

NEW CADET INTRODUCTION TO THE AIR TRAINING CORPS



Welcome to the Air Training Corps (ATC). This short guide has been produced to help you settle in and to give you a quick insight into how we work and what you will be doing in your time with the Corps.

Aim of the Corps:

1. To promote and encourage among young people a practical interest in aviation and the Royal Air Force (RAF).
2. To provide training which will be useful both in civilian and service life.
3. To foster a spirit of adventure and to develop the qualities of leadership and good citizenship.

The benefits of membership

Whichever career or course of study you follow, your CV will be greatly enhanced, and also your ability to talk at interviews about interesting activities you have undertaken or lifetime challenges achieved which set you apart from your peers.

Discipline & Respect

First and foremost we are a disciplined, uniformed organisation based on life in the armed forces. Good behaviour is expected at all times, partly for your own safety, and also to facilitate greater learning. You will be taught how to march (we call it Drill) and you will learn to accept orders from more experienced cadets who have been promoted to Corporal or Sergeant. You too will learn leadership skills and a sense of responsibility which may enable you to earn promotion. Most male staff members are referred to as "Sir" and female staff as "Ma'am" (pronounced like "jam"). You will learn the few exceptions to this rule and the ranks of the armed forces and when and whom to salute. Cadets are normally addressed using their last names only. Cadets with rank are usually addressed by other cadets using only the rank itself e.g. "Corporal".

Bullying, either verbal or physical, is not tolerated by anyone in the Corps, and if you experience or witness it, tell the member of staff or cadet in authority as soon as possible so that action can be taken. The use of raised voices (shouting) to control groups of people will be used appropriately in some circumstances. In the ATC everybody has the opportunity to participate in a wide range of fun and adventurous activities. Inappropriate behaviour will result in the loss of these privileges.

The basic rule is that you should treat everyone around you with respect and they in turn will treat you with respect. Remember too that you have now become part of a team in which you must play your part, and the team will help you to achieve fulfilment. At 492 Squadron the Staff endeavours to treat you as young adults because that is what you are. However, if you don't behave correspondingly then that benefit soon ends.

Uniform and Enrolment

Uniform is supplied on loan after a few weeks, when we are confident that you will be staying with the Corps and that you will wear it with pride. The only part of your uniform which you must supply is your shoes. Your staff and senior NCO's will advise you in detail on what you wear and when you wear it. There are also strict rules on the wearing of make-up, jewellery and the length and style of your hair.



After you have received your uniform you will be enrolled. Enrolment is a ceremony in which you will be asked to read a short statement of allegiance in front of the other members of your

squadron, after which you will be given a small blue book referred to as a "3822" which is both your record of achievements within the Corps and also your identity when visiting RAF stations. Look after it and don't leave it in pockets and put it through the wash!!

Reward for Effort and Helping others

You will sometimes be asked to do things which bring no direct reward to you personally, but they are nonetheless a key part of cadet life. You may be asked to help raise funds for your squadron, or to do something to help a charity. This is an equal and important part of your cadet life compared to those occasions where you will receive direct benefit, e.g. flying. It is about the transition into adult life and your responsibilities as a citizen. You may find that if you only "take" from the Corps that you will lose out by being "given" less.



Equal opportunity



In this day and age it almost goes without saying that everyone in the Corps has equality of opportunity and the squadron's equal opportunities policy is permanently displayed on the notice board for all of us to adhere to.

Never be afraid to ask for help

Senior cadets and members of staff are here for only one reason – to help you. If you are uncertain about something or need help please ask one of them for guidance. If the matter is confidential it will be treated as such.

Do not avoid an activity because you or your family are unable to afford it. Explain your position to your C.O. (Commanding Officer) and he will try to help you. If a way is found to help you pay for an activity, no-one else will know about it – this will be strictly confidential. Some activities may cost you less if your family is in receipt of income benefits.

Training

If you have any learning difficulties or special needs for helping you to read or write, please advise your C.O. You will be given all the support you need to be successful. Initially you must complete your basic training, called First Class Training. It consists of Drill and 8 exams in the following subjects:

*The Air Training Corps
The Royal Air Force
History of Flight
The Rifle*

*Airmanship 1
Map Reading
Initial Expedition Training
Basic Radio Communications*

On successful completion of these exams you will be classed as a "First Class" cadet. Note that all ATC exams are based on the multi-choice answer system and home study is not usually necessary...but it never hurts. Each March you then have the opportunity to take more aviation related exams to progress through the classifications. To become a "Leading" cadet you must pass 3 exam papers on the following subjects:

*Airmanship 1
Principles of Flight
Basic Navigation*

To progress to "Senior" cadet you take two subjects from the list below, and then to become a "Staff" cadet you take a further two from the same list and then do a one day course to develop, then assess your knowledge of the Corps and your suitability to help the staff of your squadron organise events and carry out training.

*Aircraft Handling
Propulsion
Air Navigation
Advanced Radio & Radar*



*Operational Flying
Airframes
Pilot Navigation
Satellite Communications*

It will take you approximately three years to complete all your exams, after which you can convert your ATC exams into an externally recognised certificate called a **BTEC in Aviation Studies** on payment of a small fee. This is widely regarded as the equivalent of 2 GCSEs.

Gliding



Gliding Induction Courses are routinely available depending on age and experience. Some gliding schools operate self-launching gliders which have engines to allow them to take off from a runway. In this type of aircraft you may be offered one longer flight instead of several short ones. The learning covered in both cases will be similar. Gliding Scholarships are available to 16 year old cadets after completion of a satisfactory medical with your doctor. These are either one week courses, or are run over several weekends and can take you up to solo standard.

Powered Flying

Several times each year your squadron will be allocated places for cadets to fly in a 2 seat powered aircraft, currently the Grob Tutor. The cadet will be given a flight of approximately 30 minutes duration, during which the basics of flight control will be taught. On a second or subsequent visit to a flying school you may be offered the opportunity to carry out some aerobatic flying.



Many summer camps also include an opportunity to fly the Grob Tutor, or on occasion you may be taken on opportunity flights as passengers in RAF aircraft or aircraft simulators. Flying Scholarships from various sources are available to cadets over 16 years old, and will be advertised in notices to squadrons when available, along with application forms.

Rifle



Each squadron has access to rifle shooting ranges managed and run by qualified staff. Cadets are first introduced to rifle shooting with the 0.177" air rifle and the No.8 rifle, which uses 0.22" calibre rounds. A larger weapon is available for use on RAF shooting ranges for cadets aged 14 years and above who have a proven competence on the No.8 rifle. Cadets aim to achieve marksman awards and may eventually progress to represent the Corps in national competitions.

Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme

When you reach the age of 14, you will be eligible to start the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. You will be given training, help and guidance on all aspects of the scheme including the expeditions. The ATC record in achieving this award is second to none, and 492 is on of the top two DofE squadron in the Warwickshire and Birmingham Wing.

Adventure Training & Sports

Abselling, canoeing, rock climbing, walking expeditions, camping expeditions and many more adventure training activities will be offered to you from time to time. All activities are run by qualified instructors. 11 & 5-a-side football, rugby, cross country running, hockey, netball, swimming and athletics (track and field) are just some of the sporting activities carried out within the Corps. Some activities will be carried out at your squadron and others at Wing level or higher, with the possibility of competing at national level.



Camps

Camps at RAF stations are held at Easter and in the summer, the majority of which are in school holidays. They are an opportunity to experience a small taste of life in the RAF to learn about some functions and roles, and to try out experiences available within the locality of the camp itself. These camps are relatively inexpensive, and whilst places are limited, each cadet will be given the opportunity to attend at least one at some time during his/her cadet career.

Some squadrons also arrange their own adventure training camps or may join other squadrons who run them. These are generally from 3 to 7 days long, and again are relatively inexpensive.

Leadership Training

There are several types of leadership training offered to cadets either on a Squadron or Wing basis. These include lectures and practical exercises, weekend courses and week long national leadership programmes available for older cadets.

Armed Services Careers Advice

Membership of the ATC will give you a head start over others if you decide you may wish to join any of the 3 armed forces (and the emergency services). The ATC is not a recruiting organisation, but will on request either point you in the right direction to obtain advice about joining the armed forces or may occasionally invite a careers advisor to the squadron.

Other activities available to cadets over 16 years are:

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| International Air Cadet Exchange | Parachuting |
| Hang Gliding | Sports Leader training |
| Basic Expedition Leader Award | Sailing |
| Summer Mountain Leader training | Personal Skill Awareness training |
| Downhill Skiing | |

Remembrance parades

Each year a remembrance parade is held outside St. James's Church in Shirley, and cadet forces are invited to attend. Participation in such ceremonies is a worthwhile experience, and is an opportunity for the public and your family to see you parading in public. Upholding these traditions is an essential part of cadet life which **ALL** cadets are expected to attend.

Subscriptions

The ATC receives some funding each year from the Ministry of Defence, but this is insufficient to pay for the running of the Corps with all its buildings, aircraft, gliders etc. Each cadet is required to pay a small subscription towards the running costs of the Corps. Your squadron Commanding Officer will tell you how much this is and when it is payable. Your parents may be eligible to complete a gift aid form and return it to the squadron, enabling us to reclaim funds from the government for every pound of subs your parents pay.



Parental Consent Form

On joining the Corps you will be given a form (3822A) for your parents to complete which provides details of medical problems you may have and gives consent for you to participate in some of the activities offered by the Corps. You cannot become a member until this form has been properly completed and returned to your squadron staff. With this form, please also return 2 passport photographs and the gift aid form distributed at your induction morning.

Parade Times & Squadron Contact details

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| Tuesdays | Opens | 1915 hrs |
| SHQ | Closes | 2145 hrs |
| Sundays | Opens | 09.15 hrs |
| SHQ | Closes | 12.45 hrs |



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