



## Merchant Taylors' Schools Combined Cadet Force Information for Recruits



Now that you are approaching the end of your second year in the school, the opportunity arises to join the CCF.

You may have been waiting for this for some time – in which case you should read this to find out if it's *really* what you want. You may have already decided that you want nothing to do with it – in which case you should read this to find out what you might be missing. Or you may have no idea what it's all about and want to find out.

Whatever your position, read on...

### **What is the CCF?**

It is a disciplined, uniformed organisation of young people in schools (mostly independent ones). It is run by CCF Officers, most of whom are teachers at the school. The Armed Forces provide the Uniform, most of the money and a lot of practical support. It is NOT a recruiting organisation for the Services – but we do encourage and help those who are interested to join.

### **What is the CCF for?**

The CCF exists to train young people in teamwork, leadership, self-reliance, endurance... and all sorts of other high-minded stuff. As far as you're concerned, it enables you to learn all sorts of useful and enjoyable skills AND end up with all these wonderful qualities at the end of it. It is also designed to give all Cadets background knowledge of the methods and conditions of service in the Royal Navy, the Army and the Royal Air Force

### **What will I be doing?**

On Thursday afternoons you will take part in training at MTBS. There is a defined syllabus for instruction, leading to progressive qualifications. The emphasis is on *doing things*, not, most of the time, sitting in a classroom – you get enough of that before 4 o'clock. You will learn how to wear your uniform smartly, drill (on the Parade Ground), how to handle the cadet rifle safely and various skills specific to your service section.

As well as the training defined in the syllabus there is plenty of scope for adventurous activities. Cadets from this Contingent regularly take part in canoeing, climbing, cycling, dinghy sailing, diving, flying (gliders and powered), hill walking, and yachting. They also learn camp craft, first aid, map-reading and rifle shooting – and take part in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme. As you progress the syllabus there is also the opportunity to gain awards, badges and promotion.

## **How does the CCF work?**

You will be taught by more senior Cadets who have themselves been trained for this by the Officers. Officers or senior cadets will also supervise the instruction to ensure that a satisfactory standard is maintained. In time, you will progress to become an instructor yourself.

Much of this training is carried out on Thursday afternoons (from 4pm to 6pm) but field days, weekends and weeks away on camps and courses are an integral and important part of the training. They are also a lot of fun!

## Royal Navy Section

The RN Section is split into Divisions. Each is run by a Leading Seaman. In your introductory weeks in the Section you can expect to take (and pass!) a simple swimming test, perhaps go sailing, and take part in other activities with the rest of the Cadets.



The training for the rest of your time will be in four "Strands": The Individual (Uniform, drill, leadership); The Royal Navy (how it works, what ships we have, what to do when on board); Training Afloat (in any sort of boat, but mostly sailing dinghies; also some of the theory and practical skills needed for this) and Adventure Training which will include campcraft, navigation on land and First Aid.

In the first two terms you can expect to cover all the material needed to become an Able-Bodied Seaman (AB) and will achieve that qualification in about February. The rest of the first year should see you gain the Naval Proficiency Certificate, including learning to use a simple rifle safely.



In subsequent years you will complete the Advanced Naval Proficiency Certificate and a lot of leadership training, as well as continuing to advance your knowledge of the rest of the syllabus. More and more emphasis is put on your involvement and organisation as you get

older. You can expect to be rated Leading Seaman at the age of 16 or so, and you might make it to Petty Officer in the Sixth Form.

Thursday afternoons start and finish with a formal Parade at which you get a chance to show off your drill. Most Thursdays you will then be carrying out training activities directed at the syllabus objectives mentioned above. Usually this will be outdoors, sometimes on the water, but occasionally we have to revert to the classroom. You will

be taught by Leading Hands and Petty Officers most of the time – and you will be expected to participate enthusiastically!



You can expect to be offered a ship visit from time to time, and if you're lucky, a chance to go to sea in one of HM warships. You will also visit HMS EAGLET, the Royal Naval Reserve base in Liverpool.

You will have the chance to spend a lot of time on the water, in dinghies, yachts and power boats. Nationally recognised qualifications are available, as is tuition by experts. You will be able to sail locally (currently at Southport) and also further afield (most yachting is based in Portsmouth or Plymouth) and also

take part in local and national races against other schools.

The camps & courses run by the CCF (RN) nationally are many and varied: you can spend a week in a Naval base learning First Aid, Naval Warfare or electronics; shooting a rifle; sailing a yacht or dinghy (at any standard from beginner to trainee Instructor); diving, power boating, and many, many more.



These excellent courses are open to all Sections and are universally well-run, worthwhile and fun.

## Army Section

The Army Section at the moment comprises 150 cadets, equally divided male/female, 25 of whom are Senior NCOs who run the Section. They are all under the guidance of 6 Officers and RSM Brett.



The Army section is divided into three groups: the Recruit Section (Year 9), the Apex Section (Year 10) and the Advanced Infantry Section (Year 11). The standards set within the Army Section as a whole are very high and as a consequence we are extremely successful in whatever we do. The numbers speak for themselves and we also have a lot of fun along the way!

### Recruits

You will belong to this Section during Year 9 and will get to grips with all the basic skills:

**Drill** – here you learn to march, as well as how to wear and look after your uniform.



**Skill at Arms** – here you are taught the drills to use a weapon safely and responsibly, then you get the opportunity to fire it on a Range and within Military Exercises.

**Navigation**– the skills to navigate yourself in the daylight and the dark are taught so you can successfully complete Expeditions and Exercises.

**Fieldcraft** – the various military skills to move tactically and complete missions. This is where you ‘cam up’ and get dirty but also have the excitement of a ‘job well done’!

**First Aid** – understanding Incident Management as well as the basics of First Aid.

## Training Days

To reinforce these skills we have various Training Days which are usually at Altcar Training Camp. Here we use the regular army facilities including the Ranges and Obstacle Course. These days are great fun as often most of the Army Section are out.



## Competitions

Once you have the skills then you can represent the Contingent in competitions of all sorts. Shooting, First Aid, Signals, Leadership and various Military Skills are examples.

## Camps

Each summer 60 Cadets of all ages go to a Central Army Camp for a week. This is run by the regulars and this year we are going up to Warcp in North Yorkshire. Here there are activities on a bigger scale plus more variety, such as assault boats, helicopter rides and some Outdoor Pursuits.

## After the Recruit Section?

More military skills are introduced such as Signals plus expedition skills for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme as well as for UK and foreign expeditions. Finally, we concentrate on developing Leadership. You learn how to lead a small section, teach a class and finally how to run the weekly activities for all 150 Cadets!



## Royal Air Force Section

The RAF section is a small, but perfectly formed section which has a good balance of boys and girls. It is run by cadets who have a lot of experience. You will be taught core military skills such as Drill, First-Aid, Map & Compass, Fieldcraft and Weapon Safety. In addition you will acquire specific RAF related knowledge including Aircraft Recognition, Airmanship and the Principles of Flight.



RAF cadets have the opportunity to visit operational RAF bases for week-long camps. In the past we have visited UK bases at St Mawgan in Cornwall, Leuchars in Scotland, Marham in Norfolk, Valley in Anglesey and overseas stations in Germany,

Gibraltar, and Cyprus. Cadets also have the opportunity to attend International Air Exchange camps and a MTS RAF cadet is due to attend Hong Kong during the summer. At camp cadets are able to visit regular servicemen and women as they carry out their daily military tasks including fire section, air traffic control, aircraft maintenance, RAF police, bomb disposal and the RAF Regiment. Cadets have even been able to sit in the cockpit of a Typhoon fighter. At RAF Valley camp last year the top cadet at camp was rewarded with a flight in the passenger seat of a Hawk jet and at Akrotiri Cyprus we are able to get up close and personal with the Red Arrow's aircraft.





RAF cadets have the chance to attend Gliding and Flying scholarships and become qualified to fly an aircraft solo. This all starts by flying with an instructor just down the road at RAF Woodvale in Formby.

Last summer we were fortunate to be granted places in a Voyager aircraft taking part in the flypast over Buckingham Palace as part of the Queen's birthday celebrations.

Other courses and work experience at RAF bases are available including the prestigious and demanding Air Cadet Leadership' course held at RAF College, Cranwell.

Each year we take part in the Air Squadron Trophy competition when we compete against other CCF RAF sections over a range of events - Drill, Shooting, First Aid, Fitness, Aircraft Recognition, RAF Knowledge and a Command Task.

At RAF camps as well as military activities you will get involved in lots of fun, social and recreational events. For example at a recent summer camp in Cornwall activities included ten-pin bowling, karting, a cinema visit, swimming, clay-pigeon shooting, surf boarding, coasteering and sea canoeing as well as a disco and a talent competition. At RAF camps and courses you will meet lots of other cadets from other CCF units from around the country and long lasting friendships will be forged.



## Tri-Service Activities



### Adventurous Training

Every year there are three Tri-Service Adventurous Training expeditions organised, with accommodation in tents or elsewhere. Activities such as hill walking, rock climbing and canoeing are tailored to suit the surroundings. Yacht sailing (coastal, cross-channel and sometimes even trans-oceanic) also falls into this category as do the major expeditions mentioned below.

### Shooting

Cadets are taught the safe procedures for the use of two kinds of rifle during their first year or two in the Contingent. After passing the Weapons Safety Test they may shoot in the indoor 25m range at school (.22 only) and on the outdoor ranges at Altcar and elsewhere. Tuition in target shooting is provided, and skill recognised by the award of badges. The best marksmen are selected to compete in inter-school competitions in which we have a fine record.

### Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme

The School is an Operating Authority for this prestigious and internationally recognised award. All Cadets are introduced to the scheme at the age of 14 and many complete at least the Bronze Award. Every year, an increasing number of cadets reach the high standards necessary for the Gold Award, which is presented at a Royal Palace.

### Camps & Courses

All the Services run courses for Cadets, mostly in the Easter and summer holidays. They are very highly recommended, and very worthwhile; some Cadets participate in several each year.

### What is my commitment?

Turn up punctually at 4:10 pm on Thursdays at the Boys' School. You will finish by 6 o'clock.

For the next academic year, you must attend every Thursday unless you have a good excuse, as CCF is an extension to your school

timetable. Staff need to be informed prior to absence by email or letter.

You are also required to attend a few training days in the first year and will be expected to play a full part in the other activities available. If you decide that it is not for you by October half-term you will be allowed to leave but then you will be expected to complete the year.

## **OK – you’ve persuaded me. How do I join?**

Get your parents to read this and fill in the forms overleaf. You may have to persuade them! Note that you have to sign it too – this is the beginning of your training in responsibility! Return it in an envelope with a cheque for £45 (which is your subscription and insurance until next July) to your Form Tutor, who will pass it on to Lt Col Slemen.

# Application to join the Combined Cadet Force

I should like my son/daughter to join Merchant Taylors' Combined Cadet Force.

I undertake to ensure he/she attends regularly.

I enclose a cheque for £45 payable to MTS CCF

Signed ..... (Parent/Guardian)

I undertake to abide by the rules of the CCF and attend as required

Signed ..... (Applicant)

Pupil's name ..... School Form .....

Date of Birth .....

<b>Service Section requested</b>  Indicate preference by number (1, 2 or 3)	Royal Navy	
	Army	
	Royal Air Force	

To be returned to Lt Col M A Slemen at MTBS, via Form Tutor