunteers aware of any health issues that may need to be acted upon when the cadets are training away from the school premises.

The staff and I very much enjoy the opportunity to use the CCF to foster qualities of self-reliance, leadership, responsibility and a sense of public service, all whilst having a little bit of fun! If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask me or other members of the CCF team.

JD WILSON
Contingent Commander

LEADERSHIP – CHALLENGE - FUN

V1 Dec 17

The **Combined Cadet Force (CCF)** is a Ministry of Defence sponsored youth organisation in the United Kingdom. Its aim is to "provide a disciplined organisation in a school so that pupils may develop powers of leadership by means of training to promote the qualities of responsibility, self-reliance, resourcefulness, endurance and perseverance".

Cadets wear uniform while engaged in training activities, but are under no obligation to consider the armed forces as a career. Officers in the CCF are drawn from the academy staff.