



The Journal of the Bancroft's School CCF

Honour & Glory

www.bancrofts.org

2018 - 2019



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From the Contingent Commander

I hope you enjoy reading this journal, the cadets have certainly been busy, engaged and committed throughout the year. It is excellent to watch the cadets develop their skills, both individually and as part of a team, and to see them grow as young leaders. It is great also to see them having fun. Many of the articles are about camps, field days, other events and courses and there really is a wide range of opportunity available both within the school and beyond through the CCF. I encourage cadets interested in further challenge and fun to make the most of the opportunities that are available, to sign up for Contingent activities when advertised and also to see what else is out there – two useful starting points are: www.armycadetadventure.co.uk and the Canada Cadet Exchange Scheme - www.combinedcadetforce.org.uk/news-media-centre/news/2019/canadian-exchange-programme-2020.

Of particular note this year was Remembrance Day 2018 which marked the 100th anniversary of the Armistice. The occasion was particularly well attended by the Bancroft's community with Old Bancroftian former cadets taking part in the service as well as present cadets. A particular thanks to Reverend Ivan Moore for coordinating and conducting the event. His attention to detail and ability to set the tone ensured the occasion was marked appropriately. The Biennial Review in March was another important occasion this year, with Lt Colonel Graham Goodey OB MBE acting as Reviewing Officer. Graham left Bancroft's in 2000 and has been a great supporter of the Contingent ever

since, visiting camps and field days with kit, equipment and soldiers. In 2020 he is due to take command of 1 Royal Anglian, our parent battalion, and I wish him every success in this prestigious appointment.

The CCF at Bancroft's is very fortunate to be supported by OBs (notably Major Laurence Baum and Finlay Ferguson) and school staff and I am extremely grateful for all that they do. A particular word of welcome to our newest staff recruits John Barnard, James Smith and James Barr, the latter having served for eight years in the Army Air Corps prior to entering teaching. An additional word of thanks to Damien Pascal, our SSI, who ensures the CCF runs as it should. The role of the SSI has changed markedly during his tenure, the number of inspections are now legion, the volume of paperwork seemingly never ending, whilst the procedures imposed by the MOD make the Brexit negotiations look straightforward. I am hugely grateful for his support.

Finally, and most importantly, the cadets have again excelled this year. Led very ably by RSM Martin Prusa, with the support of Anissa Patel (Head of Army Section) and Juliette Balchin and Simone Luis (joint Head of RAF Section), the CCF has been in very good hands. The wider group of NCOs has done an excellent job in delivering varied training to the younger cadets and have led them well on Field Days and Camps. All cadets have thrown themselves into activities with gusto and can be proud of all that they have achieved.

Major R M Hitching

From the RSM

My last year in the CCF has provided me with memories which I shall cherish for years to come. Not only has it been a jam-packed year, but I also had the honour of commanding the Contingent through both Remembrance Sunday and the Biennial Review. The year was also very special given that it was 100 years since the end of the Great War, every cadet played their part expertly as they took part in a moving parade in November. I would be lying if I did not say that I myself felt a little pressure during the commemoration.

In March we had the Biennial Review during which cadets took part in an inter-section competition designed to test their powers of teamwork and leadership. This time CSgt Adam Agbamu got to put his name on the trophy with a great performance by him and his section. After the competition, I had the

opportunity to parade the CCF around the Quad with CSM Anissa Patel commanding the Guard of Honour which performed brilliantly.

As is the highlight for many, the CCF year ended with Army Camp in Lydd. At the end of the week the Army Section were put to the test with the Dan Clack competition, with our now RSM, Madhav Narayanan, taking victory in a tightly fought contest between the sections. To sum up, my last year in the CCF has been incredible and I am truly honoured to have been in command of it. Given that five out of my seven years at Bancroft's have been in the CCF, I am sad to be leaving but glad that I have been a part of something so unique to the school.

RSM Martin Prusa





In Remembrance



This school year we commemorated the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War during our annual CCF parade; a war which sadly and needlessly took the lives of over 9 million military personnel and 8 million civilians. I hope that the parade in November, in some small way, gave testament to the bravery of those that fought in this conflict and those who dealt with the struggles after it.

Remembrance Sunday started with the whole Contingent marching in front of the school and turning into the Quad where we were greeted not only by visitors coming to pay their respects, but also by the delicately and beautifully crafted ceramic poppies made by our very own Art Department arranged around our First World War memorial. Each of these, rather touchingly, bore the name of a Bancroftian that fell during the war. These were later put on sale to further raise money to aid the charities: Help for Heroes and Combat Stress. We marched around the Quad and then halted by the Great Hall where this year's Remembrance service took place. This is only the second time I have seen the service, and it is the first time for most of the Contingent as there has never been enough space in previous years.

This year I found the service particularly moving, with the first reading read by CSM Anissa Patel and emotional readings by E.M. Sautter (President of the Old Bancroftians Association), Major Graham Goodey MBE (Royal Anglian Regiment OB 1993-2000) and Major Laurence Baum (Royal Army Medical Corps OB 1998-2005). They each read an extract from documents written by Old Bancroftians who sadly gave their life during the war. One that particularly hit home for me was the biography of Norman Lindsay Mackie. He gained First Class honours at Oxford for

History and went on to become a Captain in the London Scottish Regiment after being commissioned as a Second Lieutenant. I particularly remember the fact that he was referred to as the 'Scotsman.' He sadly died after being immobilised by the failure of the allied use of chlorine gas.

Between these readings we were provided with a soothing choir from the Bancroft's Singers and wonderful music from our Concert Band. The service then moved to the Quad for the laying of wreaths, two minutes silence and the playing of the Last Post and Reveille. The Contingent then marched off. After the parade, a special centenary photo was taken to mark the occasion.

This article is not complete without mentioning our Chaplain, Reverend Moore, for organising the service and making it my most memorable, especially as it is my final one as part of the CCF. It also goes without saying that Major Hitching and SSI Pascal helped me a great deal in getting everyone together and helping me to ensure the day went as smoothly as possible.

RSM Martin Prusa



We Will Remember Them

To mark the hundredth anniversary of the end of the First World War, information relating to some of the 167 Old Bancroftians who lost their lives is included below.

Robert Victor Vallancey

Born January-March 1900 - Died of Sickness 18th November 1918



Robert Victor Vallancey the second son of Charles George and Maria Vallancey of 17 Chandos Road, Cricklewood, London. He had three brothers, one older Frederick and two younger William and Phillip. Robert's father was from Wexford, Ireland and his mother of French parentage.

Robert was a boarder at Bancroft's School between 1913 and 1915. At school he was an enthusiastic member of the school's Scout troop where he learned a varieties of skills of a practical nature such as signalling and mechanics. He left Bancroft's aged 15 years in 1915 and applied to be a mechanic in the Royal Flying Corps. He saw such a route as guaranteeing his fastest route to the front lines.

This he achieved, avoiding the prohibitions on active service imposed by his youth, he soon went to France to service the aircraft of 9 Squadron.

By 1918 he was an Air Mechanic Third Class in the newly formed Royal Air Force. In the autumn of 1918 he was struck down by the influenza epidemic sweeping across Europe. By Armistice Day, 11th November 1918, Robert was gravely ill. He was admitted to hospital but died of pneumonia brought on by the influenza a week after hostilities ceased on 18th November 1918. Aged 18 years, he was buried in the Busigny Community Cemetery Extension.

Percy Montague Phillips

16th November 1891 - 25th September 1916

Percy Montague Phillips, the son of George Henry and Elizabeth Emma Phillips, lived with his parents at 473 Grove Green Road, Leytonstone. His father was a Commercial Bookkeeper in the Iron trade and his older brother became a mercantile clerk.

Percy was a boarder at Bancroft's School between 1904 and 1909 and won the Sixth Form mathematics prize in 1908. He also appeared in the school production of 'The Merchant of Venice' as 'Bassanio', and was a member of the Cricket 1st XI. In his last year at school he became a school monitor and passed the Intermediate Examination direct from the school enabling him to study for a BA in Mathematics at the University of London.

In the early months of the war he was commissioned into the 13th Battalion, the Yorkshire Regiment, formed in Richmond, Yorkshire as a Bantam battalion. In late 1915 the battalion was undergoing training around Aldershot. The battalion landed on 6th June 1916 at Le Havre and was stationed in the area of Lens, between Loos and the Franco-Belgian frontier. While the battles on the Somme raged that summer, miles to the south, Lt Percy Phillips was killed whilst detonating a rifle grenade - a British invention which enabled a grenade to be discharged from a rifle and propelled further than a conventional hand thrown grenade. He was buried in the Philosophe Military Cemetery, Mazingarbe.



P. M. PHILLIPS
(1904-1909).

In the keenness to enlist and 'do one's bit', Bantam Battalions were formed in which the minimum height requirement for service of 5'3" was reduced to 5'0". Made up very often of hard-working and physically fit men who were only too keen to enlist, they more than won their spurs in the conflict.



Norman Lindsay Mackie

87th September 1891 - 25th September 1915



CAPT. N. L. MACKIE.
London Scottish.

Norman was the only son of John Lindsay Mackie, CBE, of 91 The Avenue, Muswell Hill, London. His mother had died when he was still a youngster. His father was a senior manager within the Customs and Excise being awarded the CBE in 1926.

Norman attended Bancroft's School as a boarder between 1904 and 1908. He had the nickname 'the Scotsman'. At Bancroft's he quickly established

himself as a strong presence in the school. A talented sportsman, he made his mark in swimming and in 'fives'. He was active in school concerts and playing the role of 'Antony' in the school's production of Julius Caesar. He was awarded the school's 'Trower' prize, was a school monitor and is remembered in the following terms: "I doubt there was any more popular monitor than he. His was not the popularity of the brilliant cricket or footer captain, but arose from the sympathetic interest he took in the younger boys of the School, particularly in the first year boys – a popularity worth having His ability to concentrate was remarkable ... during prep and at other times, elbows on the table, shading his eyes with his hands, and thumb closing his ears, reading up his work, almost entirely oblivious of what was going on around him."

He read History at Hertford College, Oxford, and graduated with a First Class degree, and went on to study Jurisprudence, again awarded a First Class in 1913. In 1914 he was appointed to a lectureship in Law at Manchester University, but he never took up the post.

At both London and Oxford Universities he had been active in the OTC so it was no surprise that on 1st Sept 1914 he was commissioned in the London Scottish Regiment. He left for France with the first draft of reinforcements in the winter of 1914-5 and was promoted to Captain in command of the Machine Gun Section of his brigade.

On the 25th September 1915 the allies launched the Battle of Loos. Norman was in the lines near Vermelles, just north of Loos. Norman had volunteered to be forward observation officer and followed closely after the advancing British troops who seized the German

front trenches. The allies used gas for the first time and the gas blew back upon the advancing British troops. Norman was gassed and immobilised. He was choking when he was shot. Whilst his body was seen about 200 yards from the German barbed wire, it was never recovered and he is commemorated on the LOOS MEMORIAL. One of his men, had said: "Lieutenant Mackie? Yes. He will either get a VC or be killed, and he is one of the best officers we could possibly have. He never forgets his men."

Herbert Musgrove Beck

Born January 1896 - Killed in Action 22nd January 1918

Herbert 'Bertie' Musgrove Beck was the oldest son of Herbert and Ada Beck. The family lived at 45 Mayfair Avenue, Ilford. Herbert attended Bancroft's as a day boy between 1907 and 1909 and after leaving school took up a clerical position in the Union Castle Steamship Company.

With the outbreak of war in 1914 he enlisted with the London Rifle Brigade. However, in 1916 he was offered an honourable discharge having sustained an injury to his foot. He refused to be discharged and applied instead for transfer to the Royal Flying Corps. He commenced flying training at Denham in February 1917, winning his wings in the months that followed, and on 1st August 1917 he was transferred to 3 Squadron on the Western Front.

When he arrived the squadron was in the process of being re-equipped with single-seater Sopwith Camels as replacement for the two-seater French construction Morane Parasol machines.

His first task on active service was ferrying in the replacements. On 3rd October 1917, amidst heavy rain, Bertie narrowly escaped injury when the Camel he was flying crashed and overturned straight after take-off. The squadron then began flying patrols over the lines in the new machines.

After leave in November 1917 he was posted to No.3 Squadron based at Warloy, 15 miles north east of Amiens. On 5th December, again over the lines, Bertie's machine was riddled with bullets from an opposing German aircraft but was saved by the intervention of his comrade Lieutenant A G 'Grey' Alderson who



forced the chasing plane to break off the contact. 'Grey' Alderson and 'Bertie' Beck became good friends, flying together in the squadron's 'C' Flight, and in the following days were credited together with forcing down a German two seater aircraft. As Christmas 1917 approached, the questionable reliability of the machines was made more precarious by the dropping temperatures. Oil was drained from machines to prevent them clogging in the extreme cold. Still the flights continued in a never ending bid to achieve air superiority over the lines below.



The New Year brought no respite from the freezing conditions or the patrols from a snow covered aerodrome. In the first week of January 1918 'Bertie' forced down a German two seater behind enemy lines. On the 10th 'Bertie' together with 'Grey' Alderson and others exchanged their old aircraft for Camels from Marquise near Boulogne. Shortly after, in recognition of his experience in combat he was attached to No.6 Squadron to instruct their pilots in tactics for avoiding low level attack. This was a relatively safe posting yet on 22nd January while engaged in a mock attack against 6 Squadron RE, the Camel flown by Bertie suddenly spun into the ground from a height of 500 feet. He was killed instantly and was buried in the St Pierre Cemetery, Amiens. His superior officer wrote, "He was one of the stoutest-hearted fellows I have met during this campaign, and I never want a better in the squadron. I was going to recommend him for a flight commander."

Herbert Manico Nash

January 1891 - 20th December 1915

Herbert Manico Nash was the second of four sons of Charles Herbert and Florence Nash and lived at 'The Chestnuts', High Road, Woodford Green. All four boys attended Bancroft's School, Herbert was a dayboy from 1899 – 1905. In April 1914 the Nash parents emigrated to Ontario, Canada sailing on the Mauretania to New York.

When war broke out Herbert was living at 'Maybank', Palmerston Road, Buckhurst Hill, and was working as a clerk at the Bank of England. With his brothers he

joined up at the outbreak of war joining the 15th Battalion the Prince of Wales Own Civil Service Rifles and arrived on the Western front on 17th March 1915 a week after his younger brother Frederick, who within a month had been killed in action. His Battalion occupied the trench systems around Bethune and were in action at the battles of Aubers Ridge, Festubert and Loos.



H. M. NASH.

By December of 1915 the battalion was in the vicinity of Lillers near Bethune. He is commemorated on the Loos Memorial. Comrades explained what happened in a letter to Herbert's mother:

Dear Madam,

Your son was very popular with us all, as he excelled in all games, especially cricket, and was so modest and unassuming that I never heard anyone speak an unkind word against him. It was owing to his capability as a thrower (he told me on his last afternoon that he had won a prize at school for throwing the cricket ball) that he was asked to fill a vacancy in the grenadiers just before a spell of duty in a dangerous point in the line. Another section of our bombers lost a sap the next morning, though your son was one of a party which successfully repulsed an attack delivered simultaneously.

At five minutes notice that evening we were asked to retake that lost sap. I had shared the same shelter as your son that afternoon, and he had talked much of his schooldays, of his friend Roland Pearson, who had been killed that morning. Nash was next me during the night attack across the open and, speaking for myself, I was considerably helped by his perfect coolness under fire, and courage in a critical position.

After our officer and NCOs had been killed we gave up our quite hopeless task and retired in safety, but afterwards your son went back again to bomb the Germans from outside a trench – a very daring and brave thing to do. The few who were with him say he did magnificently until his death, which was instantaneous. He is buried where he fell.

All who had the privilege of knowing your son, feel that they can never forget him.

Chas. M. Tucker Civil Service Rifles



Biennial Review

On Tuesday 26th March 2019 the CCF welcomed Old Bancroftian Lieutenant-Colonel Graham Goodey MBE as its Reviewing Officer. As a pupil (1993-2000) Graham was a keen rugby and hockey player and member of the CCF. From Bancroft's he moved to St John's College, Cambridge, where he completed a Master's degree in Theoretical Physics.

From the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst he commissioned into The First Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment, and has served as a Platoon Commander, Reconnaissance Platoon Commander, Adjutant and Company Commander. He has also been the Aide-de-Camp for NATO's Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe and is currently the Military Assistant to one of the Assistant Chiefs of the Defence Staff in the MOD. He is due to take command of 1st Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment in 2020.

The pupils took great pride in demonstrating their skills to Graham as they took part in the Inter-Section Competition in Epping Forest, followed by an Apache helicopter 'fly by' courtesy of the Reviewing Officer, and a parade and prize giving. The Biennial Review is an opportunity to showcase the activities of the CCF, to demonstrate the benefits cadets derive from membership and to celebrate their successes. My thanks to the Officers, Senior NCOs and Cadets of the Contingent for ensuring the day was a success and particular congratulations to those listed below.

Major R M Hitching

The Winner of the Biennial Tournament 2019

1 Section, led by Cpl Adam Agbamu

Baker Cup for Best Cadet in the RAF Section

L/Cpl Ashviny Ramanathan

Gray Cup for Best Cadets in the Army Section

L/Cpl Manav Arora & L/Cpl Ben Hughes

Greenwood Cup for Leadership

CSM Anissa Patel

Bromfield Cup for the Senior NCO in the Contingent

RSM Martin Prusa



Below is an extract from the Reviewing Officer's report:

Bancroft's School CCF is in outstanding shape. Its numbers are at capacity; its cadets are busy, motivated, and clearly enjoy what they do; and its experienced staff are well organised, dedicated and very competent. The fact that over 70% of the School's pupils apply to join this voluntary CCF once they are old enough, with many remaining in the Contingent for the full five years, is testament to the excellent health of this large (210 strong) CCF.



The inspection itself was hugely impressive all-round. The inter-section competition demonstrated the cadets' superb enthusiasm, knowledge and engagement with a broad range of military topics, and the formal parade that followed was equally commendable. The Guard of Honour in particular (c.30 cadets), led by Cdt CSM Anissa Patel, had spent considerable time practising their rifle drill and can be rightly proud of the standard that their hard work and commitment took them to. Such activities are almost anachronistic in young people's modern lives, which only goes to underline their value in broadening their experience and instilling a wide range of personal values. In the margins of these activities the cadets were unanimously positive about the wide variety of regular activities that the Contingent undertakes - the



highly popular summer cadet camps and Easter adventurous training in the Lake District being the standout annual events among them.

There is a broad range of factors behind the Contingent's success, but chief among them is the relationship that it enjoys with its parent school. The School's leadership is evidently highly supportive of the CCF and in turn the CCF greatly enriches the pupils' educational experience and enjoyment, as well as providing an insight into the Services. It is self-evidently a mutually beneficial and well-proven model, but not all schools embrace it in the way that Bancroft's does.

In summary, Bancroft's School CCF is thriving. It surely must be one of the exemplars across the CCF world. Its officers and cadets should be highly commended for all they have achieved, and special mention goes to Maj Robert Hitching as the Contingent Commander, WO2 Damian Pascal as the SSI, and Cdt RSM Martin Prusa, who have all played a central part in maintaining Bancroft's School CCF in its current fine form.

Lt Col GJ Goodey MBE R ANGLIAN





October Field Weekend

Having joined the Army Section of the CCF at the start of the school year, I was excited to go on a field trip so soon. After spending the majority of the weekend at school doing weapon training it was a relief to finally pass our rifle weapon handling test. We got to school early, at seven, on Monday 15th October 2018 and after registering we got into coaches for the long drive to Colchester.



When we arrived the Army Section was split into two groups. We spent half the day patrolling in various section formations such as an arrowhead and learnt about basic field signals. We also had the chance to blank fire for the first time and it was an amazing experience. The NCOs also conducted a challenge where we located and remembered various army related objects on a trail and this proved to be difficult for most of us.

However, for many, the highlight of the day was the laser tag. We played several fun games for two hours in teams. At the end of the day we got ready to head back to school. Overall the field day was informative and showed us what CCF was about but it was also a lot of fun and a fantastic trip!

Cdt Avneet Sapal



A View From the Upper Fourth

It has definitely been an enjoyable year in CCF this year! We have done a range of activities from going to Harlow Outdoors Centre for our October Field Day, First Aid training and Bronze DofE!

For our October Field Day the U4th and L6th Army Section headed to Harlow Outdoors Centre. We did a range of activities including cycling, canoeing and climbing amongst others. My favourite was probably the canoeing and luckily I managed not to get too wet! I found the climbing fun as well even though some of the walls were quite challenging. I managed to do the easier walls without much difficulty but some of the hard ones were quite difficult to climb! All round it was definitely a fun day!

On a weekend in June the U4th Army Section headed to Folkestone to complete our Bronze DofE Qualifying Expedition.

Earlier in the year we had completed our Expedition Training which consisted of learning how to navigate (quite a challenge for some people!), basic First Aid and being taught how to use the Trangias we would be "cooking" our food on during the expedition. In early March we all did our Practice Expedition in Epping Forest and after a day of walking and thankfully not getting too lost we ended up at Campsite. We then proceeded to cook and eat our food, with mixed

success in some cases- some food looked less than appetising! The next morning we did another days walking and eventually ended up back at school. The point of this Expedition was to prepare for the real thing coming later in the year!

In June, after more weeks of training and kit check, we headed to Folkestone to start our Qualifying Expedition. We managed to get slightly lost on the first day but with a little bit of help from the teachers we got back on track. When we arrived at the campsite we put up our tents (which to my alarm were in a field of cows) and cooked our food. We had a good night sleep, fortunately undisturbed by the cows, and the next day we continued on our stroll, not getting too lost this time! We finally reached our finishing point and achieved our aim to develop our Teamwork skills. Overall I think it was a good experience and my group and I all enjoyed the Expedition.

One of the obvious highlights of the year was Army Camp. I really enjoyed the whole week, especially the Skills Village blank firing day.

Thank you to all of the teachers who run the CCF for making it so enjoyable and I look forward to next year in the 5th form!

LCpl Charlie Hitching

Adventurous Training 2019

As one of the first L4th to go on Adventurous Training, the trip historically being open to U4th and above, initially it was daunting. However, it turned out to be one of the best school trips I had ever been on. I would, without a doubt, recommend it to anyone who loves the outdoors, but even to people who might not, as it is a chance to challenge oneself and do new things.

We were right next to Coniston Water, in the Lake District, and miraculously it didn't rain all week! For the first three days we were split into groups and went and did the activities we had previously chosen. You could choose any three from caving, canoeing and gorge-walking, rock-climbing and abseiling and mountain biking. The activity I enjoyed the most was caving, as it was unlike anything I had ever done before, and although it was quite challenging it was thoroughly enjoyable. Canoeing and gorge-walking was also fun, especially when the bravest members of our group jumped into a bitterly cold pool of water. In rock-climbing and abseiling I had to face my fear of heights, but I managed to abseil down the cliff face.



During the last three days we camped, something I had never done before, and although it wasn't the highlight of the trip it was something new. We also navigated around the breath-taking scenery. It was amazing seeing Scafell Pike, the tallest mountain in England, and the many small lakes dotted around the peaks. Overall, although it was a tiring trip, it was rewarding and something I had never done before.

Cdt Karam Khanna



Army Camp 2019

This year after a few complications and superb organisation from Major Hitching and WOII Pascal we managed to land ourselves a spot at Lydd Camp in Kent.

This was a new camp for the staff and pupils, so it was exciting to see what it had to offer, although the arrival of the U6th NCOs along with Major Hitching and WOII Pascal the previous day caused unrest in the camp by setting off the Armoury alarm for 20 minutes while unpacking!

Once the remainder of the troops arrived the following day and the stores had been arranged in an orderly fashion we were all ready to begin training. On the first few days we headed to the training area on camp to set up various stations of room and urban clearance drills, first aid, section attacks and obstacle course practice. This programme was slightly different to previous years due to the access to the urban patrolling and clearance facilities on camp, yet the cadets were still able to fire blank rounds and practice essential infantry skills. Special thanks to Captain



Pollard and my fellow U6th whose legendary banana selling set the atmosphere of a village market in the urban patrolling activity!

Bowl Water, our only “non-green” day where cadets are permitted to wear civilian clothes, involved a day of fun activities such as kayaking, laser tag, team building, mountain biking, and trying out the new



Aqua Park. This day always acts as a great bonding experience between cadets across the five year groups and is a well-deserved break from the intense training week.

To round things off in our annual Army Camp the cadets competed in the traditional Dan Clack Trophy with eight different stands led by staff and the U6th NCOs. This always proves to be a difficult but rewarding day with high levels of competitive spirit between the L6th section commanders. This year the new RSM Madhav Narayanan led his section to victory with an excellent performance.

All in all, this year's camp was very successful and I would like to thank all the staff for their hard work

throughout the year to make weekly training and trips away run as smoothly as possible.

CSM Anissa Patel



RAF Section Activities

RAF Camp

After a long journey by coach we finally arrived at our destination, RAF St Mawgan in Cornwall, our home for the next week. We ate dinner and were given a presentation on base safety and the rules of the station. After this we were placed into our squads. I was with a few classmates that I knew but mostly it was people from other schools. We were led by the highest-ranking person in our squad, as were the other three squads, and all of them overseen by the highest-ranking cadet present. We were also instructed by servicemen who organised the activities.

Over the course of the week we took part in numerous activities such as archery, orienteering and shooting among many other things. We also went to a number of the fantastic beaches in Cornwall and were given free reign. One of the best parts was near the end where the awards were given out. My personal favourites were the “paper plates”, personalised awards tailored to each individual and written by our squad leaders. They were a testament to how well we had grown to know each other. I can safely say that I made some friendships there that are still strong today.

Overall I had an amazing time at RAF Camp and will definitely be going again if I can!

Cdt Miles Asuni

Air Cadet Leadership Course

This summer I was fortunate enough to be able to go on the Air Cadet Leadership Course at RAF College Cranwell. The week-long course brings together cadets from all over the country and involves high standards of discipline throughout. The course included lectures, drill, fitness, navigation, field exercises and command tasks - all designed to build and develop teamwork and leadership skills.

The week consisted of completing and leading increasingly challenging command tasks as a flight. As the week progressed, two nights were spent ‘in the field’ living under a bivy, which was surprisingly pleasant considering that it was the hottest week of the year. Once the field training was finished, the course returned to RAF College Cranwell for a formal passing out parade in front of family and RAF officers, where we were presented with our gold leadership badge by Air Vice Marshal Smyth.

This has been the best experience of my cadet career to date. I was challenged both mentally and physically from the moment I arrived. The week was truly amazing and I enjoyed every aspect of it and felt extremely proud of my achievements during the passing out parade in front of the college.

Sgt Ashviny Ramanathan



2019/2020 Autumn Term Highlights

A Week in Wiltshire: Ex-Stem Army Camp

During the half term holiday, we spent a week at Rollestone Camp, a military base with 260 other cadets. The focus on the week was exploring STEM's (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) role within the British Army. We met several corps, such as the Intelligence Corp, the REME (Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers) Corp, the Royal Air Corp, the Royal Medical Corp, the Engineering Corp, the Royal Artillery and the Royal Corp of Signals.



Our activities ranged from visiting the Army Combat Power Demonstration, to talks on data protection and Cyber Warfare, a talk from Jordan Wylie (Army Cadet Ambassador and extreme adventurer) and viewing tanks and aircraft in detail (including the Ajax tank, Warrior and Challenger tanks, Apaches, Wildcat helicopters and Chinooks), even riding in them.

The week was a valuable experience, where we got to meet and form friendships with cadets from around Britain and navigate through new challenges. Our favourites included, riding in a Challenger Tank, building a Da Vinci self-supporting bridge, constructing a motorised vehicle out of plastic and a rubber band, and programming robots. Overall, it demonstrated to us the vast opportunities and roles within the British Army in addition to encouraging us to be curious, ask questions and learn. It was an unforgettable and enriching experience for us, and we recommend it to the cadets in CCF, between the ages of 13 and 16.

LCpls Isha Elahi and Sahana Sekhon

Army Cadet Leadership Course

During October half term, two cadets had the chance to go on a Cadet Leadership Course (CLC) – a rather daunting prospect as it is run by and staffed by the MOD. Eleanor Channer and myself were the ones lucky enough to be selected, so on the first Saturday of half term (after a day of double – checking kit and dreaming of the lie in we could otherwise be having on the first day of our holidays) we set off for the sunny hills of Folkestone.

Although we were pretty terrified of what was to come on the train journey there, once we had met with around 40 other equally nervous cadets we were able to get settled and start the rigorous week that was to come. The daily schedule wasn't exactly relaxed – reveille at 0600 and class until 2100, meant we were close to collapsing by the end of the week, but it was needed to include all the incredible activities that were planned for us!

The highlights of the week included four section attacks in a day (where we each had 5 mags per attack), a day of TIBUA (Training in Built-Up Areas), a Battlefields trip to Belgium and a platoon night assault with flashlights strapped to our rifles! My favourite activity was the day we spent at LTD Village; we were taught completely new skills like running Vehicle Checkpoints (VCPs), managing and protecting a military base and taking part in a Quick Response Force (QRF), a flexible team that is utilised when patrols need assistance.

Despite the week extremely fun and teaching us a lot about military exercises, the focus of the course was leadership, and every cadet had many chances to put the techniques and concepts we had learnt into practice throughout the week as positions of leadership were rotated between cadets every exercise. Having to remain level headed so we could effectively coordinate an attack in such intense and challenging conditions was one of the hardest and therefore most valuable aspects of the course.

Overall, we both found the week extremely rewarding as we were able to learn how to lead effectively while refining our infantry skills, meeting new people and having a great time!

Cpls Ben Hughes & Eleanor de Renzy Channer



Bancroft's Combined Cadet Force

Contingent Strength

Army Section	141 Cadets
RAF Section	48 Cadets

Contingent Officers

Contingent Commander	Major R M Hitching
SSI	WOII D Pascal

Army Section Officers

OC Army Section	Capt L J Coyne
	Capt J C Pollard
	Lt N E Lee
	Lt R C Faiers
	Lt S C Hampson
	Lt J Barnard
	Lt J T Barr
	AUO J A Smith

RAF Section Officers

OC RAF Section	Flt Lt S Hunn
	Flying Officer H E Stewart
	Pilot Officer S L Brand

Residential Camps

Adventurous Training	April, Coniston, Lake District.
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Army Camp	July, Lydd Camp, Kent.
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RAF Camp	July, RAF St Mawgan, Cornwall
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RAF Section Awards

RAF Proficiency Certificate - Part 1

Cdts Asuni, Day, Irshad, Kapur, Metson-Bailie, Rathod, Sarafin, Trussler & Van Rooyen

RAF Proficiency Certificate - Part 2

Cdts Ferguson & Grout

RAF Section Promotions

To Lance Corporal

Cdts Page & Shah

To Corporal

L/Cpls Al-Mizan & Tuite

Head of RAF Section

Sgt Ashviny Ramanathan

RAF Section Competitions

2018 Air Squadron Trophy Team

Cpl J. Balchin, Cpl S. Luis, Cdt A. Arif, Cdt M. Kathirgamasutharsan, L/Cpl A. Ramanathan, Cdt A. Rasal, L/Cpl M. Sanjeevan, L/Cpl R. Tuite, Cdt M. Chowdhury, Cdt A. Kumar, Cdt O. Page, & Cdt K. Shah

Army Section Awards

Army Proficiency Certificates

Zara Alam, Aarit Amin, Jasmine Attalia, Aman Bansal, Zia Bashir, Joseph Clarke, Isha Elahi, Eesa Farooqui, Emily Harris, Charlie Hitching, Ihsan Islam, Clementine Jamieson, Lawrence Lee, Akhila Natarajan, Kaylan Patel, Ria Patel, Sahana Sekhon, Manon Senthilnathan & Zakir Sharif

Cadet Force Instructional Techniques Course & Advanced Army Proficiency Certificates

Manav Arora, Arisht Bothra, Tamara Chadda, Swaraat Chakraborty, Emily Christaki, Holly Cohen, Eleanor de Renzy Channer, Mathew Dean, Simarn Dhamu, Anna-Francesca Hammond, Ben Hughes, Danya Lakshman, Berfin Laursen, Manpreet Multani, David Nana, Dylan Nicholls, James Ormsby, Sanjana Pamneja, Meera Patel, Rohan Patel, Sarika Patel, Maiya Patni, Naveen Prabhakar, Sonia Sagoo, Varsha Sethuraman, Qasim Sheikh, Afri Sowe, Lucy Surtees, Ezyar Tilki, Dami Ogundiya & Lewis Wood

Army Camp 2018 Awards

Best Recruits at Army Camp 2019

Alex Brett, Karam Khana, Tom Martin, Max Pollard & Nathan Tan

Thurston Prize for the best performance at Army Camp 2019

Tom Taylor & Ben Hughes

Lt Daniel Clack Trophy 2019

Presented to the winners of the Army Camp Inter-Section Competition

1st Place 3 Section led by Madhav Narayanan
2nd Place 1 Section led by Harvey Martin
3rd Place 8 Section led by Ben Hughes

Army Camp 2019 Promotions

To Lance Corporal

5th Form at Army Camp: Arisht Bothra, Mathew Dean, Sanjana Pamneja, Meera Patel, Rohan Patel, Sarika Patel, Naveen Prabhakar, Sonia Sagoo & Varsha Sethuraman

5th Form not at Army Camp: Tamara Chadda, Swaraat Chakraborty, Holly Cohen, Simran Dhamu, Anna-Francesca Hammond, Henry Hobbs, Dhanya Lakshman, Berfin Laursen, Manpreet Multani, Dylan Nichols, James Ormsby, Maaya Patni, Lucy Surtees & Dami Ogundiya

U4th: Zia Bashir, Isha Elahi, Charlie Hitching, Clem Jamieson, Sahana Sekhon & Manon Senthilnathan



To Corporal

L6th not in Camp: Abu Khan, Mustafa Lodhi, Ozair Rana, Lewis Shine, Anusha Talukder & Ibrahim Yunis

5th Form at Army Camp: Manav Arora, Emily Christaki, Ben Hughes, David Nana, Ezyar Tilki & Lewis Wood.

5th Form not at Army Camp:

Eleanor Channer

To Sergeant

Andrew McGregor & Alex O'Brien

To Colour Sergeant

Adam Agbamu, Nikhita Shah & Tom Taylor

To Company Sergeant Major, Heads of Army Section

Harvey Martin & Ali Ullah

Contingent Promotions

To Regimental Sergeant Major, Head of Contingent

Madhav Narayanan

