



27 May 2010

Dear Parent,

**Re: BABLAKE SCHOOL COMBINED CADET FORCE (CCF)**

The Second Years attended a presentation today which explained what Bablake CCF had to offer in terms of activities and opportunities. This letter is to provide you with further information, should your son/daughter wish to join.

Please read the information below in order that you may better understand what is involved and feel able to make an informed decision.

**WHAT IS THE CCF?**

Although essentially military in background, Bablake CCF is not run with inflexibility and rigid discipline. However, we do expect our cadets to be smart in appearance, courteous and thoughtful, and to have respect for the structure of their unit. We currently have Army and RAF sections and meet on Monday nights from 4.15 – 5.30 pm during term time, when the cadets engage in a range of lessons. Opportunity is the key word and there are many and diverse activities available to pupils, each one presenting a fresh challenge and all designed to realise and develop their potential. Many of the skills acquired and activities carried out in the CCF may be used towards the Duke of Edinburgh Awards, at levels up to gold.

The Combined Cadet Force at Bablake undoubtedly has a positive influence on the development of its members. If the opportunities it offers are taken, and the challenges accepted and met, the benefit in personal qualities and skills may be immeasurable. It is no surprise that a number of our senior prefects, and indeed a recent School Captain, were also senior members of the CCF.

We hope that the majority of our cadets remain in the CCF throughout the rest of their School career, eventually achieving promotion and assisting in the running and organisation of the unit. However, we appreciate it is not for everyone, and should cadets wish to leave, for whatever reason, this is accepted.

It is also most important to appreciate that membership is flexible and pupils may still participate in a wide range of other School activities, including sport, drama and music. Attendance at weekly meetings is not compulsory when other activities need to take preference, although during certain cadres it is advisable, so that a cadet does not miss out on important training. The organisation does everything possible to accommodate our cadets and their other interests.

**THE CCF PROGRAMME**

All new recruits, whether they wish to join the army or RAF section, complete basic training during the first year. They are taught drill and provided with a basic understanding of military knowledge and field procedures, which includes care of their uniform and equipment, camouflage and concealment, basha building, patrolling and section attacks. Cadets also receive training on how to use the Cadet General Purpose (GP) rifle and take a weapon handling test. Passing this test qualifies them to fire live rounds on the ranges and blank rounds when on exercise. RAF cadets may receive additional training to help them better understand the skills that are involved in flying.

Once the basic cadres have been completed, cadets are awarded their beret, belt and brassard. They also receive a badge for completing and passing the first stage of the army proficiency syllabus. This badge may be worn on their brassard with pride, along with other badges, such as marksmanship and drill, which may also be gained throughout the year.

During their first year, new cadets will also have the opportunity to attend three annual camps, (held during the October half term break, the holiday at the end of the Spring Term in April, and immediately after the end of the Summer Term in July). They are expected to attend at least one of these camps, if possible. In addition to this, they may take part in the Remembrance Day Parade held at the War Memorial Park in November.

In the second year, cadets have the option of selecting the section, Army or RAF, which they wish to remain in. From this point each section is taught and run individually, although the annual camps, run at army training bases, may be attended by cadets in both sections. Once this stage has been reached, cadets may complete the Non Commissioned Officers (NCOs) cadre, which includes a series of lessons on the methods of instruction. This training enables the cadets to be promoted further up the ranks and to teach the newer members of the CCF. In both sections, outstanding cadets may be offered the opportunity to take advanced training courses run by the forces at Frimley Park (Army) or Cranwell (RAF).

### **ARMY SECTION:**

In subsequent years, cadets develop their knowledge and skills by taking part in more specialised cadres such as signals, military tactics, first aid, orders, navigation and the LSW (light support weapon). They are also expected to take a more significant role in teaching and organising less experienced cadets.

### **RAF SECTION:**

This continues training in a similar way to the army section, but also provides cadets with the opportunity to learn to fly both gliders and single engine aircraft.

### **CAMPS, RANGE DAYS AND COMPETITIONS**

Although the three annual camps are not compulsory, they do give the cadets an excellent opportunity to put into practice what they have learned in the classroom, as well as interacting more closely with cadets from other year groups and meeting new friends from other CCFs when based on Training Camps. The camps have a good balance of both military activities and adventurous training. Adventurous training includes activities such as canoeing, kayaking, sailing, rock climbing, abseiling, clay pigeon shooting, archery, paint balling, mountain biking and helicopter flights, to name but a few that we have enjoyed over the past few years.

Cadets will also have the opportunity to attend weekend range days to practise their shooting skills and gain marksmanship badges.

They may also represent the school and CCF in the many competitions that run throughout the year. Ones that we regularly attend include the March and Shoot, Military Skills and Exercise Cadet Stretch.

### **UNIFORM**

Uniform and boots/shoes are provided by the CCF. Waterproofs and items for overnight exercises, such as webbing, camouflage cream, ration packs and bashas are also provided as needed. It is expected that cadets attend each parade wearing a neatly ironed uniform and polished footwear. They will receive a lesson on how to iron and polish! Any item of uniform which is lost will have to be paid for.

### **COST OF CCF MEMBERSHIP**

The joining fee is £80.

This covers:

Full uniform - combat shirt, smock, trousers, boots, jumper, beret, hackle, belt, brassard, badges, as well as 'blues' for the RAF cadets. It also includes replacement items needed as pupils grow or items wear out or are accidentally damaged (all items to be returned when cadets leave the CCF).

Camp fees are heavily subsidised but, as a guide, activities, accommodation, food, equipment, expendables, etc. incur an additional cost of approximately £15 per day.

### **WHAT TO DO NOW**

If you agree to your son/daughter becoming a member of the Bablake CCF, would you please complete the attached enrolment form and return it to me with £80 (cash, or cheque made payable to 'Coventry School Foundation') via the CCF Post Box by the end of this term (Friday 2 July if possible). This will enable sufficient uniforms to be purchased and be ready for issue at the start of next term. However, applications will be accepted up until the first parade in September.

The first parade for new recruits will be held on the second Monday of the Autumn Term, 13 September 2010 and will last approximately half an hour.

If you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact, in the first instance our School Staff Instructor, Sgt. Maj Robson, or me.

Yours sincerely,



M J Masters (Maj),  
Contingent Commander, Bablake School CCF

**CCF ENROLMENT FORM**

**Please complete and return this form by the end of term, Friday 2 July, if possible.**

Dear Major Masters,

I would like my son / daughter to become a member of the Bablake School Combined Cadet Force from September 2010. I enclose a cheque/cash for £80.

I understand that the deadline date for membership applications is Monday 13 September 2010.

PUPIL'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ (please PRINT)      Form: \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT'S SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_