

# AirCadet

Autumn 2021

## Royal Outdoors Adventure with Air Cadets

 ROYAL  
AIR FORCE  
AIR CADETS  
the next generation

  
80



# AirCadet Contents



30



34



10



18



Former Cadet Warrant Officer and now Pilot Officer Venessa Njoki has been awarded the Prince Philip Flying Scholarship by The Air League.



52



20

### Air Cadet News

- 4 The dawn of a new normal
- 5 RAFAC welcomes new COS
- 9 Venessa wins flying scholarship
- 14 Air Cadet officer donates life-saving kidney
- 15 Anniversary Challenge
- 18 Epic Day for Archie
- 36 Super cyclist pedals on
- 44 Westminster Award winners
- 46 CVQO launches new BTEC
- 60 Saving Lives

38 Ex-cadet is round-the-world record breaker

- 40 Future talent takes off
- 48 Royal Visit for Air Cadets
- 50 Leading by Example
- 52 Westminster Award 'think global, act local'
- 54 Positive Impact of Cadet Forces
- 56 Cadets celebrate 80th anniversary in style
- 64 Adventure, fun and learning

### Features

- 6 Royal Outdoors Adventure
- 16 Lift Off for UK Space Command
- 20 Welcome to the future
- 34 Arctic Challenge for Emma

### Aviation

- 10 Exclusive new flying scholarship
- 28 50 years of Puma Power
- 30 NAC is back - and how!
- 62 Poseidon flies with the Red Arrows

**Cover Image:** HRH the Duchess of Cambridge, joined RAF Air Cadets for an afternoon of mountain biking and abseiling in the Lake District. See pages 6 & 7.

**Image Above:** Illustration by Brooke Thompson from Stories from the Future, see pages 20-27.

Every care has been taken in the preparation of this magazine, but neither Warners plc nor the RAF Air Cadets can be held responsible for the accuracy of the information herein, or any consequence arising from it. Views expressed by contributors and customers might not reflect the views of the RAF Air Cadets.

**Managing Editor:** Denise E Parker, RAF Cranwell  
**Editor:** Carol McCombe [editoraircadet@hotmail.com](mailto:editoraircadet@hotmail.com)  
**Advertising:** Edwin Rodrigues, Noah's Ark Media **07482571535**  
**Design:** Wayne Protheroe, Air Media Centre  
**Printing:** Warners Midlands plc **01778391000**

Air Media Centre, HQ Air Command \*\*\*\*\_20WP  
UK Ministry of Defence © Crown Copyright 2021



Email your Cadet news, events and high res pics to: [editoraircadet@hotmail.com](mailto:editoraircadet@hotmail.com)

9



# From the Top

## The dawn of a new normal

While it's been a torrid 18 months for every member of the RAF Air Cadets' family, I am heartened to see the green shoots of regeneration with the vast majority of our ATC squadrons and CCF(RAF) sections again parading face-to-face.

When coupled with a small number of residential summer camps, adventurous training, DofE, the return of gliding, a highly successful National Aerospace Camp, a spectacular Air Cadet Muster, and an amazing Royal visit, it really does feel like a new normal is dawning. My gratitude goes to the hard-working staff and volunteers for the part they have played in making this happen, and to our cadets and their families for their continued dedication to, and belief in, our organisation.

However, due to the much improved data that is now visible in Bader, I am aware that we have seen around 18% of air cadets and 8% of volunteers leaving us in the same period, which means that some of our activities and a number of our units are somewhat precarious. To help us rebuild at pace, we have two excellent national recruiting campaigns for CFAV and cadets and we have digitised the CFAV recruitment process, including buying into an online DBS check process, in order to accelerate the on-boarding process. I also hear that record numbers of potential cadets are knocking on our door, which is great news and sends such a positive message about the quality of our offer.



Commandant Air Cadets, Air Commodore Tony Keeling, with cadets at this year's National Aerospace Camp at RAF Syerston (see page 30)

Many of you will have heard that we are to embark on a programme of transformation called RAF Air Cadets Astra, which is designed to take us on a journey of modernisation with our parent Service. Astra gives us a once in a generation opportunity to examine every aspect of how we do our business. Much of the planning work is underway in the HQ, and I will be coming out to all of you in the coming months to share with you our Astra ambition.

A key part of Astra is to make sure that, in keeping with the RAF, we are a progressive and inclusive organisation, which is why you will have seen that we have adopted a gender-neutral appearance policy. I know that some of you may be concerned that we are diverging from the RAF, but please be assured that we do so with the full blessing of the Chief of the Air Staff. Indeed, we are similarly progressive in other aspects of our policy, especially with regards to disability, so this change is entirely congruent with our inclusive philosophy. More importantly, it means we do not deny young people the opportunity to benefit from our offer on something as simple as how they wear their hair. We need to ensure that in the RAF Air Cadets, everybody matters, every day, everywhere.

Image: Philip Jones

## RAFAC welcomes new COS



Images: Crown Copyright ©



**Group Captain Martin Adcock is the new Chief of Staff at Headquarters Air Cadets.**  
A former Chinook pilot, Gp Capt Martin 'Adders' Adcock said: "I am honoured to be appointed as the new Chief of Staff for the RAF Air Cadets. I began my journey in light blue as an air cadet so I have come full circle after many years with the RAF."

"I look forward to meeting the cadets, volunteers and the permanent staff and helping the organisation on its Astra journey."

Adders, who lives in Lincolnshire, is delighted with the appointment because he was a cadet himself and, after retiring from the RAF in 2018, took command of 6 AEF at Benson and more recently 7 AEF at Cranwell.

Inspired by his time in the Air Training Corps with 1188 (Coalville) Squadron, Adders joined the RAF in 1986 and served on 7 Squadron, flying Chinooks, out of RAF Odiham.

In 2002 he deployed to Afghanistan on Operation Enduring Freedom and, later that year, commanded the air element of Task Force 7 during Operation Iraqi Freedom. In 2007 he became the Deputy Commander Joint SF Aviation Wing (JSFAW) and one year later returned to Afghanistan as the Air Advisor to another Task Force.

He has operational and command experience in Northern Ireland, Bosnia, Kosovo, Sierra Leone, Iraq and Afghanistan.

On promotion to Wing Commander in 2009, he assumed

command of the UK's tri-Service Elementary Flying Training School at RAF Cranwell, moving later to Air Command, RAF High Wycombe, where he was responsible for the career management of all wing commander aircrew.

He was promoted to Group Captain in 2015 and assigned to be the Permanent Joint HQ Liaison Officer to United States European Command HQ in Stuttgart. In 2016, he was appointed as an Air Commander, being responsible for all the assigned air and aviation support of UK specialist operations at home and overseas.

Adders is a graduate of Kings College London and the University of Portsmouth. He holds Masters degrees in Defence Studies and in Leadership and Management.

He is an advocate of sustainable change and is one of the team leading the RAF's ASTRA ambition to achieve Net Zero carbon emissions by 2040.

Outside of work, Adders is married with two children. He enjoys polo, skiing and military history.





# Royal Outdoors Adventure With Air Cadets

by Denise E. Parker, Head of Media Communications

HRH The Duchess of Cambridge joined RAF air cadets as they took part in a number of outdoor activities including mountain biking.



The Duchess, who is Honorary Air Commandant of the Royal Air Force Air Cadets, mastered the cycling tracks in the hills near Windermere laughing with the young cadets, before chatting with them and their instructors about the benefits of enjoying activities in the great outdoors.

She also joined cadets as they abseiled down the face of a 10-metre cliff in Cathedral Quarry in Little Langdale.

HRH's visit marked the re-opening of the RAF Air Cadets' Windermere Adventure Training Centre following a £2m refit and also celebrated the organisation's 80th anniversary.

The centre will enable hundreds of cadets to learn from a variety of activities, building their confidence, leadership and helping them achieve their prestigious Duke of Edinburgh Awards.

Andy Reeve, of the RAF Air Cadet Windermere Adventure Training Centre, said: "HRH took to the mountain biking extremely well. It was wonderful for

the cadets and their adult volunteers to have HRH join them to mark the RAF Air Cadet's 80th anniversary and the re-opening of the centre."

Cadet Abby Armstrong, 14, from Ripley St Thomas School CCF Lancaster, said: "I found out this morning we would be meeting her and it was a total shock. I was just like 'wow'."

The Windermere Adventure Training Centre is one of two such centres in the UK for the RAF Air Cadets.

### Fantastic

Also meeting HRH was former cadet and ex-RAF officer Emma Wolstenholme, who is preparing to complete a 3,000-mile solo row across the Atlantic next January - raising money for the RAF Air Cadets in their 80th anniversary year.

Emma said: "It's been fantastic to meet the Duchess and see the enthusiasm and support that she provides to the air cadets. We talked about the boat, my preparation for the event and my aim to set a new world

record and inspire the next generation along the way."

### Honoured

Commandant of the RAF Air Cadets, Air Commodore Tony Keeling said: "We are honoured to have The Duchess of Cambridge with us today.

"As our Honorary Air Commandant she is a great supporter of the work of the Royal Air Force Air Cadets and the plethora of opportunities that we offer young people at the 1,200 Air Training Corps and Combined Cadet Force (RAF) units across the UK and overseas.

"We believe in offering Air Cadets the chance to grow in confidence and unlock their potential, getting outside and doing some adventurous training has really positive benefits for mental health and well-being and can help build teamwork and leadership skills.

"Today's activities are a small part of what we offer but a fantastic example of how we help young people develop and achieve."



## Astra – Building the Next Generation Royal Air Force



Gp Capt Andy Pass MBE



# RAFAC appoints first volunteer Group Captain

By James Miles

Royal Air Force Air Cadets (RAFAC) has appointed its first ever volunteer Group Captain to serve as Senior Volunteer Advisor.

Following an extensive selection process, Gp Capt Andy Pass MBE, a former air cadet, has taken up the role and will report directly to Commandant Air Cadets, Air Commodore Tony Keeling.

His remit is to ensure that the views of volunteers are represented in policy areas and to influence the RAFAC Senior Leadership Team on the change programme to support the RAF Air Cadets Astra programme.

RAFAC relies heavily on the support of its 16,000 volunteers, who take on the majority of the day-to-day running of the organisation and deliver the programme of events that makes the Air Cadets one of the premier youth organisations in the UK. This role will ensure that the voice of the volunteers is heard at senior level in the organisation.

Gp Capt Pass joined the RAFAC in 1988 as a cadet with 2195 (Long Eaton) Squadron - eventually reaching the rank of Cadet Warrant Officer.

He began his adult volunteer career with the organisation in 1996, commanding several squadrons before moving to become a Wing Staff Officer.

He held various roles within South & East Midlands Wing before taking over full responsibility for the Wing in 2017.

Gp Capt Pass said: "I am truly honoured to have been appointed in the new role of RAFAC Senior Volunteer Advisor and I look forward to the opportunity to provide a constructive volunteer voice on the Senior Leadership Team.

### Pivotal

"The volunteer cadre is pivotal to the organisation and it's right that representation is reflected in any evolving changes. The RAFAC Strategic Review provides a real opportunity to reflect on the Cadet offer, how it's delivered and how this contributes to RAF Air Cadets ASTRA".

He added: "I am excited by the challenges ahead for the organisation and the opportunity to influence real change. Equally, I very much look forward to meeting and listening to the cadets and volunteers from across the organisation.

"I have thoroughly enjoyed my time in the RAF Air Cadets - from cadet through to OC Wing. It's an

organisation I care deeply for and, in my new role, I recognise the unique opportunity I have to represent the views of the volunteers on which the organisation depends."

Commandant Air Cadets, Air Commodore Tony Keeling, said: "We are delighted to appoint Group Captain Pass into the role of Senior Volunteer Advisor to the Air Cadets Senior Leadership Team where he will represent our wonderful CFAVs and inform the development of our programme of change.

"Without our volunteers the RAF Air Cadets would be unable to deliver its brilliant offer to young people, so we need to ensure that cadets and volunteers have a senior voice which will contribute to informing key decisions that may affect the whole organisation.

"I believe it is important that we properly consider different perspectives and diversify our thinking when we update policies and develop RAF Air Cadets Astra, that's why we need a Senior Volunteer Advisor. Gp Capt Pass – welcome to the team!"



# Venessa wins flying scholarship

Former Cadet Warrant Officer and now Pilot Officer Venessa Njoki has been awarded the Prince Philip Flying Scholarship by The Air League.

Seven scholarships in total have been awarded – one full PPL and six additional five-hour scholarships – to current or past members of the Air Training Corps to commemorate the seven decades of Patronage the Duke of Edinburgh gave to the Air League.

They are part of a total package of 90 awards - some £120,000 worth of flying, gliding, and engineering scholarships and bursaries awarded this year.

The Prince Philip Flying Scholarship was established in 2002 following a fundraising banquet held at Mansion House to mark 50 years of Patronage for the Duke of Edinburgh.

The Scholarship is awarded to a previous flying scholar who has displayed outstanding potential and allows the individual who is a member of the Air Training Corps and who also holds a Duke of Edinburgh Award to achieve their full private pilot's licence.

This year's recipient is 20-year-old Venessa Njoki, who was born in Kenya and moved to the UK aged seven. She attended 393 (Finchley) Sqn for five years where she completed her Gold, Silver and Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Awards.

In 2016, aged 15, she attended the Air League's Annual Reception and was part of the contingent of cadets to collect the Air League's Founders' Medal from the Duke of Edinburgh, which was awarded to the Royal Air Force Air Cadets, in recognition of its 75 years of service.

In 2020, Venessa aged out as a Cadet Warrant Officer and was subsequently commissioned to continue her adult service as a Pilot Officer, where she is also a Duke of Edinburgh's Award assessor.

She is currently working as a health care assistant and is planning a career within aviation or aerospace.

The five-hour scholarships were awarded to James Jarman, Charlotte



Cropper, Alec Baldwin, Chad Davies, Suraj Chavda and Tabitha Shaw.

The awards were presented at the Air League's annual reception at the Palace of Westminster with Venessa receiving her scholarship from Aviation Minister Robert Courts MP (pictured above).

At the same event, former Commandant Air Cadets, Air Commodore Dawn McCafferty, was awarded the Jeffrey Quill Medal "for an outstanding contribution to the development of air-mindedness in Britain's youth."



# Exclusive New Flying Scholarship

Brave ATA heroine inspires today's would be pilots

Fearless Molly's wartime story has also inspired a film, now in development, and a book which was published just last month.

Having gained her private pilot's licence when she was just 17, Molly joined the Air Transport Auxiliary in September 1942 and spent the next three years ferrying hundreds of aircraft, including 276 Spitfires, from factories to RAF and Royal Navy airfields.

The daughter of David Marshall, founder of renowned Marshall Aviation of Cambridge, she joined the family firm as an apprentice engineer, working in the hangars at Cambridge Airfield maintaining aircraft engines.

It was her brother, Arthur, one of Britain's great aviation pioneers, who first took Molly flying in a Tiger Moth. He went on to set up the Cambridge Flying School and also founded in 1939 the City of Cambridge Air Defence Cadet Corps. Both he and later his son, Sir Michael Marshall, were strong supporters of the RAF Air Cadets and in particular of 104 (City of Cambridge) Squadron – both serving as chairman of the civilian committee there for 36 years each.

Film producer, author and partner in Aetheris Films Paul Olavesen-Stabb is the man behind the feature film based on Molly's time in the ATA and he has also adapted the screenplay into a book 'Attagirls' which was published at the end of last month.

He said: "The more I researched the personalities of Molly and the other characters and the more I wrote, I realised that here was a story which could be



The true story of wartime pilot Molly Rose, one of World War Two's courageous 'Spitfire Women', is the inspiration behind a new flying scholarship encouraging other women to carve out a career for themselves in aviation.



Molly second from left waiting for the next assignment at the all-women ferry pool at Hamble



UK CROWN COPYRIGHT / MOD. Courtesy of Air Historical Branch (Royal Air Force).

inspirational to women and girls across the world.

"I focussed not only on the challenges that the Attagirls faced as pilots daily but also the challenges of being a woman in what was then the male-dominated world of the RAF.

"This is a story about a person who experiences extreme personal tragedy but still 'carries on' in a way that sets an example to us all".

Aetheris Publishing has created the Molly Rose Pilot Scholarship, an initiative to encourage young women to consider a career in aviation and particularly as a pilot. The scholarship awards a full Private

Pilot's Licence (PPL) to an individual who has demonstrated an interest in flying as a career.

The successful winner of the scholarship will obtain her flying training with the Marshall-owned Cambridge Aero Club.

Paul explained: "With the recent publication of Attagirls, I am determined that there should be a legacy. This view was shared by Molly Rose's family business, Marshall of Cambridge.

"We are extremely grateful that Marshall of Cambridge is financially supporting this, the inaugural training scholarship in association with Cambridge Aero Club.

**“ The scholarship is synonymous with Molly's story. She was not afraid to embrace opportunities that during that time were exclusive to men.”**



The launch of film producer and author Paul Olavesen-Stabb's new book Attagirls and also the Molly Rose Pilot Scholarship took place in the Churchill Suite at the RAF Club in London





“They were soldiers fighting in the struggle just as completely as if they had been engaged on the battlefield.”

“We hope to develop the initiative in the coming years to embrace opportunities within the commercial sector with support from additional companies in the world of aviation.

“The scholarship is synonymous with Molly’s story. She was not afraid to embrace opportunities that during that time were exclusive to men. She was an apprentice engineer at her father’s company and thereafter a pilot, and at a time when it was extremely rare for women to take on such roles.”

During her time in the ATA, Molly

delivered 38 different types of aircraft, including the Mosquito, Hurricane, Anson, Mustang, Gladiator and Wellington bombers as well as the iconic Spitfire.

For much of her service she flew from Hamble Airfield, Hampshire – an all-female unit near Southampton and close to the Woolston and Itchen Spitfire factories.

It is estimated that more than 309,000 planes were delivered by the ATA during the war and the courage and determination required by the

pilots – a fifth of whom were women – were considerable.

Molly, who before joining the ATA had only flown 18 hours solo, left the service in 1945 as a First Officer (the equivalent of a Flight Lieutenant) having delivered 486 aircraft of 38 different types – sometimes making three deliveries, of different aircraft types, in a single day.

She had logged 705 hours and 45 minutes flight time, including piloting 276 Spitfires. She never flew as a pilot again. She said: “If you have flown a



Spitfire, there is nothing to compare!”

Molly’s eldest son, Graham Rose, said: “My late mother would be smiling down and thrilled with the setting up of the Molly Rose Pilot Scholarship.

“She enjoyed her visits to, for example, RAF Brize Norton, and she would hope more women would be in the air – both in the military and commercial airlines.”

Go to [aetheris.co.uk](http://aetheris.co.uk) for more details about the Molly Rose Pilot Scholarship.

## Anything to Anywhere



Image: RAF Museum Collection

### The ATA

The Air Transport Auxiliary (ATA), founded at the outbreak of World War II, was a civilian organisation that made an enormous contribution to the war effort by taking over from service pilots the task of ferrying RAF and Royal Naval warplanes between factories, maintenance units and front-line squadrons.

During the war 1,245 men and women from 25 countries ferried over 309,000 aircraft of 147 different types, without radios, with no instrument flying instruction and at the mercy of the British weather!

The motto of the ATA was the Latin *Aetheris Avidi*, meaning “eager for the air” – although it’s said the female flyers preferred their own version of ATA: “Anything to Anywhere”.

Lord Beaverbrook, a World War II Minister of Aircraft Production, paid tribute to the ATA at the ceremony

disbanding the association at White Waltham on 30th November 1945.

He said: “Without the ATA the days and nights of the Battle of Britain would have been conducted under conditions quite different from the actual events. They carried out the delivery of aircraft from the factories to the RAF, thus relieving countless numbers of RAF pilots for duty in the battle.

“Just as the Battle of Britain is the accomplishment and achievement of the RAF, likewise it can be declared that the ATA sustained and supported them in the battle.

“They were soldiers fighting in the struggle just as completely as if they had been engaged on the battlefield.”

*With thanks to the Air Transport Auxiliary Association [www.airtransportaux.org.uk](http://www.airtransportaux.org.uk)*





## Air Cadet officer donates life-saving kidney



Nine-year-old Joshua Dolan's future has been changed forever - thanks to a life-saving donation from Flight Lieutenant Graham Dodds.

Graham, who's the Regional Media Officer for Scotland and Northern Ireland and a Chief Inspector with the Police Service of Northern Ireland, heard about Joshua's appeal in a local paper and discovered he was a suitable match.

Joshua's mother Mary, from Enniskillen, County Fermanagh, said it was a miracle a donor was found.

Little Joshua had only one kidney functioning at just 17% and had to travel to Belfast three times a week for a four-hour dialysis session to keep him alive.

The dialysis left Joshua feeling very tired and prevented him carrying out normal activities such as going to school or taking part in social activities.

### Bleak

His condition was life-threatening as well as life-limiting and a kidney donation was his only chance. Despite family members and friends being tested, no match had been found for Joshua and the outlook for him was bleak.

"He's had a hard time these past months. It's very heartbreaking for a mum to watch," said Mary.

Graham said: "What stood out for me was Joshua's story and, despite very



trying circumstances, his happy smile and determination. When I saw Joshua's appeal I just thought 'that's perfect for me, it's a local lad and if I can help, I will'.

"As an RAFAC Commissioned Officer my whole raison d'être is to help young people and to do all I can to help make my local community a better place.

**“To change someone's life in this way is truly inspiring.”**

"That is something instilled in me to the core as an officer but, as a human being, to me it's a natural thing to want to help someone.

"My relatively small act of giving up an organ that I didn't actually need will have a massive impact for Joshua and his family, when it will have a fairly minor impact on mine," Graham added.

"I underwent four hours of surgery and a couple of months' recovery but I am now back to normal and would recommend live donation to anyone considering it."

The operation to give Joshua his new kidney took place four months ago and both Graham and Joshua are recovering well.

Indeed Joshua's kidney function has improved so much that he is now looking forward to a return to school full

time and joining his team mates at his local Gaelic Football club.

### Selfless

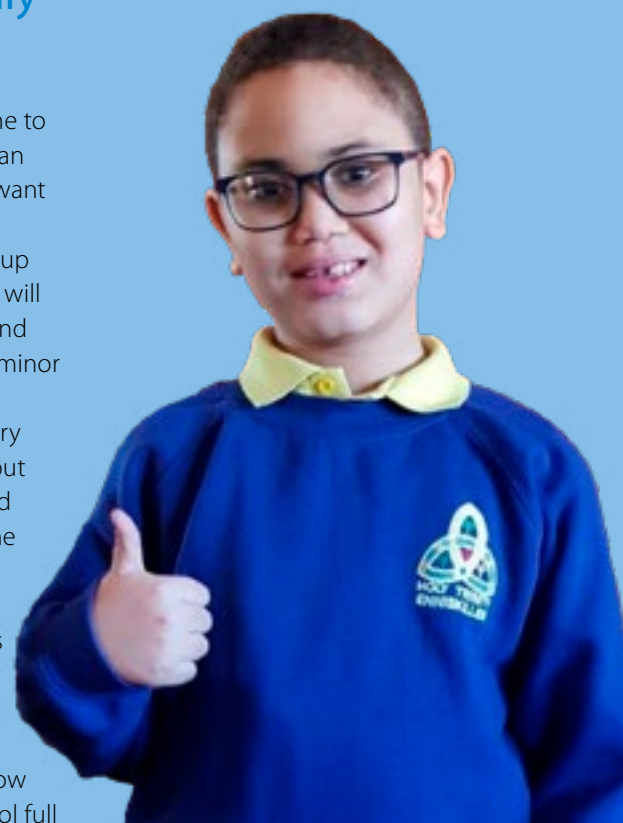
Two months after the life-saving operation, Graham and Joshua were finally able to meet in person. Joshua was treated to a tour of PSNI Enniskillen and was presented with a special award for his bravery.

Since then, Graham's selfless act has been recognised nationally when he was named this year's 999 Hero Award at the Sunday Life Spirit of Northern Ireland Awards.

To aid his recovery, Graham also took on the RAF Air Cadets 80 Miles in 80 Days challenge.

Michelle Jeffcott, Community Fundraiser for the RAF Benevolent Fund, said: "To change someone's life in this way is truly inspiring.

"Not content with donating his kidney, Graham is now using his recovery as an opportunity to help even more people. Graham embodies the very ethos of military service, there for the good of others."



## Anniversary Challenge



Mary-Jane and Joe Golinski

To mark the air cadets' 80th anniversary, RAFAC partnered with the Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund in a long distance challenge to raise funds for both organisations.

The 80 Miles in 80 Days Challenge ran over the summer months with hundreds of cadets and staff rising to the challenge to walk, run, cycle, swim or row 80 miles and raise funds.

Among those taking part were mother and son Mary-Jane and Joe Golinski from Stoke-on-Trent. They decided to cycle the 80 miles for charity with Mary-Jane tackling the miles using a hand bike attachment for her wheelchair alongside 16-year-old Joe, who has been an air cadet since he was 12.

Mum-of-three Mary-Jane has cerebral palsy and has used a wheelchair since 2017 following spinal surgery complications.

Mary-Jane said: "Joe's confidence and resilience has skyrocketed thanks to the cadets. We've been through a stressful time as a family but going to cadets

has really helped him cope with the challenges we've faced.

"Joe's gained so much through the RAF Air Cadets, so we were really keen to give something back and this challenge seemed like the perfect opportunity for us."

### Support

The boss of 119 (Scunthorpe) Sqn, Flying Officer Nigel Price, also took on the challenge, running and cycling the 80 miles.

The charity is a cause close to Nigel's family's heart after they were supported by the RAF Benevolent Fund when his wife, Teri, suffered a major stroke while recovering from cancer.

Nigel said: "With lockdown restrictions easing, I decided that I wanted to regain some of my fitness. The 80 Miles in 80 Days Challenge seemed like a fantastic way of doing that while giving back to the RAF Benevolent Fund for the support they offered my family.



"It's also a great opportunity for me to help future generations of air cadets and inspire those at 119 Sqn to keep fit. I work with some amazing staff and cadets and I would thoroughly recommend becoming an adult volunteer, it is such rewarding work."

### Incredible

Air Vice-Marshal Chris Elliot, Controller of the RAF Benevolent Fund, said: "I would like to congratulate everyone who took part in the challenge - you have been part of an incredible team effort to support two wonderful organisations.

"You should all be rightly proud to



Group Captain Nigel Gorman

have raised almost £60,000 to support the wellbeing of the RAF Family, through our work, and your own General Purposes Fund.

"Throughout my 35-year career in the RAF and as Controller of the Fund, I have seen for myself the dedication they have shown to support charity and make a difference in their communities. The fact that RAF Air Cadets continue to thrive, 80 years on from their foundation is testament to the qualities and experiences they offer their recruits. Long may it continue!"

Central and East Regional Commandant, Group Captain Nigel Gorman, helped oversee the massive fundraising initiative and completed his own 200 mile walk for the challenge, starting in Glasgow and finishing in Inverness via Fort William!

Of the 80 miles in 80 days Challenge, he said: "It was a pretty ambitious undertaking when we launched this initiative at the beginning of this year. Then, the world was an uncertain place. Partnering with the RAF Benevolent Fund to raise money for our causes struck us as a great aiming point - something to focus on in the dark days of winter lockdown.

"The fact that so many rallied around the idea, who then went on their own challenges to raise funds, is amazing. I am proud of our people and very grateful to those at the RAF Benevolent Fund who made it happen."

Turn to page 18 for news of the challenge's top fundraiser.

*Articles and images reproduced by kind permission of the RAF Benevolent Fund.*



# Lift off for UK Space Command

Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Sir Mike Wigston, has officially launched UK Space Command aimed at protecting the country's interests in space.



Images Crown Copyright 2021

The purpose-built centre at RAF High Wycombe will help the UK maintain a "battle-winning advantage" in this increasingly important domain, the government says.

In a special ceremony, the first Space Operator badges were presented to personnel who will work at High Wycombe and the Space Operations Centre at Fylingdales in North Yorkshire.

The Command, to protect UK satellites controlling commercial, economic and Defence activity from disruption, is backed by a government commitment to spend an extra £1.4 billion on space over the next 10 years.

Minister for Defence Procurement Jeremy Quin (right) said: "As our adversaries advance their space capabilities, it is vital we invest in space to ensure we maintain a battle-winning advantage."

"The stand-up of Space Command is an exciting and important step in our commitment to operate in space effectively."

The joint HQ will oversee space

operations, workforce training and growth, and develop and deliver new equipment programmes.

At full operating capability it will command and control all Defence space capabilities, including the UK's Space Operations Centre, RAF Fylingdales, and the new Skynet platform.

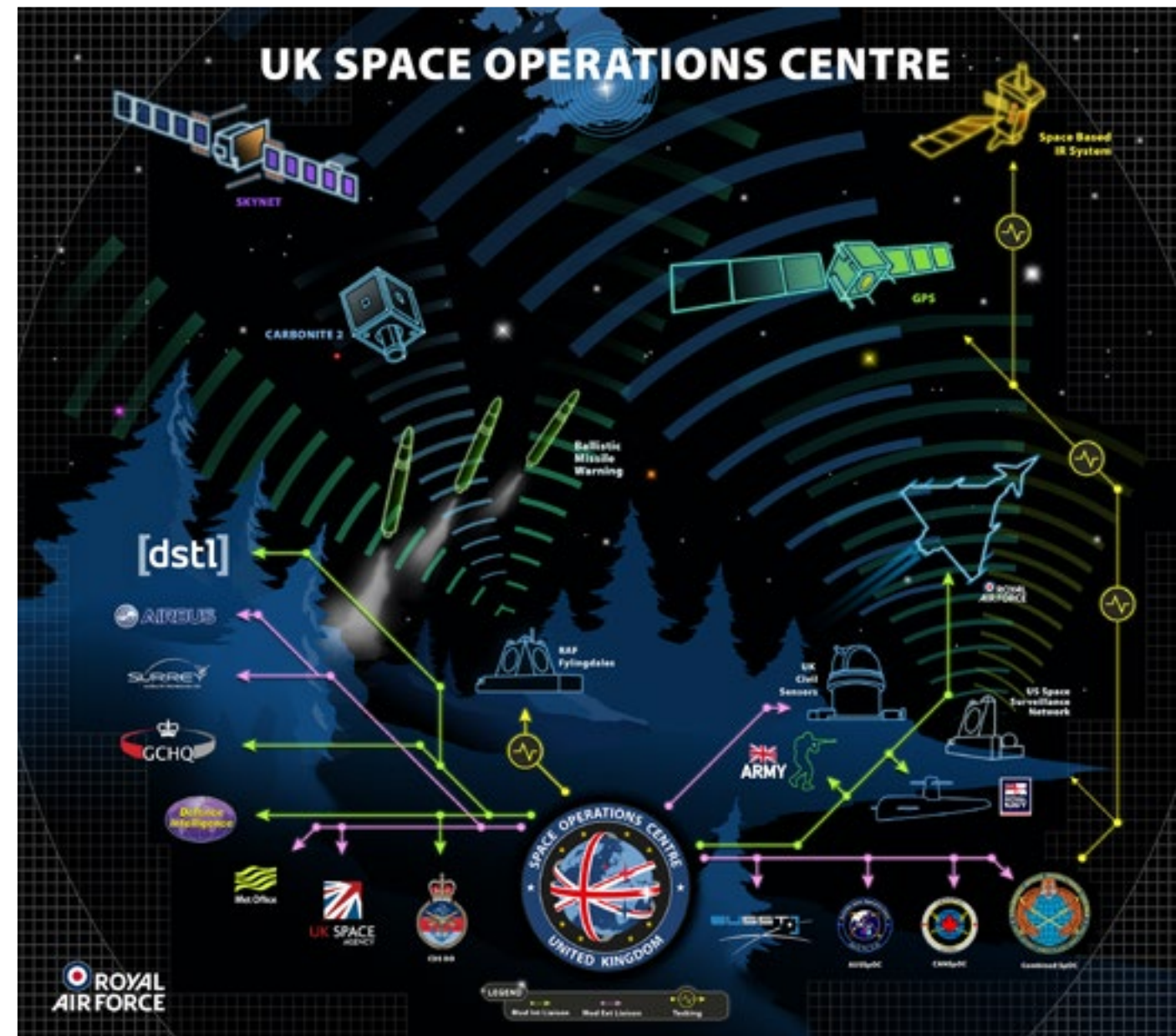


Diagram depicting how Space Command will lead space operations to protect UK and allied interests in space.

Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Sir Mike Wigston, presented the first eight personnel, including six RAF, one Army officer and a US exchange officer, with Space Operator badges.

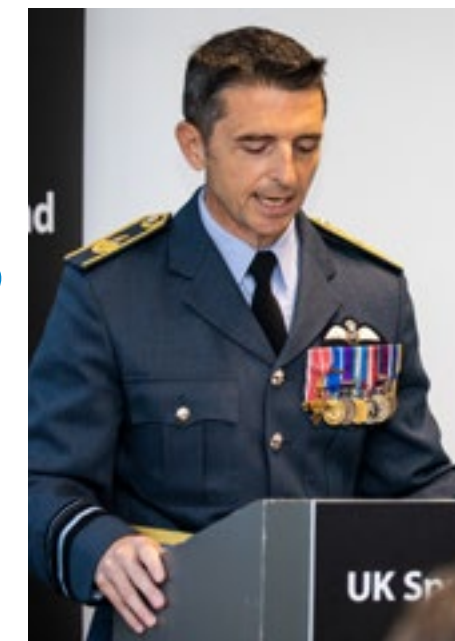
Based on the Airborne Specialist flash, the new insignia features a single silver angled wing and a blue laurel surrounding a delta, an orbit ellipse and a constellation of stars representative of Aries marking the formation of UK Space Command in April this year.

Commander of UK Space Command, Air Vice-Marshal Paul Godfrey, a former air cadet, said: "The space domain is vital, not just in enabling military operations across the world, but in the day to day lives of everyone across the nation."

**“ We are now on the path to lead space operations to protect UK and allied interests in space.”**

"With our new headquarters officially open, Space Command is now on the path to lead space operations to protect UK and allied interests in space."

UK Space Command will work across Defence and on the seven-nation Combined Space Operations initiative with Australia, Canada, France, Germany, New Zealand and the US to ensure a safe, secure and stable space domain.



Air Vice-Marshal Paul Godfrey.





# Epic day for Archie

Pilot Mike Ling leading a formation with Cadet Archie in Blade 1, flying the very Chipmunk in which HRH The Prince of Wales trained and flew his first solo in 1969  
Image: Claire Hartley

Article and images reproduced by kind permission of the Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund.

**Thirteen-year-old RAF air cadet Archie Hadfield has taken to the skies with The Blades aerobatic display team after his fundraising efforts reached amazing heights.**

Archie, from 126 (City of Derby) Squadron, won the flying experience after raising just under £1,200 for the RAF Benevolent Fund and RAF Air Cadets by taking part in the 80 Miles in 80 Days Challenge.

His sky high fundraising total earned him the accolade of top fundraiser and the flight with the Blades at their Northampton home was his reward.

Archie, who completed his flight in the cockpit of an Extra 300 aerobatic plane, with ex-Red Arrows pilot Andy Evans, said: "I really enjoyed the flight and have had such a good day with the team, learning from them and hearing their stories from when they were cadets."

Andy, a former air cadet himself, said: "I had a ball in the cadets, so to be able to fly Archie and help him on his journey was really special."

**Amazing**

"Our charity partners the RAF Benevolent Fund have a close place in my heart – they do amazing things for amazing people. So to know that Archie's fundraising has supported them, and the RAF Family, makes it even more fantastic. Well done Archie and all the very best for the future."

Archie completed his flight in formation with another former Red Arrows pilot and ex- air cadet Mike Ling.



Archie with Blades pilot Andy Evans



That feels better! Archie taking a break after his road marching.

Mike, who started his aviation career with 2427 (Biggin Hill) Sqn, said: "Archie flew his first flight in one of our Extras, and I got to fly in formation with him in the de Havilland Chipmunk."

**Special**

"As a former air cadet myself, it was a real privilege to see the smile on his face as he got airborne for the first time."

"I knew how special it was for me when I was 13 so it was great to see him enjoying it"

Archie did a road march for the 80 Miles in 80 Days Challenge and said his fundraising journey had been "an amazing experience."

He said: "I'm really pleased to be able to raise money for the RAF Benevolent

Fund and want to raise as much awareness as possible for all they do."

"I had the most amazing experience with South & East Midlands Wing road marching team who supported me throughout my 80 Miles in 80 Days Challenge."

"In the beginning I really didn't like road marching, but now I love it and can't wait for the next one to come along!"

Group Captain Baz Dale, Commandant 2FTS, said: "Huge congratulations to Cadet Archie Hadfield for his amazing fundraising efforts on behalf of the RAF Family. Many thanks to the Blades for their very generous prize and I'm sure that Archie will never forget this amazing experience."



# Welcome To the Future...

What might life be like for the future RAF? That was the question posed by the Royal Air Force earlier this year when, together with RAFAC, they launched the Stories from the Future Competition for air cadets.

Cadets were challenged to fast forward their imaginations 20 years and transport the reader firmly into the life of the 2040 air and space power professional.

The Chief of Air Staff's Strategy Team said: "The Stories from the Future concept is about narrative story-telling, people, situations, ethical decisions... let your creative juices flow!"

And that's just what happened – with cadets sharing their visions of the future, catapulting the reader into a range of future worlds and scenarios to help spark challenge, thinking and debate.

A competition spokesman said: "We received so many wonderful entries. Your creativity and the time you invested in the pieces were commendable - we were blown away by your imaginations."

Whittling down the entries was very difficult for the judges but the winner is 14-year-old Cadet Grace Nicol from 1471 (Horwich) Squadron, Cumbria & Lancashire Wing.

The judges were impressed by Cadet Nicol's vision and felt that "the Nova" was a very inspiring story for a 12-18 year old; it captured the intent of focusing on people in the future, the tapestry of the population, and had a unique story line.

The Chief of Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal, Sir Mike Wigston, and Commandant RAF Air Cadets, Air Commodore Tony Keeling were part of the judging process and pass on their congratulations to Grace.

Air Commodore Keeling said: "I agree that this story stands out, it made me feel quite emotional given the clear sense of excitement that comes across."

Head of Media & Communications, Denise Parker, who came up with the Cadet SFTF competition, said: "We're moving into a new era and with the RAF Air Cadets, space is the next frontier. For years the cadets have 'tongue in cheek' been called the space cadets, well now they truly are and what marvellous entries we have had to this competition. It demonstrates their creativity, imagination and forward thinking."

Grace, who's been a cadet for two years, said she couldn't believe it when she heard that she had won.

"I was honestly speechless," she said. "I never expected to win. It means the world that senior ranks such as the Air Commodore and the Chief of the Air Staff read and loved my work."

"Writing is a passion of mine and I have always wanted to become an author, so the fact that people enjoyed and felt emotional whilst reading something I wrote means a lot to me."



"Genuinely, I'm still in shock that I won a national competition and this definitely will not be forgotten for a long time."

Grace says the inspiration for 'Nova' came from the opportunities offered by RAFAC.

"I remember the first year I came to air cadets there was the introduction of a Space Camp in the USA and I knew that when I was 16, I would want to go on that camp. That combined with the idea of travelling to space created the Nova Squadron, which is a projection of my fascination with space and the ideas that many have on how to travel to space."

"I've done the Bronze Space Course with cadets and I also own a few fiction books set in space. These both served as information sources to try and make the story as factually correct as possible."

"I wanted to take the air cadets and travel somewhere completely new and exciting to most people. After that, it was just a matter of creating the characters and putting the ideas into the story, which became Nova."

Grace has won a trip to an RAF station of her choice as her competition prize.

Now, settle back and read her prizewinning story and those from cadets Cassie Griffin and Emily Harrison who came second and third.

## First place: The Nova by Grace Nichol

BBC News Studio, 10th March 2040

"...and now we head live to the International Space Station where our very first space cadets will be landing soon. By doing so, they are breaking multiple world records as the first-ever teenagers to head into space."

This is a tremendous step for Great Britain and humanity as we begin to conquer more of space. This is one of the most environmentally friendly space quests ever taken, as we have matched our carbon footprint by planting trees. On top of this, we continue to add to the global effort to reduce our carbon emissions, hence our use of biofuel. For those of you who have just tuned in, we'll give you a quick overview of who's representing us at the ISS tonight and why they are here. This is a 6-month camp where the chosen cadets have a chance to explore our vast universe and learn more about careers in space and life on the ISS. These cadets have been chosen out of thousands of applicants, for this once in a lifetime opportunity. Each candidate has been hand-picked by the Corps. First, there's Kara Green, representative of Wigan Squadron (723). Kara is an avid civil rights activist and has been chosen due to her contributions to making Britain a place where gender and race equality exists; without her, we may not be where we are today. Onboard the ISS, Kara specialises in astrophysics and will help to better our



International Space Station, 10th March 2040

I grasp Kara's hand as the spacecraft comes to a halt. We're here, finally. After hours of preparing, waiting, worrying and last-minute regret, we made it. Our new home for the next 6-months. Space. Vast, wide, shockingly beautiful. "Cadets may now exit their seats and begin to enter the ISS," the automated voice comes out of the speaker at the front. I release my belt and straighten my suit. It's deep purple, with the embroidered badge of our new squadron, Nova 3, on my heart. One by one, we all exit the craft. The space station is not what I imagined it to be. Only 20 years ago, the station had been a mess of wires and endless floating devices. Now, with our ever-growing technological advancements, wires are organised, there are tables for devices. It looks cleaner, more polished, and perfected. Marcus' voice sounds through my helmet, which I have still not removed. "Wow...it's so..."

"Elegant," I finish, "it's remarkable." The cosmos surrounds us, in shades I could have never envisioned before. Stars and swirling galaxies, prettier than any picture book or illustration. We all disconnect our helmets in sync and place them in one of the wall containers. "Welcome, welcome, cadets! Welcome aboard our wonderful station! I'm Flight Lieutenant Samuel, and I'm here to guide you on your galactic mission." Suddenly, a man comes bounding around the corner. He navigates himself with such precision as if he was an experienced funambulist. Like us, he wears the traditional ISS uniform, the only difference being the Nova logo is absent. Samuel bears a joyous smile, greeting us with open arms. "It is a pleasure to meet you Flight Lieutenant." Marcus's says, clearer than before. "Same to you, Cadet, it is wonderful to talk to you without communication latency." Marcus grins as if those were the words he has been longing to hear for his whole life. I try to guide myself over to Samuel, but instead, I tumble and turn as if I were Bambi on ice. The others chuckle at my terrible attempt to float gracefully without the helping hand of gravity. "Don't worry



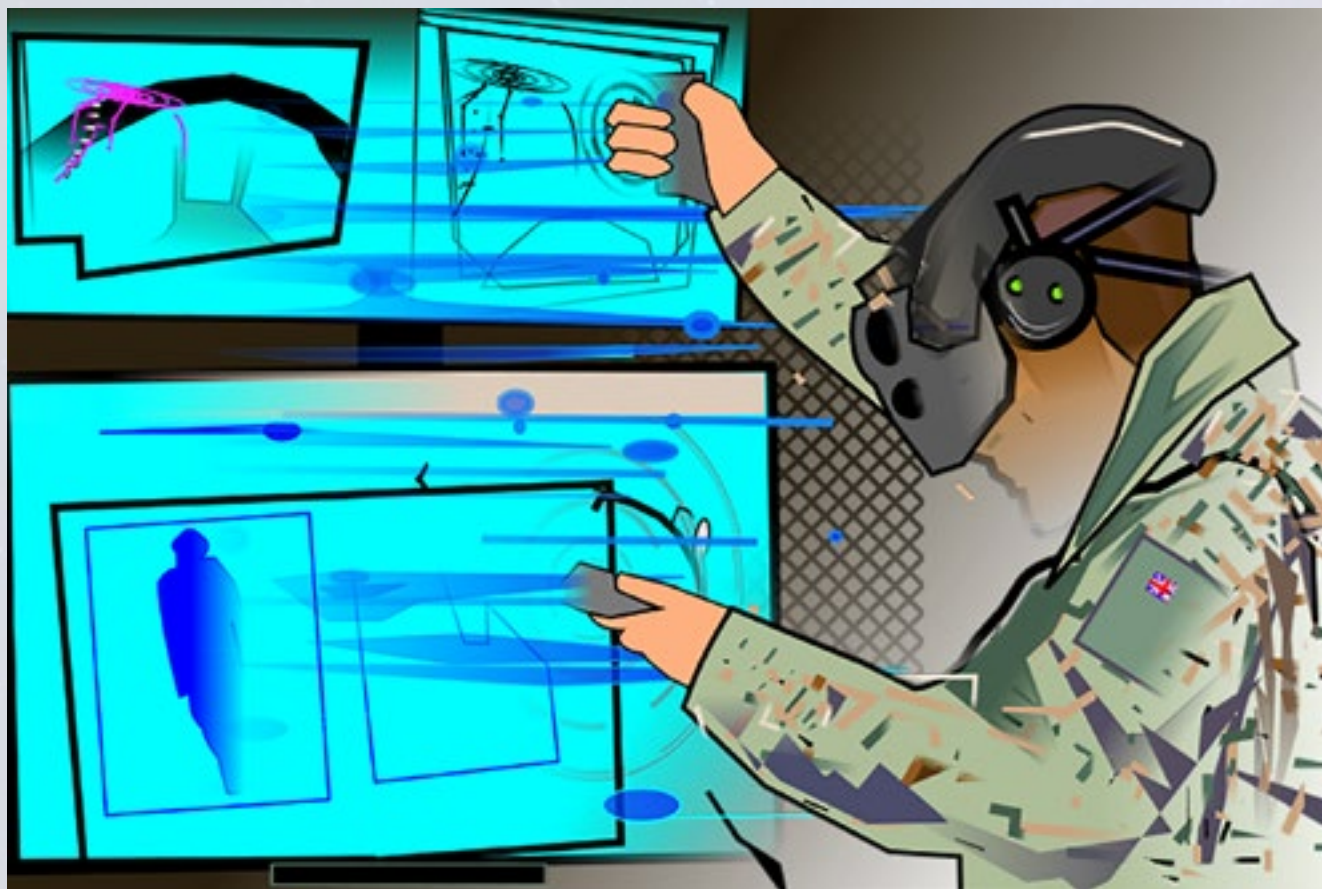
understanding of our universe. The next space cadet joining us is Juliet, representative of the Boston Squadron (141). Juliet has enjoyed studying the stars and planets for most of her childhood and has attended multiple notable space conferences over the past year. Juliet is studying the field of planetology for this quest. Our final space cadet is Marcus, representative of Horwich Squadron (1471). Marcus is fascinated by life on other planets. He will study ways to grow life on other planets. For those interested, this field of research is known as astrobiology. We're just receiving word now that the cadets have landed successfully at the ISS; so we will cut to our live footage of them now."



Juliet, I'm sure you'll get used to the weightlessness." Samuel grins at me, as he gestures us into the quarters, ready to begin our tour.

"And these are your rooms, where I am sure you will make yourself comfortable in due time." Samuel finishes off, showing us the final room in our state-of-the-art facility. Kara clutches my hand in sheer joy as we scale the walls to get to our beds. She gets the first choice, and I settle for the one at the far left. You couldn't call it homey, as you are stuck to the wall, but the mattresses are soft and the room is decorated with storage and pieces of blue-tac for our pictures and art. I want to stay here, savour the moment, take in all the luck, the excitement, the joy. But adrenaline takes hold of me, and I blurt out "Can we see our squadron now?" Kara and Marcus nod in agreement. "Please, let us see Nova 3!" Kara chimes in, grinning enthusiastically at our instructor. He smiles at us. "It would be my pleasure!" We cheer in unison and come tumbling out of the bedroom, laughing and giggling all at once. Soaring through the corridors, we head to the opening that leads to our base. The first squadron ever to be specifically modified for its cadets' specialities. There are sketches of planets plastered over the walls. My super-computer is also sat on my desk, strapped down to a table. Digital images are pasted around the room, of cosmic sights

and planets we have never set foot on. Marcus has a complex analysis kit and Kara possesses a bewildering set of wires, scales, textbooks and other valuable equipment. It takes the form of a traditional air cadet squadron, with a blue theme, an office and a wide-open hall for drill and parade. It feels like home. I step inside, suddenly unaware of the weightlessness and surreal feeling of my hair floating. Tracing my hand along with my equipment, savouring every touch. This is my home. My crewmates do the same, still taken aback by the scale of it all. And to think there will be others joining us! Other space cadets blessed with the opportunity thousands crave. In the centre of the room, the pinnacle of it all stands the greatest telescope I have ever seen. A control panel sits to the left of it, with various controls and measurements so we view different areas of the universe. I press my face to it and click the 'Free View' mode so I can browse with no constraints. It's like virtual reality, yet so real. I see myself dancing amongst the stars gracefully, taking notes on the great planets. Helping my fellow cadets discover their true potential and purpose. I see myself travelling to undiscovered areas, finding new information. Showing the world the magic of space, and what it means to me. Showing the world space in all its beauty, all its wonders. Our greatest phenomena. Because space is like a second home to me, and someday, I want others to dance with the stars alongside me.



## Second place: Cassie Griffin



**The Spitfire they have at the airshow is exactly one hundred years old. It was flown out of the factory one hundred years ago today and why that surprises me so much, I do not know. They have a First World War biplane as well but the Spitfire...well, it's the RAF, isn't it? Daring-do and sharp blue uniforms and that terrifying, confusing feeling you get when you realise you are thousands of feet off the ground.**

Mum knows the guy who is talking to the man dressed up as a World War Two pilot so I get a good look at the plane while she is chatting.

The sky is a crisp blue and the sun blinds us from up above. The perfect day for it, Mum said as the two of us bustled out of the house at seven in the morning so we could get here early.

The drones are the most interesting by far: stealth drones and solar-powered drones and even rescue drones. Mum said they looked as if a robot had got trapped in a parachute and reminded her of trying on her dad's clothes. I don't know where she got that from.

It was in the news recently. On a trial run of the rescue drone, quite by accident it picked up some hikers in trouble and managed to get them help.

We did it in school. Most people were too preoccupied by the new Tempest fighter jet to care much about the drones but, for me, drones are far more interesting. Mum got me a cheap one for my birthday last year. I wired my home-engineering solar cells into it so it can run on solar power. I won the school science prize for that.

There has been big controversy over Tempest. When we saw it today, I couldn't help but be amazed. It is big and beautiful and all fantastic angles. When the RAF went green, everyone complained because how could they be going green if their newest fighter jet was going to consume what is left of the planet's fossil fuel reserve.

Mum said she went to uni with the guy who led the team which oversaw the team which discovered the new eco-fuel

that could be used in place of normal air fuels. She says he's at the airshow and we could go and find him if I want to talk to him. We haven't yet.

I sit down on the grass near the Spitfire and watch the planes as they begin to taxi in for the aerobatics.

Tempest is going to fly unmanned. The drone team will be doing aerobatics for the first time at any air show in the world. The Patroclus will be doing its famous water-dive and flight routine which I don't really see the point of but someone must think it has a purpose. The Pandemonium will be taking off. Mum says in the Avengers movies there's a ship exactly like the Pandemonium but I haven't got round to watching them yet.

### **I am excited. I can't help it.**

Every airshow Mum drags me to, every museum we trek round and I am still excited to squint a hunk of painted metal hurtle through the air hundreds of feet above my head. And the Red Arrows are flying. The new ones. Boeing made twelve jets that function with the new bio-fuel and it is their first run today. As far as I know, they are literally the BAE Red Arrow - that's the aircraft name. Whoever came up with was sensible, but could have had a bit more imagination.



I think more people want to join the RAF now. Mum agrees. It's a lot more research based after the Climate Crisis Act was passed and lots of people jumped on the bandwagon to go and work for the European Space Agency once the RAF teamed up with them. The airshow is half manned by air cadets. Mum says she was an air cadet when she was younger and we even bump into an old cadet friend she hasn't seen in thirty years.

Mum joins me after another ten minutes and we push through the crowd to find the best places to stand for aerobatics.



"You alright?" Mum asks me.  
 "Better than alright," I reply. "It's great!"  
 She smiles. "Good."

We watch the planes for ages. Everything lives up to my expectations, which is rare. Mum and I laugh and shout and scream together as Tempest runs rings around the First World War biplanes, and when Pandemonium takes off, it is like an eclipse. The Red Arrows loop around the massive aircraft carrier, trailing their coloured smoke.

I decide there and then, with all the resolve of my ten-year-old self, that one day I will sit in one of those seats. I will be the one spinning through the air. I want to be the pilot. When the beetle drones swarm the Tempest, everyone gasps. Within seconds not an inch of aircraft is visible, just a black and blue hive like something out of a sci-fi movie. I grab Mum's arm without even thinking. But then we see.

The pilot. He is hanging upside down, suspended by his feet. The beetles are wrapped around his feet. I would be terrified. But he doesn't even wave his arms. The drones, one by one, drop off the Tempest and into a chain that reaches steadily toward the ground. The pilot is lowered through the air towards the runway. Everyone's eyes are fixed on him.

The drones cling to the underside of Tempest, suspending it in the air. When the final beetle slips down into the chain, you could hear a pin drop.

The pilot is ten metres from the ground.  
 Five.  
 Two.

He swings free of the drone-chain and forward-rolls onto the concrete. A massive cheer goes up from the crowd. The pilot springs to his feet and takes in the applause.

That will be me one day.



## Third place: The Maker's Mark by Emily Harrison

Extract from 'The Age of Drones' a compulsory textbook in most modern schools:

*"In skies rife with machinery, man still flies. People may still look up to the roar of an engine overhead, or the twin lights of an aircraft at night, despite their rarity. Humans have longed for flight for centuries, when we watched the birds and jumped from high places with makeshift wings. We launched ourselves into the sky, with all the human ingenuity we as a species were known for, in contraptions of canvas and wood, then in birds of steel. They flew over cities, inspiring fear, awe, as if they were gods, beings from another realm. But they were mortal, just as their pilots were, and the higher they flew, the harder they fell. We got scared, what had seemed such a genius idea had shown its dark side. Fewer pilots returned, no matter how secure we made the planes or how heavy the armament. After all, the other side adapted as well as we did, and their planes were just as good as ours. Slowly but surely, we withdrew from the skies, sending lifeless drones in our place while we watched from the safety of a computer screen. They fought our battles for us in the skies we called our own, and the need for human pilots became obsolete. We scrapped our old planes to make way for the new drones, as the other side knocked them out of the sky as fast as we could produce them. But what is a war when there are no casualties, when each side logs off at the end of a day to go home to their dinner, no better or worse off than before? We could fight with our drones until the sky rained burning metal, and what would we achieve? People are so much more reckless when no lives are on the line. So reluctantly, peace was formed."*

The dream started as it always did, just another backstreet among thousands, street vendors yelling their wares, pedestrians bustling from stall to stall. Arjay waited with anticipation as time seemed to slow, people moving as if through treacle. And then it appeared, gleaming in the



neon lights of the street, trailing strings of lanterns. It was like a strange metal bird with almost fluid lines, and a glass bubble halfway through it, too big for a drone and too elegant for a hovercar. Arjay had once thought perhaps that bubble was for a person, but had quickly dismissed the thought that such an ethereal contraption could be controlled by man. It flew slowly down the street as the crowds carried out their business at snail speeds, unaware of the living machine in their midst. He wanted to shout out, break the eerie silence somehow, but he never could. All he could do was watch as his metal bird flew agonisingly slowly past him, almost close enough to touch. He always wondered whether he would feel the chill of machinery, the thrum of an engine, or the beat of a living heart.

As it came past, he could once again see the tiny metal plate on its flank, and try and read the words he somehow knew were there. But he always woke up before he could. Today was no different, and he woke reluctantly, trying desperately to keep the quickly fading glimmer of memory in his mind. He'd come closer today, he was sure of it, enough to almost read the metal plate. Something 'fire' he was sure of it. Split fire? No, not quite right, it didn't fit with that majestic bird he'd admired. Something like that would have a beautiful but fierce name, he was sure.

Arjay went through his morning routine in a daze, barely registering the news programme as it broadcast itself above his kitchen table, or the day's schedule on his sleeve. It was malfunctioning again, the diodes in the fabric flickering erratically between today's schedule and last Tuesday's. The dream stayed in the back of his mind throughout the day as the class studied chapter 36 of 'The Age of Drones' for





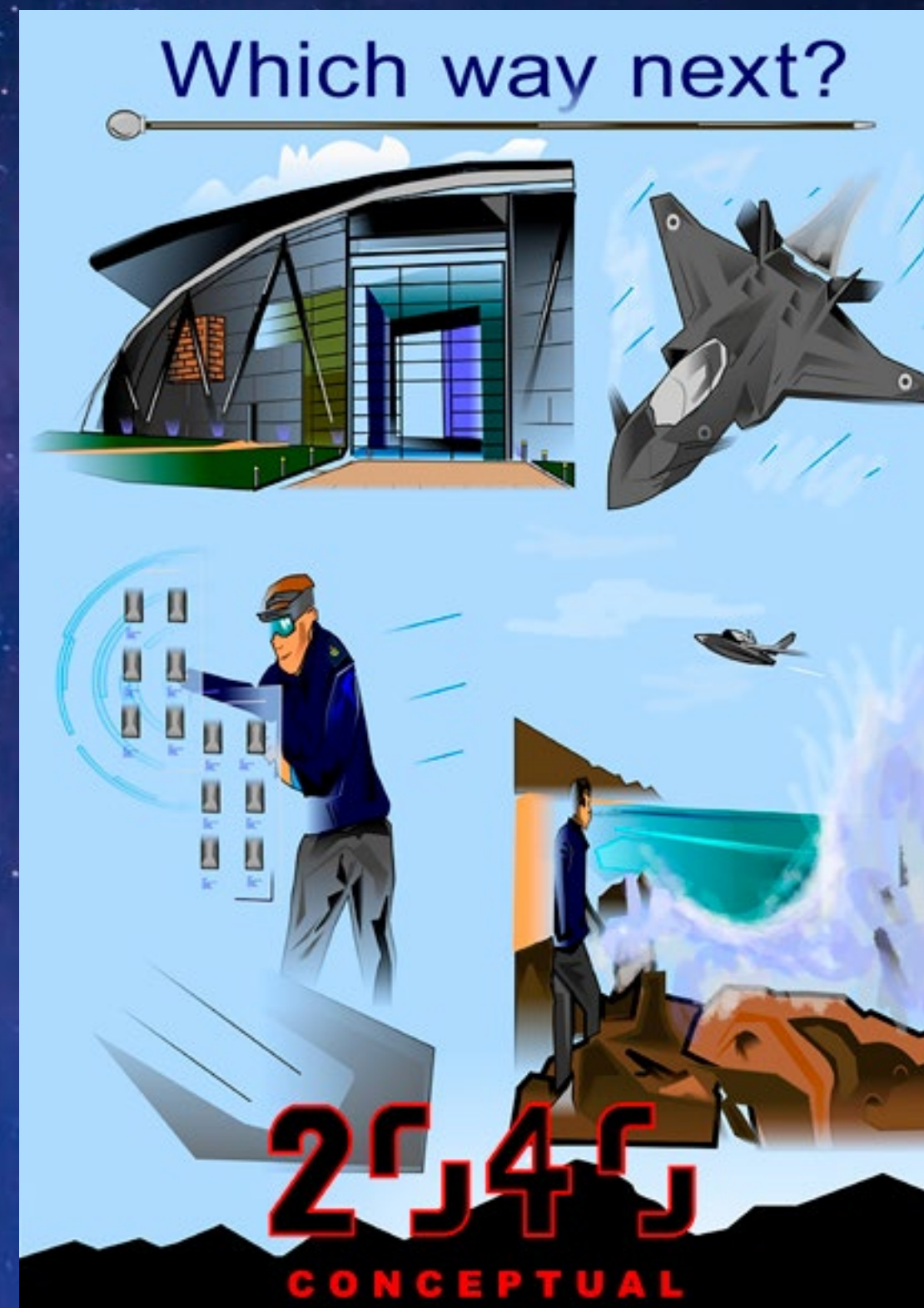
what seemed like the millionth time. At least today they got to use the Alt-Reality goggles as there was no teacher again, but his had a fault which gave him a splitting headache afterwards. He'd wanted to try and learn more about the planes the book mentioned, but no one had seemed to know or care about them.

After school, he went straight to cadets, not bothering to drop his bag off at home first. There was no worry about uniform, the only requirement was that you came in some kind of uniform, school, clubs, etc. They'd had a guest for the last few weeks, a drone instructor who came to teach them the rules and regulations around drone flying, commercial or otherwise. Most of his squadron wanted to be drone pilots, the majority hoping to work for one of the big shipping corporations or in a personal security company. Today they'd learnt the rules around flying in and around terrain he'd never heard of before, called 'forests'. The instructor had reassured the squadron that they'd never need it, she was only teaching it because it was still in the exam. Apparently, they were areas of land covered with another thing he'd never heard of before, 'trees'. The instructor said they'd been a nuisance, as drones got caught in their branches and it was hard to fly between them. At least they'd all gone now, she'd laughed. The lesson had taken up most of their session and they'd had to rush evening parade before everyone left.

Arjay traipsed along the darkened street, carrying his bag for once. Normally he'd let it hover along behind him, but this was an alley he'd never been along before. He'd had to go a different way because another part of the floating motorway had gone out of action, crashing down on the street he'd normally walk home on and blocking it entirely. There'd already been several construction crews there by the time he'd left, it'd be up and running by tomorrow afternoon at the latest. He was startled out of his thoughts as his foot hit something small and metallic, sending it skittering off over the concrete. It was too small to be an old can, so Arjay flicked the button that turned on the torch in his watch, trying to see where it had gone. He wandered over to what looked like an abandoned shipping container, probably dropped when the drone carrying it ran out of charge. Sure enough, he had to pick his way between shards of shattered rotor blades to get to where he thought the thing had gone. There was the flash of torchlight glancing off metal, it had fallen under the door of the container.



Bending down, Arjay tried to fit his hand under the door, then jumped back when it came free, falling down with a hollow crash. The hinges must've rusted through. Nudging the door away with his foot, he stooped to pick up the object, briefly shining the light into the container as he did so. Instantly, the object was forgotten. He dropped his bag, staring at the contents inside. Those almost fluid lines, now distorted by bullet holes, a glass bubble he now knew was called a cockpit, streaked with ash and mud. It was his metal bird, the machine from his dream. He looked down at the object still in his hand. It was almost corroded away, but some of it was still recognisable as the maker's mark. "Manufactured by Supermarine, Mk 24 Spitfire." Spitfire. The name was perfect. The machine itself looked as though it'd been flown through hell, but Arjay could already imagine how it was going to look, how it should look.



Illustrations by Brooke Thompson



## 50 Years Of Puma Power

Images: Crown Copyright



Proud Puma aircrew celebrated the helicopter's 50th birthday with a national flypast.

Nine Puma helicopters left RAF Benson as part of a training sortie that incorporated flypasts of notable locations for the Puma Force over the past 50 years, including RAF College Cranwell, home of the RAFAC organisation.

The Puma, a medium-lift support helicopter, first came into service in 1971 and has flown on combat and humanitarian operations around the world over the last five decades, including Northern Ireland, Bosnia, Kosovo, Iraq, Afghanistan, Mozambique and the Caribbean.

The helicopters have also supported UK resilience such as providing a helicopter lift capability to flood relief efforts and more recently the COVID-19 response. Based at Kinloss Barracks, the Pumas deployed at short notice in the early stages of the pandemic to provide vital transport for personnel and equipment in Scotland and Northern England, as well as being on standby 24/7 to support any task required in the UK.

Group Captain Nick Paton (pictured), the Puma Force Commander and Station Commander at RAF Benson, said: "Since the Puma first came into service, it has successfully contributed to operations and humanitarian missions around the globe.



"Today is a poignant day for all who have served and continue to serve on the Puma Force as we mark 50 years of outstanding service. The commitment and professionalism of the whole team, whether aircrew, engineers, or support staff, has been exceptional. They deserve to be proud of everything they have achieved together over the past five decades."

The formation was led by XW224, the aircraft that has recently been unveiled with a special Puma 50th paint scheme. The scheme was designed to pay homage to the aircraft's history, with the colours replicating those used on the Puma HC Mk 1 and the badges of all Squadrons who have flown the Puma HC Mk 1 and Mk 2 emblazoned on the engine housing.



## Support the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal today

For over 100 years people have supported the Poppy Appeal, helping us provide better futures for those who serve. Whether you're a proud Poppy Appeal collector or running 100 miles in fancy dress – however you choose to get involved, we couldn't do it without you. Because every poppy counts.

Find out what you can do today to support the Poppy Appeal  
[rbl.org.uk/poppyappeal](http://rbl.org.uk/poppyappeal)



Registered charity number: 219279







# NAC is back – and how!

Words by Civilian Instructor Connor J. O'Hara. Images by Philip Jones.

After a turbulent 18 months, which has seen RAF Air Cadet activities heavily disrupted, it was great to see lots of happy cadets enjoying the amazing opportunities at this summer's National Aerospace Camp.

And what a welcome back to training with a stunning flying display, headlined by the world famous RAF Aerobatic Team, the Red Arrows, that will live long in the memories of the 250 cadets and staff there.

On the ground Commandant RAFAC, Air Commodore Tony Keeling, and Officer Commanding No. 2 Flying Training

School, Group Captain Baz Dale, joined the cadets at RAF Syerston for a packed day of gliding, synthetic training and STEM activities.

Joining the Red Arrows in the skies above the home of Air Cadet gliding was the Chinook display team, the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight, a Typhoon, an Apache from the Army Air Corps and the RAF Falcons parachute display team.

The exciting display was organised by No. 2 Flying Training School, which has hosted the NAC since its inception in 2016. It marked a high point in the return of the week-long camp, which

was being held for the first time since the coronavirus pandemic.

### Wonderful

It was also Air Commodore Keeling's first chance to visit NAC, and he said the return of face to face training "had been wonderful."

"We are finally back in the fresh air together doing face-to-face activities which has been absent for the last two years.

"There's been some inspiring stuff going on, and it's not every day you get the Red Arrows displaying just for you.



"It certainly beats another zoom call. It's fantastic, and I've got an enormous amount of admiration for these young people who have had to go through more than one academic year from home."

Cadets too were just as excited about getting back to training, with many of them getting the chance to try activities for the very first time.

Cadet Corporal Reila Sharku from Merchant Taylors Crosby CCF (RAF) was among those enjoying the camp.

"We've had access to so many things that we wouldn't be able to elsewhere," she said.

"We wouldn't be able to watch a private air show just for us.

"We've had everything from air traffic control, logistics...doing lots of activities with cadets from all over the UK."

### Expert

Throughout the camp cadets have enjoyed expert training on offer at the camp, including virtual reality synthetic training, robotics, drones and STEM workshops. Gliding has also been a key focus of the week-long event, with more than 100 cadets able to get airborne with many earning blue and bronze badges.

Among those to go gliding for the first time this week was Cadet James Earl-Clarke from 1094 (Ely) Squadron.

"It just feels like you're running, then all of sudden you're in the air, then suddenly you're looking at the horizon line," he said.

Anybody thinking about coming to the camp should "take any opportunity they can."

Meanwhile those training with the synthetic aerospace module (SAM) team were able to complete the new synthetic blue wings syllabus, whilst also getting their hands on state of the art virtual reality headsets.

"Over the last 18 months, of course, we haven't actually been doing much flying," Wing Commander Marland Greene said.

Wg Cdr Greene is one of the leaders of a major project to improve the way the RAF Air Cadets uses synthetic training technology.

"We've been trying do some training online for all of our young people throughout the UK. But now we're trying to give them a ground training package explaining how aeroplanes fly, we're then trying to give them a synthetic package of what it's like to be inside an aircraft.

"Hopefully, giving them the experience to go on to the airfield here at Syerston and flying for the first time in a glider. Not many youngsters can do that in 24 hours!"





We know flying in the future will look very different from the past, so one of the activities undertaken by cadets at NAC is the building and piloting of drones.

After building their own drone, cadets then put it to the test on an obstacle course to test how high and stable their drone can fly.

### Invaluable

Cadets come away from this course with a Crest Award in drones, as well as a CAA Flyer ID which they can utilise for their own flying in the future.

Robotics saw cadets taking on the challenge of building a 'hazard detecting robot' – able to spot and

avoid obstacles, as they learn more about the principles of artificial intelligence.

Industry partners also returned to this year's camp, providing invaluable support, with cadets able to enjoy workshops from Raytheon Technologies, chat to engineers from Martin Baker and visit the engineering set up at Syerston run by Serco.

Cadets took part in the Raytheon wing challenge this year, building their own aircraft wing capable of supporting weights when tested, and built within a set of customer requirements and budget.

Flight Lieutenant Richard Hulm was behind the training plan, delivering 11 separate activities for the 268 cadets that joined the camp through the week.

"We wanted to inspire the best and the brightest from our organisation, offering opportunities that they can't get anywhere else," he said.

"Whether that's completing their aviation training packages, earning their gliding wings or learning about emerging technologies from industry experts, we aimed for a training programme that would be at the very cutting edge – and that's exactly what the team delivered."

### Challenging

Covid protocols were a key part in making the camp safe for cadets and staff.

"It's been a real challenge bringing the camp online this year," Camp

Commandant Wing Commander Mark Brayford said.

"With changing coronavirus rules, we were only able to fully commit to the camp in July.

"Our usual year-long planning process was drastically condensed as a result, posing huge difficulties with so many elements to bring together."

The risks around coronavirus meant it wasn't feasible for cadets to stay overnight, so places were limited to cadets who lived close enough to travel in every day.

There were also strict rules in place on mask wearing, hand washing and isolation.

But the restrictions did not interfere with high quality training, or the chance for cadets to enjoy being back on camp.

"It has been a mammoth effort by our volunteer team, supported by permanent staff, but we made it here to deliver another flagship opportunity for our cadets," Wg Cdr Brayford said.

NAC also extends a warm welcome to cadets from CCF units, with more than 50 attending this year.

Squadron Leader Lisa Diccox, the CCF co-ordinator for the camp, said that parents and schools have been going "above and beyond, travelling from all over the UK" to make sure cadets can attend.

"Every single TEST area has cadets representing them," she explained.

"Schools have been booking their cadets and staff into hotels, parents have been sourcing their own rooms or staying with family to make sure our young people can attend."

### Key

CCF staff are now also a key part of the running of the camp; there were only two at the 2018 RAF100 camp, but that number is now 14.

The camp has also benefited from the support of the TEST NCOs who've been running the brand new virtual reality equipment as part of the SAM module.

"It's an opportunity unlike any other for our RAF sections," Sqn Ldr Diccox said.

"They can experience the very best that this organisation has to offer, and after the difficult 18 months we've all had in schools, this is so well deserved for our young people."

### Looking ahead

The work on planning the 2022 camp has already begun.

"We'll return next year with a programme that is bigger and better than ever before," Wg Cdr Brayford said.

"The camp is constantly evolving to keep pace with the very latest in technology and the opportunities we can offer, and we want to keep up that commitment to innovation next year.

"This year has proved that we can run an excellent camp even in the most difficult of circumstances," he explained.

"That is down to the hard work of our volunteers, the support of permanent staff and industry partners and the enthusiasm of our cadets.

"That is what makes the National Aerospace Camp so special, and that is what will ensure our continued success next year and beyond."



# Arctic Challenge For Emma

One former female cadet. One boat. 3,000 miles of unpredictable ocean. Raising £80,000 for the RAF Air Cadets.



Former 353 (Burnley) Squadron cadet Emma Wolstenholme will be battling the weather, waves and currents to cross the vast expanses of the ill-tempered Atlantic Ocean in a tiny boat – propelled by her own muscle power and sheer determination – to raise money for the RAF Air Cadets.

With no outside assistance, Emma knows this epic solo row, across miles of unforgiving ocean, will be one of the toughest challenges she has ever

faced when she leaves the Canary Islands next February bound for the Caribbean.

Training for this extreme feat has been intense and has just included an all-women expedition, sailing from Iceland to Greenland.

Emma was invited to take part in Team Umiaq - an Inuit word describing a boat used solely by women – and jumped at the chance.

"It was a last minute opportunity," she said. "but the expedition has already made me realise the importance and usefulness of the skills I learned in the Royal Air Force, especially teamwork and resilience."

During the expedition, passing through fjords only now navigable due to the melting of the Arctic sea ice, the team carried out research into microplastic pollution and ice melt in the Arctic region, piloted new adventure

equipment materials created from captured CO2 and tested an on-board renewable energy desalination and navigation system.

Sailing through a sea that was covered in ice this time last year and the resultant impact on wildlife habitats shocked Emma. She said: "Scientists think that by 2050, there will be more plastic in the sea than fish."

However, the experience – "dodging icebergs at night in thick fog and avoiding calving glaciers" – has been invaluable: "I have already learned so much that will help on my crossing", she said. "Ocean rowing is one of the most extreme, mentally and physically challenging challenges – rowing some 20,000 strokes a day places huge demands on a body.

"Training for an adventure of this kind is not just about the physical preparation," said Emma, "it is about knowing your equipment, gaining the knowledge and required qualifications (such as VHF radio, survival and navigation) and preparing your mindset by visualising difficult situations over and over again – such as capsizing!

"It is also a logistical minefield, making sure the customs are informed beforehand and that the trailer is in the right place for the return shipping back to the UK from Barbados.

"The communications contract is also important and I have recently bought a YB Tracker which I used as part of the Team Umiaq climate change expedition."

Fuel for this epic journey is also at the forefront of Emma's planning. She will need to consume 5,000 calories a day but

**"I want to spread the word about what Air Cadets can offer and if I can inspire others to follow in my footsteps along the way, then even better!"**

– as she has to carry it all with her – must ensure not only that she has enough onboard but also work out the weight versus calories and nutritional value.

She explained: "I can't take normal food as it is too heavy and will go off. So, I have planned on three meals a day that have the right amount of calories each, and are freeze-dried so weigh very little.

"However, variety is best when doing endurance events and on previous expeditions such as climbing Aconcagua (6,961m), I found chorizo and hot chocolate were two things that went down really well, so I will be sure to take some of that! I will also be taking pouches of nut butters as they are high in their calories-to-weight ratio."

More mundane preparations have included getting Emma's boat, Happy Socks, painted underneath with anti-foul to stop any barnacles or other sealife attaching itself to the hull on the crossing.

In the next few months, Emma hopes to visit as many squadrons as possible with Happy Socks, chatting to cadets and staff about her epic row.

She hopes to raise £80,000 for the

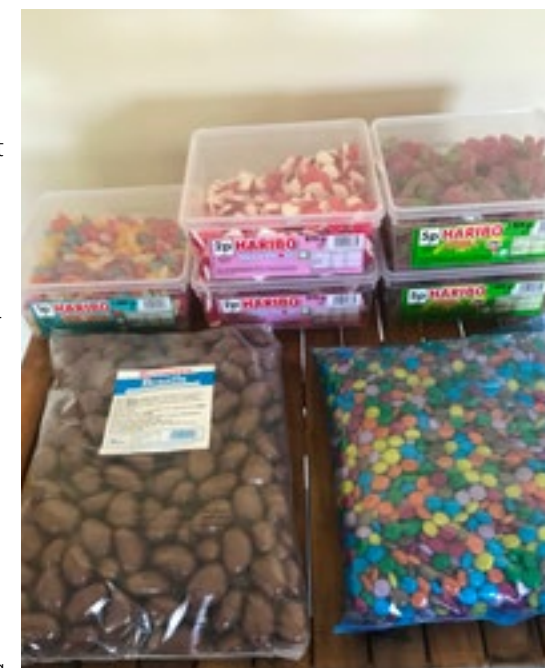
RAF Air Cadets – to give back something to the organisation that first inspired her and helped shape her life.

"I grew up in Burnley – one of the poorer areas of Lancashire," she said, "and if it hadn't been for the adventurous training, self-discipline, teamwork and leadership development the Air Cadets gave me, I wouldn't have joined the

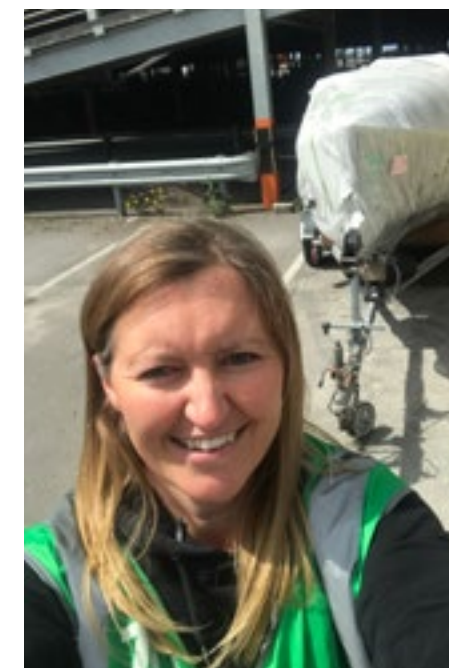
Royal Air Force and I wouldn't have had such amazing adventures along the way.

"The self-confidence and competitive spirit that was instilled in me saw me go on to become a Squadron Leader Training Officer, compete for Great Britain in the Europa Cup at Skeleton Bobsleigh and complete tours of Afghanistan and the Middle East.

"I want to spread the word about what Air Cadets can offer and if I can inspire others to follow in my footsteps along the way, then even better!"



Emma's snack stash to help get her calories up to 5000 per day



Picking up Happy Socks from Southampton Docks

"I just need to add water, wait ten minutes and it's ready to be eaten. For snacks in-between meals, I have Huel, (my favourite flavour being the coffee and caramel which I will have for my breakfast, closely followed by the strawberries and cream flavour which I will probably have for pudding), Haribo, nuts, chocolate and dried fruit.

"If you have never heard of Huel, it's a powder to which you add water, mix it in a shaker and drink... it is 100% nutritionally complete, meaning that I could live off it, if I wanted to.





## Super cyclist pedals on...

Super cyclist Mike Ainsworth from Headquarters Air Cadets has embarked on the final leg of a mammoth cycling challenge for the RAF Benevolent Fund.

Wing Commander Ainsworth, Acting Chief of Staff at HQ RAF Air Cadets, is taking on an epic 5,600-mile Dambusters Rides 2021 challenge for the RAF charity.

Over the course of the year, Mike Ainsworth has tackled a number of mind-boggling endurance rides and regular training rides in tribute to the Dambusters and to honour Britain's last surviving airman from that raid, Johnny Johnson.

Not only has Mike racked up the miles, but he has also raised more than £1,000 for the Fund.

### Tribute

He said: "Throughout my RAF career, I've known the RAF Benevolent Fund would be there for me if times got tough. I've seen first-hand the incredible support they give not only to serving personnel but also to RAF veterans and their families.

"This cycling challenge has been so much fun and I feel honoured to be able to pay tribute to those who have gone before me in this way.

"This distance represents 100 miles for each crew member from the eight Lancaster bombers that did not return from the Dambusters' raid. I also turned 56 this year, which makes my target especially fitting!"

Mike's first endurance ride took place in May when he cycled the 200 miles from RAF Scampton to Johnny Johnson's Bristol home on the 78th anniversary of the famous raid.

Johnny received a pedal past of 12 cyclists who completed a 19-mile loop, one for each of the crews that took part in the raid.

Then in July Mike completed four consecutive 100-mile rides in Lincolnshire over four days to symbolise the four dams attacked by 617 Squadron on the raid. He cycled a total of 413 miles over the four days, 50 miles further than the Tour de France covered over the same number of days!

Mike said: "With the vast majority of the rides taking place in Bomber County, this was my own Tour of Lincolnshire, with each ride heading out in a different direction to cover a wide area of the county."

The first three days were undertaken solo whilst the final day was the RAF Benevolent Fund's Dambusters Ride 107-mile sportive where Mike joined 289 other riders raising funds for the charity.

He said: "My training and preparation paid off. I was able to pace my rides to conserve energy and the scenery was stunning, from the flat straight roads and big skies of the Fens to the rolling countryside of the Lincolnshire Wolds."

*Article and images reproduced by kind permission of the RAF Benevolent Fund.*

Last month, Mike cycled 160 miles from Lincoln's International Bomber Command Centre to the Bomber Command Memorial in Green Park, London.

Having covered 4,249 miles towards his 5,600 mile target, Mike plans to take a short break and enjoy some social rides before preparing for the next significant element of the challenge.

### Pivotal

The Dambusters raid, known as Operation Chastise, was a pivotal moment during the Second World War when 19 Lancaster crews targeted three dams in the heart of Germany's war machine.

It was a risky raid, dropping the revolutionary bouncing bomb at low level, and the cost was high. Of the 133 crew who took part, 53 were killed in action and three were taken prisoner of war.

The Dambusters Ride 2022 will be held on the weekend of 14-15 May with a virtual and physical ride. Cyclists can join the Lincolnshire Century or Half Century, setting off from the home of the Dambusters in Woodhall Spa, or complete the distance on a route of their choosing. The ride raised more than £175,000 in 2021.

To sign up, visit [www.rafbf.org](http://www.rafbf.org)



Royal Air Force  
Benevolent Fund

SUPPORTING SERVING AND  
FORMER MEMBERS OF THE  
RAF AND THEIR FAMILIES

# DID YOU KNOW WE'RE HERE FOR YOU?

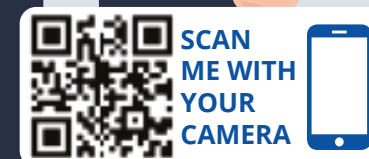
For RAF Air Cadets, members of the Air Training Corps and Combined Cadet Force (RAF), we can provide:

- ✓ Free, full access to Headspace app
- ✓ Bereavement support
- ✓ Access to 24-hour emotional support helpline



CALL 0300 102 1919  
[rafbf.org/aircadets](http://rafbf.org/aircadets)

For these members of the RAF Family, applications are considered on a case-by-case basis. Support also extends to staff cadets and uniformed volunteers.







# Ex-cadet is round-the-world record breaker!

**Former air cadet Travis Ludlow has become the youngest pilot ever to circumnavigate the globe alone.**

Travis, a former cadet with 1811 (Marlow) Squadron, was just 18 years and 149 days old when he set a new Guinness World Record with his 25,000-mile solo flight, which took him 44 days to complete.

He beat the previous record-holder - Mason Andrews, from Louisiana - who was 18 years and 163 days old when he completed his solo journey three years ago.

Travis' epic flight in his single-engine Cessna 172R aircraft took him across Europe, through Russia and America, before returning via Canada, Greenland and Iceland.

Starting and finishing his record-breaking journey in the Netherlands, Travis' planned route took in about 60 stops across 16 countries.

Piloting a small, single-engine aircraft alone was not without its difficult moments: extreme weather conditions, loneliness and fatigue all challenged Travis' skill and nerves whilst flying up to eight hours each day.

The most frightening moment on his trip came in Montana, when turbulence from a 'mountain wave' - a rapid downdraft - pulled him towards a mountainside and his aircraft "dropped like a stone."



Writing online to those tracking his progress, Travis said: "I had warnings going off everywhere, with terrain alarms and then the stall alarm as I pulled up to correct the situation. I had pulled up, my nose point upwards and I was still dropping. I dropped over 2,100ft in five seconds."

He eventually managed to bring the aircraft back up, and was able to change course away from the mountains.

On another leg of the journey near to the Russian-Chinese border, he ran low on fuel and slowed to 85 miles per hour. A few weeks later he was forced to turn back during a flight in the remote Kamchatka province, owing to freezing rain.

The trip did have its high points too. The avid aviator's favourite moments included flying over the

Canadian Rockies and the stark scenery of the Siberian wilderness.

Travis also enjoyed his time in the USA, flying up the Hudson River to Manhattan's exciting skyline and meeting the previous record-holder, Mason Andrews, in Louisiana.

"It was great to spend some time with the record breaking and world record holder, Mason Andrews on this trip to Monroe, Louisiana and to go flying with him this morning.

"Mason has always shown the true spirit of aviation by being supportive and helping me with my own record flight," Travis posted on his Facebook page, before adding, "Sorry I can't stop for longer, I've got someone's record to beat."

Travis had been preparing for his record-breaking journey since 2018, taking off at the end of May this year



after the global pandemic delayed his original start date of June 2020.

His love of flying though started much earlier. He said: "I wanted to be a pilot from before I can remember."

He joined the RAF Air Cadets, gaining his Air Cadet wings on his 14th birthday, flying solo in a glider. He then moved on to motorised flight and completed his Private Pilot's Licence five months before his 17th birthday.

Travis said: "I loved my time in the Air Cadets and have great memories of my time with Marlow Squadron.

He added: "I was proud to be in the Air Cadets - loved being in uniform. It was sad to leave but I had sports commitments with the GB Kickboxing team which meant I couldn't attend the meetings."

Since landing at Teuge airport in the Netherlands and breaking the world record, Travis' feet have not touched the ground!

He has plans to document his journey in a book, has flown with the Blades aerobatic team, and has accepted the role of Ambassador for Aviation for the Department of Transport. He has also just received the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association's individual merit award for outstanding achievement to aviation.

He said: "It is an incredible honour to receive the AOPA award. Having my name on a trophy with such distinguished aviators as my childhood hero and inspiration, Polly Vacher, is very humbling.

"This bi-annual award is given to a pilot or an individual who has made an outstanding aviation achievement - it is truly a great privilege to receive it."



# Future Talent Takes Off



Have you got what it takes to secure future space missions from one of the most significant cyber threats of the digital era? You've got just four hours to prove you can...

And that's just what four cadets from 45F (Worthing) Squadron did, becoming division winners in the national finals of this year's CyberCenturion competition.

The team of four, Cadet Sergeant Harry Piper, Corporal Thomas Taylor and Cadets Daniel Bannister and Oliver Jones (pictured below) won the senior cadet category at CyberCenturion VII, a nationwide cyber security challenge.

The competition, open to students aged 12-18 in the UK and British Overseas Territories, gives secondary school pupils the opportunity to develop and test their cyber security skills through a series of simulated challenges designed to reflect real-world situations.

Sponsored by Northrop Grumman and increasingly well-recognised by students and employers nationally, CyberCenturion

is designed to engage and develop cyber talent.

It also supports the development of soft skills including leadership, communication and teamwork in a dynamic setting - enabling participants to hone a broad range of abilities now highly sought after in the cyber security industry.

A series of testing virtual competition rounds were held before the top 15 teams from across the UK, Isle of Man and Gibraltar battled it out for the title at the National Finals.

The ultimate prize is an all-expenses paid trip to Washington DC with Northrop Grumman where the winning team gets to experience industry first-hand, as well as visit the Pentagon and the NASA space research facility.

A competition spokesman said: "This year's finalists represent an outstanding

competition season in which more than ever took part virtually, demonstrating grit and determination against hundreds of technically-skilled students and cadets to secure their place."

Hosted online for the first time ever, the specially developed Cyber Frontier game challenged competitors to address simulated cyber security risks targeting advanced and highly sensitive systems in the space industry.

Acting Pilot Officer, Kieren Waghorn, 45F Squadron's team leader, said: "As I am sure many people will attest, it's been a challenging year, which has made it all the more important that the cadets have been able to continue to take part in something like this.

"For me, the best thing about CyberCenturion is that it gives young people an opportunity to get hands-on

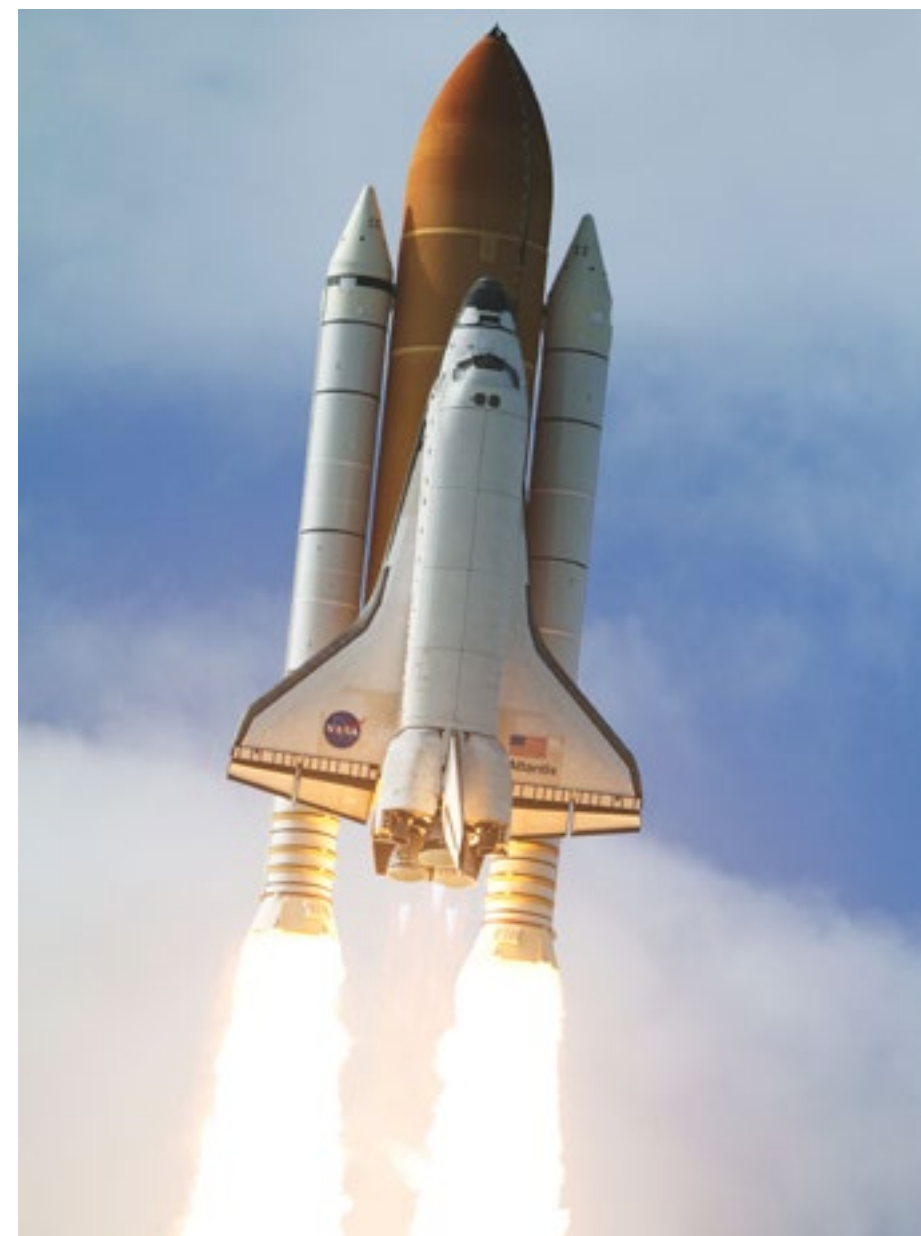


Photo: NASA/Kelly Allen

experience in the world of cyber security while also developing their teamwork and leadership skills.

"We are all very pleased that our team made it to the national finals and while unfortunately we did not win overall, we are still very proud of being the division winners within the senior cadet category."

The cadets said it was very much a team effort. Keen complex code crackers, they admit that sometimes they can take security a little too seriously: locking themselves out of their scoring graphs and image files!

Sixteen-year-old Daniel, who wants to join the RAF in a cyber security role, said: "I've competed in CyberCenturion for three years now, and it's been great fun every time.

**“It gives young people hands-on experience in the world of cyber security ...”**

"During one of the rounds I made the image too secure and locked myself out - which was a good reminder to stick by my motto: 'There is always room for improvement'!"

Oliver, 16, also started CyberCenturion at cadets over three years ago and says he has improved his knowledge greatly from taking part.

He added: "My favourite bit from this year's competition was when we finally managed to crack a complex code that had baffled us in one of the rounds.

"And my favourite funny moment was when my teammate forgot the password he had written down and stuck on his monitor. My future plan is to serve in the British Armed Forces as an officer. I hope I will be able to achieve this. My personal motto is 'have a go and give it a try'."

It was 16-year-old Harry's second time in the competition.

He said: "I love how engaging and educational the whole programme is. Before taking part I had very little idea about what cyber security involves. I plan to pursue engineering at university and ideally join the RAF as an engineering officer."

Thomas, 17, was taking part for the first time and said it had been a great experience.

"What I like the best about CyberCenturion is the challenge of facing new and unique obstacles which require teamwork and cohesion resulting in a fun and interesting time," he said.

"My plans for the future are to finish college and attend university, preferably the London School of Economics, to study economics and politics before embarking on a career in finance."

Flight Lieutenant Simon Bacon, officer commanding 45F (Worthing) Sqn, said he was 'extremely pleased and proud' of the cadets' achievements.

"I have watched them learn and develop key skills in teamworking and in cyber which will serve them well in the future. If the recent lockdowns have shown us anything it is that cyber is, and will continue to be, a big part of how we all interact and cyber security goes hand in hand with this."

Wing Commander Hélène Gould, OC Sussex Wing, added: "This has been a fantastic opportunity for our cadets to really test themselves in this area of cyber security.

"As an organisation we strive to move with the times and have introduced a wide range of STEM activities in order to prepare our young people for working and living in the digital world. This approach dovetails into the RAF's project 'Astra', which looks to ensure it is fit for purpose in 2040."



The 2021 CyberCenturion competition will be launching very soon.

Reflecting on this year's final, Chief Executive of Northrop Grumman (UK, Europe and Middle East), Nick Chaffey said: "CyberCenturion in the UK is different than many other competitions as it requires genuine teamwork to succeed.

"Like the careers that are open to these young stars, cyber is not an individual sport but a team game. Each finalist brings their own unique skills, creative and lateral thinking to the team, in the same way that Northrop Grumman's experts do as they solve our customers' greatest challenges."

**“ I love how engaging and educational the whole programme is ... ”**

Dr Robert Nowill, Chairman, Cyber Security Challenge UK added: "When we launched CyberCenturion VII midway through a global pandemic, we had yet to realise the truly limitless potential and resilience of our competitor and team leader cohort.

"A strong contingent of brand new sign ups joined multiple teams who return year on year to further develop their increasingly sought after skill set. We are immensely proud of not only their outstanding ability in the cyber security field, but also of their show of resilience during testing times.

"CyberCenturion has always been something to look forward to, and this year, thanks to the highly connected world we find ourselves in, the programme has proven that nothing can stand in the way of today's young cyber talent and their relentless desire to learn."



## CyberCenturion VII: Spotlight case study: Junior Team 163 (Coventry-Phoenix) Squadron

163 Cyber Flight is certainly a close-knit team. These three first-time competitors and National Finalists are a real band of brothers!

"We discovered CyberCenturion through our Flight Sergeant at Cadets. We decided to form a team for a bit of fun and to see what it was like."

The junior team was registered, a name was chosen. 163 Cyber Flight was taking shape! From there, they got to work preparing for the competition.

"We mainly did training on the website. It was good fun and quite easy to navigate around! This was very helpful for getting us ready for the competition."

The online qualifying rounds quickly became something to look forward to as lockdown was extended in the UK. Of course, living at home together made it

easy for the boys to train and develop their teamwork skills throughout the competition, and kept communication with their Flight Sergeant Team Leader straightforward.

And with their high scores came increased anticipation that they were in with a real chance of collecting one of the coveted trophies. Almost a year exactly since lockdown first began in the UK, they received the good news they'd made it to the National Finals.

"By the time we got the news we'd reached the National Finals, we'd spent almost a whole year in lockdown. It was exciting to be doing something different, and kept us busy and entertained between months of remote schoolwork and trying to stay out of trouble around the house!"

The secret to their first-time success has a lot to do with their gaming experience and mindset.

"Our advice is to approach the competition as if it's a game, and not to let the pressure of the scoreboard stress you out. We took on the National Finals in the same way, staving off any nerves and focusing on the fun factor.

"Getting as much practice as we could gave us a good excuse to play the games on cybergamesuk.com. This kept us learning and definitely helped strengthened our team spirit between the competition rounds."

Reaching the National Finals has been a moment to reflect for these three young cadets.

"We never thought we were very good at cyber stuff, and CyberCenturion has really helped us realise we're actually quite good! By taking part in the competition, we've learned a lot and feel much more confident about taking on similar challenges in future."

**The one thing 163 Cyber Flight couldn't do without... "Tea (with as many sugars as we could sneak past mum), Haribo, and digestive biscuits."**



## What is CyberCenturion?

CyberCenturion is a national cyber education initiative for 12-18 year-olds in the UK. The programme is designed to excite, educate and motivate students to pursue further education and careers in STEM and cybersecurity. Its objective is to deliver an inspirational competitive education experience, which provides:

- practical learning about cyber in the real world
- development of technical and employability skills that are useful in any industry
- motivation to pursue Cyber/STEM subjects and careers

### CyberCenturion VIII

CyberCenturion is now in its eighth year and this is the first year that STEM Learning is running the competition. The mission for CyberCenturion VIII is to ensure secure communications and controls for autonomous systems. Autonomous systems include uncrewed aircraft and helicopters to self-driving vehicles. There are many applications for autonomous systems, from national security to disaster relief and even refuelling satellites in space or guiding rovers on Mars. In all cases, it is critical that the control and communication of these systems remains secure – a key future role for those working in cyber security.

### Who can take part?

The competition is played by teams of four (with one reserve) and must have one responsible adult over 18 (Team Leader), who is the contact between the team and STEM Learning. There are two age categories: junior (12-14 years) and senior (15-18 years). Both age categories are open to cadet teams.

To find out more visit <https://www.stem.org.uk/cyber-centurion>





## Westminster Award winners!

RAF Air Cadet Alex Coombe has won the prestigious Westminster Award. Alex, a Cadet Warrant Officer from 233 (Pershore) Squadron, received the award at a ceremony at the House of Lords last month and will have his name etched on to the famous CVQO silver lion.

As last year's event was cancelled due to the pandemic, this year's ceremony welcomed two Westminster Award cohorts to The House of Lords, as 17 cadets from the RAF Air Cadets, Army Cadet Force, Sea Cadet Corps and St John Ambulance received recognition for their work.

A spokesman for CVQO said: "It was a truly wonderful day as we applauded the achievements of some of the UK's most deserving young people."

"It was also not without its share of emotion, as the day represented a chance to come together and celebrate

after what has been such a difficult time for so many."

Alex, who's currently studying for a degree in Electronic Engineering at the University of the West of England, was crowned the 2020 CVQO Westminster Award winner and Amber Watkin from St John Ambulance Cobham Unit picked up the 2021 Award.

This year's expedition took the form of a two-week trip to Cornwall in late July for which the theme was 'Think global, act local'.

A CVQO spokesman said: "We felt it was important to reinforce the strength of local communities in the wake of what has been a tremendously tough period for so many."

In Cornwall, they worked with four charity partners: ShelterBox, Cornwall

Wildlife Trust, The Eden Project and The National Trust on a variety of volunteering projects intended to give a perspective on the challenges communities are facing both locally and globally. The finalists gained an understanding of the issues associated with humanitarian aid, climate change and conservation. (Turn to the article on page 52 to read more about the expedition).

After the expedition, CVQO set the group the additional challenge of raising £2,000 for our charity partners and the finalists rose to the task, cycling, swimming, kayaking and campaigning their way to the target!

## Sentry Salute

THE RAF's E-3D Sentry retired from service during an emotional farewell at Waddington after 30 years on the frontline

A Royal Parade, attended by His Royal Highness the Earl of Wessex, marked the retirement of this iconic aircraft which made its debut in 1991 in the Balkans, operating over Serbia from Aviano air base in Southern Italy.

The Officer Commanding 8 Squadron, Wing Commander Victoria Williams was the parade commander for the event which included a flypast from an 8 Squadron E-3D Sentry.

She said: "The parade today has provided a fitting send-off for an iconic aircraft, the day is clearly an emotional one but we are all incredibly proud of what has been achieved over the last 30 years."

"The commitment and output provided to UK Defence and NATO has been exceptional and I know

that 8 Squadron will be looking forward to transitioning to the E-7 Wedgetail in due course."

The retirement of the Sentry will see 8 Squadron relocated to RAF Lossiemouth where they will operate the E-7 Wedgetail which offers a significant stride forward in capability.



Crown copyright 2021

## Air Cadet Exclusive Offer

Subscribe to **RAF News** and get the **First 3 Months Free!**

Go to [rafnews.co.uk](http://rafnews.co.uk) to subscribe now  
Offer Code AC01

**RAF News - The Forces' Favourite Paper**

Delivering the best frontline news, sport and features from across the RAF and UK Defence every fortnight.





# CVQO launch new BTEC:

## a great way to get more from your RAFAC training

CVQO's fantastic new BTEC Level 2 qualification in 'Teamwork and Personal Development in the Community' (TPD) is now open for enrolments.

“It is such an accessible course for such a great reward”

If you are aged 16-19 and looking to gain a qualification that recognises all of the skills and achievements you gain while a member of the Royal Air Force Air Cadets, this is just what you need.

New for 2021, learners will have the ability to choose their own path through the qualification, as well as the method by which they complete it.

The updated qualification has new units, including 'Developing Effective Communication Skills', and 'Preparing for Employment' and will recognise even more aspects of your RAFAC experience than ever - and it dovetails nicely into the RAFAC syllabus.

### How does it work?

CVQO's BTEC Level 2 qualifications have been specifically designed with young people in mind. TPD is comprised of 14 units that our learners can choose to create their own path through the qualification.

Unit 1 (Developing Effective Teamwork Skills) is mandatory. Once that is complete, you can choose any two additional units for the Extended Certificate and any five additional units for the Diploma. These also include three music units, which are combined within the qualification.

### How can I complete the work?

For the first time, learners have the option to complete the qualification in a number of ways: blended learning via face-

to-face or virtual delivery workshops, hard copy workbooks and learner guides, e-workbooks and our Virtual Learning Environment (CVQO Moodle). These all combine to create a flexible, interactive approach to the course.

### What will I learn?

TPD takes every aspect of what it means to be a member of the RAFAC and gives you a brilliant, internationally-recognised qualification. You can expect to study subjects such as 'Developing Teamwork and Communication Skills', 'Health and Fitness', 'Adventurous Activities', 'Land Navigation', 'Preparing for Employment', 'Volunteering', 'Leadership Skills' and 'Citizenship and Community Awareness'.

### Am I eligible and is the qualification funded?

You are eligible to enrol on the BTEC Level 2 if you have completed Year 11 at school and you were born between 1 September 2002 and 31 August 2005.

CVQO receives a grant from the government each year to offer BTEC Level 2 qualifications to members of uniformed youth organisations in England. Limited places are available to learners in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

### How do I enrol?

In the first instance you will need to register your interest in the qualification via the CVQO website or get in touch with your VQ Officer.



RAF Air Cadet Ashley Harkness from 225 (Brighton No 1) Squadron is just one of many young people who has successfully completed the BTEC Level 2 qualification. He decided to enrol during lockdown – little realising the impact the qualification would have on his higher education or job applications.

He said: "I decided to enrol on the CVQO BTEC Level 2 in Teamwork and Personal Development because at the time I saw it as an extra opportunity and qualification. At the time, I didn't recognise it as a big opportunity and saw it as just another qualification; I didn't realise how much it will help me in the future.

"I didn't leave school with many qualifications – 2 GCSEs to be exact. I have slowly built up the required amount of Level 2 qualifications to allow me to continue on to advanced level courses and will eventually be able to attend university. Without the BTEC provided by CVQO, I would not have enough Level 2 qualifications

to meet the entry requirements for most universities.

"I think all young people should make the most of this opportunity because you never know what will happen in the future. I assumed that I was going to attain amazing grades at secondary school but in fact really struggled with the exams.

"You never know when qualifications like the CVQO BTEC Level 2 will come in handy, but at some point it may really help you with things like job and university applications.

"I took things for granted before I enrolled into the Teamwork and Personal Development BTEC and, only recently, have I realised how much the BTEC will help me in the future. Things like the BTEC are something that employers really love, because it shows that learners understand how to work in a team and can excel in the workplace.

"It is such an accessible course for such a great reward that could help you in any stage of your life. Whether through the skills that you have learned

through the BTEC or the certificate itself, it might help you land your dream job.

"I personally thought that remote study for the BTEC was just as straightforward as if it were face-to-face. Staff and resources were readily available, both on the CVQO Moodle and via email.

"Once I had completed and sent off the second workbook, it felt great. It took me a little bit longer than I expected but I certainly felt I had achieved something.

"The hard work dedicated to this BTEC has finally paid off. Being able to attain a Level 2 qualification in this way is truly unreal – such an easy process for something that will help me greatly in the future.

"I am very grateful for the opportunity to undertake this BTEC through CVQO and strongly encourage others to enrol as well. You never know when you might need another qualification to be able to stand out from the crowd."





# Royal visit for RAF Air Cadets

Their Royal Highnesses, The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge visited cadets and volunteers at 282 (East Ham) Sqn earlier this year.

by Denise E. Parker, Head of Media Communications

This was a very special opportunity to pay respects to the life of His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh, who served as Air Commodore-in-Chief of the Air Training Corps for an incredible 63 years, before handing the Royal Patronage in 2015 to The Duchess of Cambridge who is now the Royal Air Force Air Cadets Honorary Air Commandant

During the visit some 20 cadets proudly showed the Royal couple fieldcraft demonstrations and leadership tasks.

The Duke and Duchess also spoke to several young cadets who are preparing for their Duke of Edinburgh's Awards.

Hosting the visit was Regional Commandant for the London and South East Region, Group Captain Al Lewis.

He said: "It was a great honour to meet the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, especially at such a significant time of Royal Mourning.

"It was fitting to mark the wonderful contribution to young people that the late Prince Philip made. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme that bears his name has given so many young people a great start in life.

"Meeting the Honorary Air Commandant, the Duchess of Cambridge, has also been a fantastic way for the cadets and staff to start the 2021 season after such a long pause during the winter COVID lockdown."

The Officer Commanding 282 Sqn, Squadron Leader Chris Booty, said: "It's been a very tough year for all of our 960 cadet squadrons and for 282 in particular having only opened again just days before this visit.

### Encouragement

"Today has been an amazing opportunity for the cadets and it has put a huge smile on their faces. Today signifies that a year of troubles is now coming to an

end with the new hope that things are going to improve.

"The cadets and staff needed some encouragement after such a long lay off. They have got straight back into it to prepare for the visit and the year ahead; what a great way to reopen!"

Their Royal Highnesses also heard more about the Air Cadets' Pre-Duke of Edinburgh's Award 'Blue Badge' scheme which is aimed at cadets aged 12-14 years old. It allows them to begin to develop their skills and engage in activities before they are of age to take part in the Bronze, Silver and Gold levels.

Each year, the RAF Air Cadets receives approximately 3,000 Duke of Edinburgh Awards across the scheme's Bronze, Silver and Gold levels, amounting to over 193,000 Awards since the programme began in 1956.

Explaining how the Duke of Edinburgh's Award benefits cadets was Cadet Sgt William Tano, 16, who said:



"Today I was showing the Royal couple the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme, what we do, how we train for it and the skills that it gives us. The visit was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that none of my friends will have. It was a really big day for us on the squadron."

### Opportunities

Showing the Royal couple around the Squadron and introducing them to the various exhibits was Cadet Nicholas Amakye, 19.

He said: "It was an honour to be able to host members of the Royal family and to show them what we do. It's not just doing drill but getting a lot of skills outside of the education system.

"I have managed to get an extra 13 GCSEs and one A-level as a result of my time with the Air Cadets. It shows how much the Air Cadets can change someone's life and what it can do."

All cadets on the squadron have opportunities to learn about space,

STEM, cyber and radio and can go gliding, flying, undertake camps, adventure training, shooting, drill, do music and develop their leadership and citizenship. There are also overseas expeditions and exchanges and a great modern syllabus and BTEC Awards.

Equipped with its own flight simulator, based on the Grob Tutor aircraft, the cadets were delighted to let the Duchess try it out as she took part in a simulated flight from RAF Benson.

At one of the exhibit stands was Corporal Hussein, 16, who explained what life as a cadet band musician was like: "Today was about how cadets can improve and try out different things. It was a great day to see their Royal Highnesses. Most people outside only see us in smart dress and don't see what happens behind the scenes and what we work hard for. It's was a great pleasure to tell them what we go through and what we've experienced."

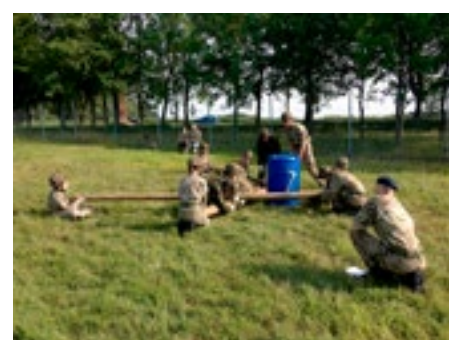
The Duke and Duchess also spoke with a group of serving RAF officers who were all previously cadets and heard more about how taking part in the Air Cadets and its core activities, including The Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme, allowed them to gain important life and social skills which they have taken forward into their careers.

Amongst them was Flt Lt Sarah Haywood, Staff Officer to Commandant Air Cadets, Air Commodore Tony Keeling.

At the end of the visit, the Squadron took part in a Three Cheers Salute in honour of HRH The Duke of Edinburgh. The Duke, who was a talented pilot and gained his Royal Air Force wings in 1953.

Throughout his Royal Patronage, His Royal Highness frequently met with cadets and took a keen interest in their activities and achievements. In 1962, to mark the 21st anniversary of the Air Training Corps, The Duke presented the Corps with its own Banner during a service and parade at St Clement Danes.





# Leading By Example

Throughout life, wherever you go, there will be moments when you have to step up and take control.

It may be an important meeting, tackling a medical emergency or leading fellow cadets on a field exercise. Whatever the situation, having effective leadership skills is vital.

**But do you need to be a 'born leader'? Not according to staff on the prestigious Air Cadets Leadership Course, whose aim is to develop and hone cadets' leadership abilities and their personal qualities.**

The week-long course, currently held at RAF College Cranwell, encourages cadets to take on new responsibilities, building experience and learning new skills that will serve them well wherever they go and whatever they do.

ACLCL is the only Gold Leadership course of its kind which has been running every year in July for more than 35 years. Such is its reputation that it now attracts participants from the USA's Civil Air Patrol too.

The course is both physically and mentally demanding. It's run over a period of four separate weeks with some 66 cadets – divided into six flights - per week starting the course.

It's full on from the start. Some 36 hours in and the cadets will have already completed a number of drill assessments, carried out a series of physically challenging tasks, listened to a range of theoretical lessons and taken part in an arrivals inspection!

The course then splits into three separate phases. In each phase, cadets complete command tasks and take part in regular reviews to provide them with the skill-set which will hopefully enable them to put their newly-learned theory into practice.

The first phase takes place next to RAF Cranwell's North Airfield and is focused on timed exercise scenarios. Each cadet is assessed on their use of the standard RAFAC briefing procedures; SMEAC (Situation/Mission/Execution/Ask Questions/Check Understanding) and secondly, PICSIE (Plan/Initiate/Control/Support/Inform/Evaluate) to ensure each member of their flight not only understands the task but, just as importantly, is fully aware of their individual roles within their flight.

The next phase takes place in front of Trenchard Hall and focuses on extended command tasks, lasting around 25 minutes each. The challenges are now more complicated, are multi-levelled and require control over split teams. At

## How Do I Apply?

If you are interested in finding out more about the course and would like to apply for a place next summer, you can get in touch with your Squadron and Section Commanders who will be able to tell you more. They can support your application and help you to write a narrative. Squadron and Section Staff then bid for places on Bader SMS for ATC Cadets and Westminster for CCF Cadets. Selections will then be made by the Region for ATC and HQ CCF for the CCF, again via Bader SMS or Westminster. ACLCL 2022 will run from 3rd July to 6th August.

“ACLCL is the only Gold Leadership course of its kind which has been running every year in July for more than 35 years.”

the end of phase two, each cadet will participate in a mid-course review with their Flight Commanders.

Lastly, the course relocates to a tented camp on the RAF Cranwell estate where the cadets will bivvy for two nights. During this final phase, command tasks are roughly 45 minutes long and involve mobile leads. Cadets are closely observed to ensure that they can manage task prioritisation effectively.

At the end of the week, the cadets return to their barrack blocks where the focus is on preparation for a final parade. They will also receive a final interview with their respective Flight Commander, during which they are told if they have successfully passed the course and if they have performed well enough to be awarded a Merit or Distinction.

Those cadets who parade on the final Saturday morning can rightly reflect on the effort required to have successfully completed the course and wear with pride the Gold Leadership badge.



### Striving for more...

Former Cadet Warrant Officer Poppy Fletcher (pictured left) from Woodbridge School CCF in Suffolk, who successfully completed ACLCL in 2018, says seizing the opportunity to take part led to success...

“Confidence is one of the many attributes that can help you become a great leader and when I was 16 it was something I really struggled with. Whilst I had confidence in the abilities of my cadets in my squadron, I had little confidence in myself.

“I applied to ACLCL to help me gain this confidence and to help me grow as a leader. It also gave me an opportunity to meet people who had the same interests as me. When I applied for the course, I didn't really know what to expect. I had asked people who had already completed the course - and they said it was great fun!

“Riddled with both anxiety and excitement, I set off on my train journey to Grantham. On my arrival at the station, there were lots of cadets all with oversized bags and all looking just as nervous as I was.

“Once we got on the coach to RAF Cranwell, my worries started to ease as I made friends with a girl from Aberdeen. She later became part of my flight and I am still friends with her to this very day!

“Before I arrived at RAF Cranwell, I had to complete a series of documents about leadership, but nothing could quite prepare me for what came next. Nevertheless, the unexpected parts are what made it so great. Do not be afraid to get things wrong, remember that your flight and the staff are there to help you through.

“I was selected to be Course Leader for a couple of days. This is where you oversee all the cadets on the course, and you must make sure everybody, and everything, is clean and sorted. This was the biggest challenge for me as I had never been responsible for so many people. Being out of your comfort zone is the best way for you to grow. It was stressful but the skills I learned I carry with me every day.

“It is a physically and mentally draining week, but the reward is worth everything. I had blisters from orienteering and drill practice, and I was so tired. But when I stepped on to the parade square in front of College Hall, the relief washed over me as I knew I had completed the course and made friends for life.

“My advice for anyone applying for ACLCL is just be brave and jump into every opportunity. It may be scary, but the benefits will aid you throughout your life. The confidence I gained allowed me to achieve better academically and, in my section, as I finally believed in myself and my abilities.

“Make sure you get to know people, especially those in your flight and just have fun. You are there to learn but you are also there to have an awesome time. Above all – make the most of it!”





# Westminster Award – ‘think global, act local’

This year’s Westminster Award expedition aimed to reward young people for persevering during a tough year – whilst helping those in need a little closer to home.

Young people have experienced a year like no other and Westminster Award-organisers CVQO – like many others – have had to adapt and change plans at short notice as the coronavirus pandemic took hold.

With the pandemic putting paid to last year’s events, the 2020 Westminster Award nominees were invited to join this year’s cohort nominees on the inaugural Westminster Award expedition to Cornwall.

A spokesman for CVQO said: “The idea was to combine elements of our spring selection process in Somerset with the expedition that would ordinarily have taken place in South Africa.

“The result was an educational two-week trip to Cornwall, which merged the

best of both worlds to create something memorable and life changing for our finalists.”

The overall theme of the two-week expedition was ‘Think global, act local’ – a rallying call to consider the overall impact of our actions on the planet, while realising that change can start on a local level – anyone has the power to make a positive impact.

### Incredible

What’s more, the nominees got the chance to work closely with some very special partner charities during the trip on a varied programme of community, environmental and humanitarian aid projects.

The four charities provided some incredible experiences that gave the young people an unique perspective on the environment both locally and globally.

- **ShelterBox**, a worldwide charity, educated the youngsters on humanitarian aid and what it really means to be displaced by disaster or conflict. The finalists took part in some training designed to simulate elements of what ShelterBox volunteers go through during their selection process.
- **Cornwall Wildlife Trust** developed a brilliant three-day programme of marine surveying, snorkelling and conservation work. The silent disco beach clean and visit to Looe Island was a particular highlight.
- **The Eden Project** told the group all about climate change on a global scale, with some hands on experiments in the biomes. They learned about carbon storage within trees and conducted experiments to determine whether they could be the solution to climate change.

### Perspective

In addition, there were some traditional Cornish activities such as paddle boarding, coasteering and

kayaking interspersed with these projects to give a real perspective on what makes the county so special.

Cadet Warrant Officer Alex Coombe from 233 (Pershore) Sqn – who went on to win the Westminster Award – says he and the other 15 finalists enjoyed an amazing two weeks.

He said: “The expedition was an incredible experience, not only with the activities and charities we have been fortunate to work with but also the close bonds we developed between our team.

“With evening ‘indaba’ or conference sessions around the campfire to share thoughts and reflect on the day, as well as being able to discuss things on our mind with the group bringing us closer together.

“On behalf of all of the finalists, I’d like to thank the staff at CVQO for running the event in a ‘post-covid’ world and making it such a success.”



# Positive Impact of Cadet Forces

## A four year university study shows huge well-being and career benefits



### Exciting new research into UK Cadet Forces highlights the positive impacts on young peoples' development, adult volunteers and wider society.

The Ministry of Defence (MOD), the Combined Cadet Force Association and CVQO commissioned the four-year study by the University of Northampton to understand the social impact of the spending on cadets and the Cadet Expansion Programme, as well as the benefits of the qualifications provided by CVQO.

The UK currently has 130,000 cadets and almost 30,000 adult volunteers supporting them. The MOD invests £180 million per year into the cadet programme, and this independent study demonstrates not only that the cadet programme is a worthwhile investment, but also why efforts to bring the cadet experience to more young people should continue.

The programme was originally launched in 2012 with a target of creating 100 cadet units in state secondary schools in England. This was later boosted to having 500 units in UK schools by April 2020 due to the success of the programme.

The study highlighted that personal resilience, confidence and an ability to work effectively with a diverse range of people were all recognised as attributes of cadets and adult volunteers.

During a visit to a local cadet unit based in a South London all-girls school, Defence Minister James Heappey said: "I am delighted to read the positive conclusions from the University of Northampton's report into our cadets, which emphasises the importance of this programme for both young people and adult volunteers."

"Cadets form a vital part of the communities they represent, building confidence, resilience and friendship in a unique setting. This report clearly demonstrates how Cadet Forces benefit our youth by broadening their horizons and unlocking their potential."

Education Secretary Gavin Williamson added: "I have seen for myself how the values of our Armed Forces – those of resilience, self-discipline and perseverance – can benefit so many of our young people with skills they can rely on well into adult life. That, for me, is one of the biggest benefits of this growing programme and why we are expanding it into even more schools."



**Zain Aslam**  
Zain Aslam is the youngest cadet to complete the intensive eight-month Qualified Aerospace Instructor

"This study confirms the positive impact that being a Cadet can have, by levelling up outcomes in education, employment and health for young people."

Not only were these positive attributes developed within the Cadet Forces; the study found the skills gained through cadets' experiences are reflected in other aspects of life.

For example, participation was directly linked to increased social mobility, improved educational outcomes and greater employability.

Additionally, improved mental and physical well-being and strong community links are included in the findings, particularly for those who experience economic or other disadvantages. The well-being benefits from participation may result in fewer visits to the GP or less use of mental health support services.

Professor Simon Denny, Institute for Social Innovation and Impact,

the University of Northampton said: "Our research has concluded that the Cadet Forces provide structured challenge, discipline, training, education and, importantly, fun. Cadets and their adult volunteer instructors gain new skills and qualifications which increase their education and employment opportunities."

"The positive impacts on social mobility are, frankly, amazing. The Cadet Forces represent a very good use of taxpayers' money."

The report outlines a significant return on investment in the Cadet Forces, with the cadet experience offering potentially life-changing opportunities for career progression and vocational qualifications. This results in increased career prospects for those who may not hold traditional educational qualifications.

The report stated: "There is a very strong belief that CVQO courses have great value for CFAVs. The training offered is particularly useful for those CFAVs with few or no qualifications."

**Course (QAIC), when he was aged 17. Zain is now trained to teach aerospace subjects and is also part of a working group under the 'Aspire' initiative, who have designed and delivered online awareness course on diversity and inclusion.**

**"The Air Cadets provides you with valuable life skills, it transforms you from a shy, young individual into a young adult and it really prepares you for the real world. The aim of inclusion is to embrace all people irrespective of their race, gender, disabilities, religion and sexual orientation. It's about giving equal access to opportunities and getting rid of discrimination and intolerance."**



**Sam Aleksander**  
Sam entered the BAE Systems Tempest cockpit design competition in late 2020. After spending most of Lockdown studying for his GCSEs,

Sam took inspiration from his GCSE Design and Technology project, which explored the concept of safe spaces. He questioned how students' welfare could benefit in an architectural space, with the idea to create a place where people can talk, particularly when times are difficult.

His entry also explored how colour psychology could affect a student's feelings, and how this could help pilots understand information quicker. Sam's design won, earning him a trip to BAE Systems to see the Tempest team in action and the processes involved in developing state-of-the-art technology.



**Flt Lt Butler**  
Flight Lieutenant Kris Butler, Officer Commanding at 2420 (Whitland & District) Squadron, re-joined the cadets in 2018 after leaving the RAF. He shares his passion for the opportunities the RAF Air Cadets bring to young people, especially those that may not be doing so well either at school or at home.

"To me, being part of the RAF Air Cadets is not just a uniform. It's about investing in young people and helping them develop."

"When I was a teenager, I was going down a wrong path and the Air Training Corps and my Officer Commanding invested time in me, allowing me to fulfil my ambition to join the RAF."

I believe that if I can help just one child achieve the same, it will be a job well done."





# Cadets celebrate 80th anniversary in style

By Sqn Ldr Jarrod Williams

In one of the biggest events since the easing of lockdown, more than 1,000 cadets descended on RAF Cosford, near Wolverhampton, for a special cadet muster, celebrating the organisation's 80th anniversary in style.

From exclusive access to the RAF Museum Cosford, and a host of immersive STEM and cyber activities, the day was packed with opportunities for cadets to get hands-on with both the history and future of aerospace.

However, for over 750 cadets the highlight of the day was the opportunity to experience a flight in either a Puma or Chinook helicopter, thanks to the support of RAF Benson and Joint Helicopter Command.

With the familiar sounds of the Chinook and Pumas banking across the M54, the skies of the Shropshire base were buzzing with activity while the airfield was filled with excited cadets eager to get in the air, or on a high after disembarking from their flight.

The muster, which saw ATC and CCF cadets attending from across Wales

and West region and further afield, also featured flypasts from the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight and displays from the Eurofighter - flown by ex-cadet and this year's display pilot Flight Lieutenant James Sainty - and the RAF Aerobatic Team, the Red Arrows.

Across multiple hangars, adult volunteers and RAF personnel gave cadets the chance to take control of drones, play augmented reality dodgeball, marshal virtual aircraft and take to the skies with immersive VR flight simulators.

Trainees and instructors from the No.1 School of Technical Training, based at RAF Cosford, also gave demonstrations of their work, and the RAF recruitment and outreach teams were out in force with their own immersive #OpVR challenge and the life-size Chinook experience.



And while the day was about celebrating the 80th anniversary and giving cadets a look at future space and cyber tech in the RAF, a muster marches on its stomach, so cadets also enjoyed tasting the wares of No.3 Mobile Catering Squadron from RAF Wittering who kept all attendees fuelled throughout the event.

Cdt FS Bates of 481 (West Bromwich) Sqn after his Chinook flight said: "Today has been such an awesome day at RAF Cosford to see all these helicopters coming in. I've been on the Chinook and it was an absolutely amazing experience. Just

sitting looking out the window and then that feeling when the aircraft banks, wow!

"We've gone from flying to heading into the hangars to get strapped into VR headsets, doing some great STEM activities, and even been working on our leadership skills with a team from the RAF with MTA kits. The whole event is just fantastic and I'm loving everything we're getting to do."

Cdt FS Wright from 85 (Enfield and Southgate) Sqn and Cdt FS Dubietis of 338 (West Ham) Sqn also got a chance to fly in a Chinook. FS Wright said: "It was absolutely amazing. It was

one of the best things I've ever done, being in the helicopter, flying around the circuit and being able to see out of the back of the helicopter.

"We've also done loads in the hangars, been around the museum and done some activities there, and seeing all the aircraft Cosford have put on display for us. We also got to meet the Commandant for the first time, and of course, get major selfies."

For FS Dubietis, it was also about getting back to normality. He added: "For me, getting back after lockdown and doing something like this, it's such an exciting thing to do.





**ROYAL AIR FORCE AIR CADETS**  
the next generation **80**

"Seeing people's faces, meeting new cadets, and obviously getting to fly in something you only tend to see on TV. We've also been checking out the STEM areas, chatting to the team from RAF careers and learning more about how Cosford operates and life in the RAF."

Several senior RAF officers also attended the muster to see the types of activities the RAFAC offers and to chat to cadets. Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Sir Mike Wigston, took the salute for a special 80th anniversary parade to bring the day to a close, supported by the RAFAC Corps of Pipes and Drums and Staffordshire Wing band

In his speech to the cadets assembled at the sunset ceremony, CAS said he was delighted to join the

"spectacular muster at RAF Cosford."

He added: "It's great to see everyone gathered together again after what has been a challenging 18 months." He noted that through the pandemic, the Air Cadets as an organisation had adapted to new challenges, keeping the spirit of the Corps alive.

Harking back to his time as a cadet from 1981, the Chief of the Air Staff highlighted how the RAF was proud of the air cadet movement and that it was a key part of the future of the RAF, saying "... with cyber and space, the Air Cadets are building the perfect foundations for our next generation air force" and that "events like this provide the reconnection between the Air Cadets and your RAF"

With an acknowledgement that over 1,000 cadets had flown in a Viking since July, CAS led a rousing three cheers, "the loudest RAF Cosford has ever heard" for the adult volunteers who kept units thriving throughout lockdown, before closing with a "salute to the Royal Air Force Air Cadets' 80th anniversary, and to the future."

Cadet Warrant Officer Campbell of 273 (Wallasey) Sqn had the privilege of taking the position of parade commander for Air Chief Marshal Wigston's review.

He said, "I've had an amazing time at the muster, with so many activities from STEM to virtual reality and, of course, flying in a Puma. I've thoroughly enjoyed it and, of course, I've just had



a chance to lead a parade of over 500 cadets in front of the Chief of the Air Staff so, it's just been great."

Alongside CWO Campbell, CWO Fung of 1998 (West Cross) Sqn had the role of parade warrant officer. After the parade she told us, "To have all these amazing activities, and flying, and then to come out and stand in front of a 500-cadet parade at such a significant event, it just leaves you with a trembling feeling. It's just been a really, really good day."

Group Captain Roger Simon, Regional Commandant Wales & West, who oversaw the event, said: "It's a terrific way to mark our 80th anniversary in style and we are absolutely delighted that RAF Cosford and the Cosford Air Show event organisers have been so supportive in creating this event."

"With so many COVID restrictions over the last 18 months, it is brilliant to get the cadets out and about and enjoying what they like best – flying and all things aerospace and aviation."

"There have been opportunities for them to learn more about space, science and cyber as well which is fantastic as we move forward with our plans for RAF Air Cadet Astra – the future cadet syllabus taking us into orbit!"





## Commitment rewarded

Eight members of Merseyside Wing have been rewarded for their hard work and commitment with the presentation of Certificates of Meritorious Service in a special ceremony at Chester Cathedral.

The Lord Lieutenant of Cheshire, Mr David Briggs, presented the awards to Squadron Leader Lee Coulter, Merseyside Wing Training Officer; Flying Officer Sarah Ross, 146 (Northwich) Sqn; Warrant Officer Abigail Hensby, 146 (Northwich) Sqn; Cadet Warrant Officer Samantha Dutton, 146 (Northwich) Sqn, now a Sergeant at 1175 (Prenton) Sqn; CWO Emily Holmes, 146 (Northwich) Sqn, now a Civilian Instructor; Cadet Flight Sergeant Holly Dooley, 146 (Northwich) Sqn; CWO Benjamin Turnbull, 2375 (Neston) Sqn and Cdt FS Victoria Symes, 610 (City of Chester) Sqn.

Officer Commanding Merseyside Wing, Wing Commander Joe O'Riley, said: "Those receiving awards this year have not only been fantastic during the last 12 months but have



demonstrated their commitment to the organisation and our cadets for many years.

"They selflessly donate thousands of hours of their time each year, to ensure that we not only train, but develop our young people into fine citizens. They are all superstars in my eyes, and I am incredibly grateful for their service."

## Saving lives

A new Blue Level Essential First Aid course has been developed with St John Ambulance as a direct replacement for the BHF HeartStart course.

The course has been designed to improve the actions taken in life-threatening situations and is suited to those who have no knowledge of first aid.

New training resources, certificates and badges are being made available although cadets with a current BHF badge can continue to wear it until they need to requalify.

## Pumas drop in

It's not every day that two Puma helicopters from RAF Benson drop into an RAF Air Cadet squadron, but that's exactly what happened recently.

It helps that the two squadrons share the same number, 230, and have always enjoyed close links.

After landing, the cadets were shown round the aircraft and given a full safety briefing before getting airborne.

Fight Lieutenant Katherine Clarke, Officer Commanding 230 Sqn, said: "It caused quite a stir in the local community and on social media. To see the smiles of sheer delight on the cadets faces, after such a difficult year, was so rewarding."



# Newton Newton Ltd

FLAG AND BANNER MAKERS SINCE 1975



Thank you for being a part of it!

## Manufacturer of flags and ceremonial standards and banners



We manufacture the 4 approved designs, in the two approved colours with choice of scroll shape and text option.

We stock a comprehensive range of ceremonial accessories, including ceremonial poles, gauntlets, slings and drill covers.



01754 768401



mail@newtonnewtonflags.com



/newtonnewtonflagsltd

The Bishop Tozer's Chapel, Middlemarsh Road, Burgh-le-Marsh, Lincolnshire. PE24 5AD



## Poseidon flies with the Red Arrows



The Royal Air Force's new submarine-hunter aircraft has flown in formation with the Red Arrows for the first time.

Flanked by the distinctive Hawk jets of the Royal Air Force Aerobatic Team, the Poseidon MRA1 (P-8A) carried out the flypast over its base of RAF Lossiemouth, Scotland.

The sortie marked the Red Arrows' arrival at the Moray station ahead of its annual Friends and Family Day event.

RAF Lossiemouth is benefiting from a massive growth and multi-million pound investment programme. It is currently home to five Poseidon MRA1 aircraft with another four due to arrive by the end of 2021. The RAF's new Wedgetail aircraft, successor to the current E3 Sentry airborne early warning and command and control fleet, will also be based at the Station

Group Captain Chris Layden, Station Commander RAF Lossiemouth, said: "RAF Lossiemouth is delighted to welcome back the Red Arrows who haven't had the opportunity to display here since 2019.

"Since then our runway has been resurfaced, we have grown a fourth operational Typhoon squadron, continued to deliver 24/7 quick reaction alert – securing the UK's skies – and we now are home to the UK's fleet of Poseidon MRA1 submarine-hunting aircraft."

## Gold Award

CVQO has been awarded the prestigious Employer Recognition Scheme Gold Award for their outstanding support towards the Armed Forces community.

Representing the highest badge of honour, these Gold Awards are awarded to those that employ and support those who serve, veterans and their families.

There are fewer than 500 Gold Award holders in the UK.

## Marshall Trophy winners!

Air Cadets at 1297 (Stonehaven) Squadron have won the Marshall Trophy, as the most improved squadron in the whole of the UK.

Competing against hundreds of other squadrons, they scooped the prestigious trophy after a remarkable journey towards making the unit excel for its cadets.

Flight Lieutenant George Stephen, Officer Commanding at 1297 Sqn, said: "This is a huge achievement, and everyone is genuinely speechless from this amazing result! I have always felt so privileged to command such a fantastic squadron, where everyone strives to achieve the best they can."

At one point cadet numbers dropped to single figures and activities on offer were reduced. Now, in an amazing turnaround, cadet numbers are on the up, making it one of the largest squadrons in North East Scotland, and more volunteer staff have been recruited, meaning more activities being offered to youngsters.

Flt Lt Stephen added: "I am immensely proud of the cadets and staff for all their achievements over the last few years. They have all worked so hard and are very well deserving of the Marshall Trophy."

Cadet Sergeant Coel Adams said: "I can't help but feel an immense amount of pride and gratitude to all members of our squadron for the effort and commitment shown in getting us to where we are now.

"I've been part of 1297 squadron for about five years and saw the squadron fall to three cadets regularly attending and then rise dramatically to 20 cadets. It has been truly amazing to see the tremendous improvements within our squadron."

Cadet Warren Smith added: "When I found out that we had won the Marshall Trophy, I felt so proud. I have been a cadet in 1297 squadron now for just over a year, but in that time I have had so many amazing experiences like flying and camps. I can't stop smiling!"

A delighted Guy Horridge, CVQO Chief Executive, said: "CVQO is a Forces-friendly organisation, committed to supporting the development of young people and adult volunteers within the MOD Cadet Forces. To date we have delivered more than 100,000 vocational qualifications to our learners and plan to help many more in the future."

## New boss



Wing Commander Ian Woodhouse MBE has been appointed Officer Commanding Kent Wing.

A former RAF Engineer, Wg Cdr Woodhouse is no stranger to RAF Air Cadets as he has spent some of his career as an Air Cadet Liaison Officer and as the CO of British Military Contingent at the Nijmegen Marches.

He was awarded an MBE in 1992 for the direction of the Tornado GR1 and GR1A modification programme for the first Gulf War.

Married, with two grown-up children, Wg Cdr Woodhouse is particularly keen to ensure that, just as he did many years ago, every cadet is given the opportunity to get the most they can out of their time with the RAF Air Cadets.

## ATC SQUADRON WALL SHIELDS



Raised die-centre, beautifully reproduced in colour with your unit on scroll, 7" x 6" £54.60

Hand Embroidered Blazer Badges £14.50

RAF Squadron Shields £58.60

All prices include second class post and VAT. Also available, special order ties and many other promotional items. Wall Shields to your Squadron, Wing or Unit design using special shaped centrepiece as illustrated right. Prices by quotation.



### C H Munday Ltd,

Rosemary Cottage  
Churt Road

Headley, Bordon, Hants, GU35 8SS

www.chmunday.co.uk

Email: enquiries@chmunday.co.uk

Telephone: 01428 714971



## Best foot forward

Cadets from 2344 (Longbenton) Sqn became the first cadets to deploy on expeditions supported by The Ulysses Trust for more than 12 months.

Thirty-four cadets trekked across the Cleveland Hills and The Lake District as part of their Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

Cadet Finlay Atwell, 15, who gained his Bronze DofE Award, said: "We were really excited to be getting out after being locked-down and then only being able to go to school for a long time. The Cleveland Hills were stunning."

The expedition was also supported by the Royal Air Force Charitable Trust.





# Adventure, fun and learning

With attendance at regional and national camps severely curtailed for the past 18 months, the CCF(RAF) decided to stage two bespoke camps for cadets as soon as restrictions allowed.

The mini camps at Royal Russell School, Croydon and Inskip cadet centre, Preston, gave hundreds of CCF cadets the chance to learn new skills, put their training into practice and, of course, to have fun.

The day camps in both locations were filled with practical, interactive coaching, guidance from the CCF's Training Evaluation and Support Team staff as well as a range of activities including archery, orienteering and an air rifle range.

Sergeant Laurence Gray, who helped organise the camp at Royal Russell School for CCF (RAF) Sections in the South-East,

said: "This was a bespoke camp – the first for CCF cadets since lockdown.

"They were designed to reintroduce teamworking, confidence, self-reliance, leadership and responsibility – core values that have never been more important during recent times – and, after the restrictions and setbacks that accompanied lockdown, a real sense of fun."

Some 160 cadets from nine schools attended the camp at Royal Russell School – many experiencing their first cadet camp ever.

Cadet LCpl Sam Stealey, Royal Russell School CCF (RAF) Section said: "The



Coronavirus restrictions have meant that for many months no flying, face-to-face training or camps has become part of our current reality.

"With many of us not visiting an RAF base since summer 2019, we had missed the feeling of camaraderie in the billets, the smell of freshly cooked camp breakfasts and the variety of activities and experiences on offer.

"This was the first summer camp that my intake has had the pleasure of experiencing and, whilst it didn't have exactly the same thrill as a sleep-away camp, the excellent TEST staff (who support the CCF (RAF) across 230

schools) created a camp that none of us will forget."

The different activities spread across two days were "fantastic" with both days offering the perfect balance of training, fun, and healthy competition with friends.

Highlights of the camp were the archery, air rifle shooting and a Close Quarter Battle paintball lane!

A firm favourite was the command task that encompassed orienteering, memory games and the simulated disposal of toxic waste.

"Each successful task netted an item from the trusty 24-hour ration pack," explained Sam. "Then, with 40 minutes

on the clock, you had to prepare a three-course meal fit for a king - or at least a Flight Lieutenant."

Sam went on: "For me, these two day-camps were my first experience of an RAF Air Cadet summer camp and, whilst I know that they weren't the same as camps at RAF bases, I believe it gave us a flavour of what is to come in the following years.

"We all joined the RAF Air Cadets for friendship, fun and to experience new activities and I firmly believe that the camp provided that for all of us who attended, no matter which CCF unit you were from."



## ASSAULT & PATROL BOOTS

**British Assault Boot**  
Code CD001



FROM **£49.95**

**Patrol Boot**  
Code AB38



FROM **£35.79**

**Delta Patrol Boot MoD Brown**  
Code AB75



FROM **£37.46**

**Patrol Boot Black**  
Code AB76



FROM **£35.79**

**Elite Patrol Boot**  
Code AB15

These brand new waterproof Elite Patrol boots in UK foot size 3 to 6 have been specially developed to provide a better performing cadet boot at an affordable price.



FROM **£58.29**

Also available in black code AB14



**Kammo Tactical MTP Airborne Webbing Set**  
Code KT0CP

**£69.95**



**Tactical Assault Pack Small 24L**  
Code KT005

**£39.95**



**Genuine RAF / Air Cadet Issue Blue Grey Beret Brand New**  
Code AH23/RAF

**£14.75**



**British Special Forces Bush Hat, MTP**  
Code KT039

**£6.95**

## CADET PCS MTP CLOTHING



**Cadet Forces PCS MTP Combat Shirt & Combat Trousers**  
Shirt KT055 Trousers KT056

**£32.95**

**£32.95**



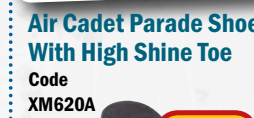
**Air Cadet Basic Starter Kit MTP PCS Uniform**  
Code SS06ATC

**£79.95**



**British Forces Combat Shirt, MTP PCS G1 Used**  
Code MTP11G

**£19.95**



**Air Cadet Parade Shoe With High Shine Toe**  
Code XM620A

**£34.95**



**Shape Up Instant Black Military Shine**  
Code PCA01

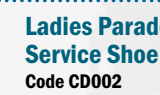
**£7.25**



**British Forces Style Parade Shoe**  
Code CD003

SIZES 3-6 **£30.79**

SIZES 7-14 **£36.95**



**Ladies Parade/Service Shoe**  
Code CD002

SIZES 6-9 **£37.95**

SIZES 1-5.5 **£31.62**



**British Army Combat Trousers, MTP, G1 Used**  
Code MTP12G

**£24.95**



**British Forces T-Shirt Combat, MTP Light Olive PCS**  
Code FT012

**£11.95**



**Soldier '95 Working Belt**  
Code AA22

**£17.95**



**RAF New Pattern Stable Belt**  
Code SB26

**£28.95**



**MoD White Parade Gloves**  
Code AG01CP

**£7.95**



**Trousers Twisters**  
Code AA24

**£1.00**

## NEW AIR CADET PROGRESSIVE TRAINING SYLLABUS BADGES

### SHOOTING



**Trained Shot Badges TB60**

**£1.50**



**Marksman Badges TB61**

**£1.50**



**Advanced Marksman Badges TB62**

**£1.50**



**Air Cadet Competition Marksman Badges TB63**

**£1.75**

### FLYING



**Air Cadet ATP Flying Wings Badges TB64/B**

**£2.95**



**Pilot Navigation training scheme Silver TB64/S**

**£2.95**



**Pilot Scholarship Gold Wings TB64/G**

**£2.95**



**Air Cadet Civilian Wings Badge TB64/C**

**£2.95**

### GLIDING



**Air Cadet ATP Gliding Wings Badges TB65**

**£2.95**



**NEW PRODUCT**

**FIRST AID Heartstart First Aid Badge**  
Code TB43



**Youth First Aid Badge**  
Code TB59/BR



**Activity First Aid Silver Badge**  
Code TB59/S



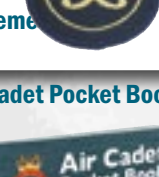
**Instructor First Aid Gold Badge**  
Code TB59/G



**DofE AWARD Pre DofE Award Blue Badge TB51/BL**



**DofE Award Scheme Badges TB51**



## NEW AIR CADET RANK SLIDES & CHEVRONS

**RAF/ATC Blue Woven NCO/WO Rank Slides**  
Code AE07RB



**£1.94**

**ATC Staff Cadet Rank Slides**  
Code AE07ST



**£1.94**

**RAF Air Cadets Officers Rank Slides No.2 Dress (Light Blue)**  
Code AE50LB



**£4.50**

**RAF Air Cadets Officers Rank Slides No.2 Dress (Dark Blue)**  
Code AE50DB



**£4.50**

**RAF Officers Rank Slides (Without Border)**  
Code AE06



**£3.95**



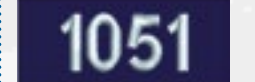
**RAF Air Cadets Officers Rank Slides MTP**  
Code AE50MTP

**£4.50**



**ATC Cadet Tactical Recognition Flash (4 Colour)**  
Code AE87

**£1.95**



**Air Cadet Squadron Identifier Badges**  
Code AE08ATC

**£1.10**

**Leading Cadet Resource Book**  
Code MB23



**MULTI-BUY DISCOUNT**

**£8.99**

**Air Cadet Pocket Book**  
Code MB19



**NEW PRODUCT**

**£12.95**

**Fieldcraft for Cadets Handbook**  
Code MB27CP



**MULTI-BUY DISCOUNT**

**£8.99**

**First Class Air Cadet Resource Book**  
Code MB22CP



**NEW PRODUCT**

**£8.99**

## NEW CATALOGUE ORDER A COPY ONLINE



**FREE**

Includes online order discount code





# THE OFFICIAL KIT CADET SHOP

KITTING OUT CADETS SINCE 1949

# ROYAL AIR FORCE AIR CADETS

the next generation

## NO 3 SERVICE DRESS-FIELD CLOTHING IN ACCORDANCE WITH RAFAC DRESS REGULATIONS (AP1358C) PARA 0219

### NEW GENUINE ISSUE

#### PCS MTP UBACS Shirt

Prod No: SHIRTUBACPCSKL  
NATO Stock No: 8415-99-488-8934

British Forces Brand New Genuine issue (PCS) latest generation UBACS Shirt, as worn underneath the Osprey & Virtus body armour.

MTP pattern central area is made from wicking and heat dispersing Coolmax fabric. The sleeves and shoulder area are made from hard wearing poly cotton in genuine UK issue Multi Terrain Pattern camouflage.

£32.80



### NEW GENUINE ISSUE

#### PCS Olive Cold Weather Fleece Thermal Undershirt

Prod No: FLEECEPCS  
NATO Stock No: 8415-99-813-3260

Genuine issue cold weather light olive thermal undershirt.

Specifically designed for use with the new MTP clothing issue.

Please note this is a close fitting item to retain body warmth.

£20.70



### MOST POPULAR

#### Black Full Leather Patrol Boots

Prod No: BOOT/PATROLFL

Full black leather boot with Thinsulate lining. Designed for comfort and flexibility.

Sizes 4-5 - £36.25

Sizes 6-13 - £43.50



### NEW GENUINE ISSUE

#### Cadet PCS Multi Terrain MTP Combat Smock - Ages 9 - 14

Prod No: SMOCKPCS/9-10

The Cadet windproof smock is manufactured in accordance with the specification used by the British Army and especially for Cadets.

Made from camouflage poly/cotton fabric designed to complement Multi Terrain Pattern (MTP) and MultiCam uniform and equipment.

£76.60



### NEW GENUINE ISSUE

#### Olive Green Unisex Coolmax T-Shirt

Prod No: TSHIRT/PCS  
NATO Stock No: 8415-99-813-3254

Developed as a base layer to be worn with PCS this extremely lightweight T-Shirt is made from 100% Polyester moisture-wicking 'Coolmax'.

£10.00



### NEW GENUINE ISSUE

#### RAF Beret

Prod No: BER/ATC  
NATO Stock No: 840 599 127 8128

Approved small crown beret made of 100% wool, banded with soft black leather with draw string and bow, black cotton lining.

£15.99



#### Air Training Corps Badge

Prod No: 300000/005

Corps badge made from base metal to MoD specifications. Made in Birmingham.

£3.95



### NEW GENUINE ISSUE

#### Cadet PCS Multi Terrain MTP Combat Trousers - Ages 9 - 14

Prod No: TRSPCS/13/14

The Cadet trousers are manufactured in accordance with the specification used by the British Army and especially for Cadets aged 11 - 14 years old.

The combat trousers fulfill the requirements of cadets, serving soldiers and reservists. It is made from camouflage poly/cotton fabric designed to complement Multi Terrain Pattern (MTP) and Multicam uniform and equipment.

£43.50



### NEW GENUINE ISSUE

#### Cadet PCS Multi Terrain MTP Combat Shirt - Ages 9 - 14

Prod No: SHIRTPCS/13/14  
NATO Stock No: 8415-99-317-8340

Manufactured in accordance with the specification used by the British Army and especially for Cadets.

The combat shirt fulfill the requirements of cadets, serving soldiers and reservists. It is made from camouflage poly/cotton fabric designed to complement Multi Terrain Pattern (MTP) and Multicam uniform and equipment.

£44.50



#### RAF Locket Stable Belt

Prod No: 210000/031M



Stable Belt in high quality woven material.

£34.95

#### RAF Officers' Rank Slide

Prod No: 300000/006NM

Regulation officers braid onto MTP fabric. Also available in Wedgewood, RAF Blue, Tan, Wet Weather, GP Jacket, Olive.

£4.50 pair



VIEW OUR FULL RANGE OF PRODUCTS AT [WWW.CADETKITSHOP.COM](http://WWW.CADETKITSHOP.COM)

FOR HELP & MORE INFORMATION GET IN TOUCH  
TEL 0333 335 5005 EMAIL [customerservice@cadetkitshop.com](mailto:customerservice@cadetkitshop.com)

Find us on...

