



# Blundell's School

## Combined Cadet Force

Handbook for Parents



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## About the Combined Cadet Force

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The CCF is part of the wider family of Ministry of Defence sponsored cadet forces, comprising of the Sea Cadets, Army Cadet Force, Air Cadets, and the Combined Cadet Force. Together, there are approximately 140,000 cadets across these four groups, supported by 26,000 adult volunteers.

The CCF is the oldest of these organisations, originating from a group of school based Cadet Corps as part of the Volunteer Corps, a forerunner of the current Army Reserve, which arose in the 1860s. In 1908, this slightly disparate collection of Cadet Corps was grouped together as the junior division of the Officer Training Corps, and in 1948, became the Combined Cadet Force.

The CCF at Blundell's first emerged as a Cadet Corps unit of the Devonshire Regiment in 1898, and as with other Cadet Corps became first an OTC in 1908, and then a CCF in 1948. On the amalgamation of the Devonshire Regiment with the Dorsetshire Regiment in 1958, the Army Section of the Blundell's CCF adopted a school cap badge, which is still worn by the contingent today.

Although the Contingent has had Navy and RAF sections in the past, we are currently a single service Contingent with only an Army Section, which is affiliated to the Rifles - the successor regiment to the Devonshire and Dorset Regiment and the Devonshire Regiment.

### Regimental affiliations of Blundell's School CCF, and the School cap badge



Devonshire  
Regiment  
1898-1958



Devonshire  
and Dorset  
Regiment  
1958-2007



The Rifles  
2007-Present



The Royal Marines  
2012 -Present



Blundell's  
School CCF  
Cap badge



Royal Marines Section  
CCF Cap badge

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## What We Do

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The purpose of the CCF is to provide *'a disciplined organisation in a school so that pupils may develop powers of leadership by means of training to promote the qualities of responsibility, self reliance, resourcefulness, endurance and perseverance'*. Through the use of military based training and activities, the CCF seeks to promote qualities essential not just in the military, but in the wider community.

This training is delivered through the Army Proficiency Certificate (APC) and the Advanced Army Proficiency Certificate (APC Adv), which covers general skills such as Navigation, First Aid and Campcraft, as well as military themed activities such as shooting and fieldcraft.

There is also plenty of Adventure Training, and our training programme is approximately 60% Military and 40% Adventurous Training. In Years 9 and 10, this tends to focus on expedition training for the DofE Bronze Award, but there are plenty of opportunities for other activities as well. In Year 11 and above, cadets are able to attend the Cadet Centre for Adventurous Training in Wales, where they can gain nationally recognised qualifications.

If our training aims could be summed up in one sentence, it is *'To develop the personal character of a Blundellian through a range of exciting and challenging activities which are conducted in a safe and controlled manner'*.

The CCF is not a recruitment organisation, and there is no expectation that cadets will go on to join the Armed Forces. The MOD views its commitment to the cadet forces as part of its commitment to wider society, and not as a recruitment tool.



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## Staff

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CONTINGENT COMMANDER: MAJOR BA DAWE MBE

SCHOOL STAFF INSTRUCTOR: SERGEANT D DRIVER

CONTINGENT STAFF:

- CAPTAIN AJR BERROW CCF
- CAPTAIN B BOSWELL RA
- CAPTAIN PTBD HAYWOOD RW
- 2ND LIEUTENANT TM MYCOCK RA
- UNDER OFFICER C E OLIVE
- UNDER OFFICER JA RATCLIFFE
- UNDER OFFICER J SPENCER
- UNDER OFFICER L THOMAS

The Contingent Staff are drawn from the School Common Room, and most have either prior Regular, Reserve, or Cadet Forces experience before commissioning into the CCF. There is also a wealth of outdoor pursuits and adventurous training experience.

The Contingent Officers are supported by the School Staff Instructor - an ex Regular Forces Senior Non Commissioned Officer who provides logistical and administrative support to the Contingent, as well as considerable military expertise.

The Contingent staff are also supported by the local Cadet Training Team, who are serving Senior NCOs from the Regular Army. An instructor from the CTT visits the Contingent every Monday, and we regularly receive support from the team on Field Days.



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## Training and Activities

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Training is based around the Army Proficiency Certificate (APC) and the Advanced Army Proficiency Certificate (APC Adv). This is the framework established by the MOD for CCF Army Sections, and is broken down into several areas which are trained and assessed.

- Fieldcraft and Tactics
- First Aid
- Navigation
- Skill at Arms and Shooting
- Drill
- Expedition

On completion of each APC level, cadets are awarded a certificate, and a badge to wear on their uniform.

On completing both APC levels, cadets complete a Method of Instruction and Leadership Cadre, which trains them to instruct junior cadets. At this stage they are heavily involved in the smooth running of the Contingent, and can hold quite considerable responsibility.

There are plenty of opportunities to explore additional areas of interest, and there is the opportunity to attend courses run nationally, including the Cadet Leadership Cadre at Frimley Park and Adventurous Training at the Cadet Centre for Adventurous Training (CCAT). We also arrange local trips and training with nearby units including the Royal Marines at Lympstone, the Army Air Corps, as well as activities with the other Services. Cadet can also complete various CVQO Leadership Awards including a Diploma with the Institute of Leadership and Management (ILM).



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## Field Days

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Field Days are 'red letter days' for the CCF, as they give us an opportunity to leave the school grounds and carry out exercises and activities on military training areas and bases, as well as taking part in Adventurous Training activities. The exact training that takes place on a Field Day varies from term to term depending on availability of training areas, offers of activities from Regular units, and a host of other factors, but all cadets can expect to spend a certain amount of time 'living in the field' overnight, and taking part in exercises which include blank firing. These activities are generally the highlight of being part of the CCF, and greatly enjoyed by all.

Generally speaking, CCF activities on Field Days run from the Sunday morning, overnight, and into Monday, allowing us to carry out overnight training. Exact details of each Field Day are generally circulated three to four weeks in advance, and this will confirm which cadets will be out on both days.



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## *The CCF and the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme & Ten Tors*

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The complementary nature of CCF training and the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme means that the CCF offers a highly supportive environment for successful completion of the Award Scheme at all levels. Participation in the Award Scheme is entirely voluntary, but we strongly encourage all cadets to take part.

For matters relating to the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, please contact the DofE Manager—Mr Dawe. His details are at the end of this handbook.

Cadets also have the opportunity to train and if selected complete the Ten Tors Challenge, entering teams at 35, 45 and 55 mile events.





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Aim and Principles of Army and Royal Marines CCF Cadet Training.

The aim of CCF cadet training is to offer the cadets a fun and challenging programme and to identify and develop their leadership style in a military context. This should be achieved whilst developing the Commando Mindset. Military Recruit Training develops and reinforces responsibility, teamwork, self-reliance, resourcefulness, and a sense of the community and these ideals should be considered throughout CCF Cadet Training.

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### *Clothing and Equipment*

Uniform is supplied by the Ministry of Defence, although cadets are required to supply their own boots. Any kind of black or brown high leg combat boot is suitable. We are able to supply boots through the CCF if required, and this is charged to the end of term bill - please let us know on the attached form if you would like us to order boots for your son or daughter, along with the size required.

We are generally able to loan outdoor equipment such as tents, rucksacks, waterproofs, cooking equipment etc. for CCF activities and expeditions, although many cadets prefer to use their own if they have them.

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### *Charges and Costs*

There is an overall subscription charged of £94.00 , which covers the majority of the activities carried out during a pupil's time with the CCF. There are small additional charges for attendance at annual camp, field days and for attending some national courses, such as St John's Ambulance Award. The majority of activities conducted in the CCF are heavily subsidised by the Ministry of Defence and offer excellent value for money. We will always notify you of any additional charges which may need to be levied, but we strive to keep this to an absolute minimum.

There is an additional charge for supplying boots if requested (currently £30.00). If students have good walking boots these may be used.



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## *Contact Details*

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Please use the contact information below if you wish to discuss anything related to the CCF

### **General Details**

Postal Address: Blundell's School CCF  
Blundell's School  
Blundell's Road  
Tiverton  
Devon  
EX16 4DN

Telephone: 01884 232378

Facsimile: 01884 243232

### **Useful Email Addresses**

Contingent Commander and Head of Outdoor Pursuits: Major BA Dawe MBE      [bad@blundells.org](mailto:bad@blundells.org)  
School Staff Instructor : TBC

### **Communications**

We will generally communicate with both parents and cadets via email. Please let us know if you would like to receive hard copies of any information that we send out electronically.