

New Recruit Information



492 Solihull Squadron

1 Cadet Drive
Haslucks Green Road
Shirley
West Midlands
B902FD

492aircadets.org

01217449362

Tuesday 19:00 – 21:45
Sunday 09:00 – 12:45



Congratulations,

You are about to become one of the 492 team! You are about to embark on an amazing adventure, joining one of the best performing Squadrons in the Warwickshire and Birmingham Wing. The Squadron was founded in 1941 and ever since then has grown from strength to strength. You will become apart of very successful team where you will be able to gain many new skills, qualities, experiences and meet new friends.



The following booklet has been provided for your information and to give you the best head start into life within 492. As a new recruit you will spend time in the Recruit Training Flight (RTF) where you will learn all of the basic skills and knowledge you need. You will receive your uniform and learn all drill manoeuvres to enable you to pass your drill test, before being posted to one of the three main, senior flights, A, B and C. You will receive your uniform and learn all drill manoeuvres to enable you to pass your drill test.

The aims of the Air Training Corps (ATC) are

- To encourage a practical interest in aviation and the Royal Air Force.
- To provide training that is useful in both civilian and service life.
- To foster the spirit of adventure, good citizenship and leadership.

At 492 we aim to provide a wide ranging program that meets all the aims of the ATC and that provides a well-rounded experience for our cadets. At a glance within our training program we include:

- Academic training which can lead to NVQ qualifications in Aviation Studies or Teamwork and Personal Development.
- Ancillary training which includes: first aid, weapons instruction, project work, leadership and team building.
- Adventure Training Weekends.
- Duke of Edinburgh Award
- Drill
- Flying & gliding
- Sports
- Flight simulator
- Visits to and from local emergency services/RAF Stations

In addition to our training program you will get the opportunity to take part in a range of activities and events arranged and run at Wing, Regional and Corps level. You will also be able to attend camps to RAF stations both in the UK and overseas, adventure training camps such as Nordic cross country skiing, sailing and the International Air Cadet Exchange Programme.

Our Expectations of you.

In order for you to get the most out of your time at the Squadron it is essential that you, as a cadet, attend as many parade nights as possible. Failing to attend regularly can affect your progression through the Squadron's training programme, and classification structure. In addition, irregular attendance can have a significant impact on your selection for activities and events such as:

- Squadron adventure training camps
- Flying & gliding
- Overseas camps

If you are going to be absent for any length of time due to other commitments you must inform the Squadron so that it does not adversely affect your possible selection for the above activities. This can be done via the website, phone call or Non Commissioned Officer (NCO)

Uniform

You will initially be issued with a set of green coveralls prior to being issued with your standard uniform free of charge. This is however not an excuse to not look after or wear it correctly. Please keep in mind that both the staff and cadets of the Air Training Corps are very much part of the public face of the Royal Air Force, therefore you are expected to wear your uniform with pride and maintain it at the highest standards.

Standard parade uniform will include

- Working blue (dark blue) shirt
- Wedgewood blue (light blue) shirt and tie (worn on more formal occasions)
- Trousers/skirt
- Jumper
- Beret
- Belt
- Brassard



Shoes are not normally issued and should be purchased privately. They are to be plain black leather shoes as that issued by the RAF. Please seek the advice of the Squadron staff prior to purchasing.

Cadets are not to wear any form of jewellery in an obvious manner, except for the following items:

- Wedding rings
- Plain signet ring
- Watch of an inconspicuous style

Male cadets are not allowed wear earrings; female cadets are only to wear plain, unobtrusive studs. When in uniform cadets are not to wear brightly coloured nail varnish or cosmetics of a conspicuous nature; only neutral colours are allowed. When wearing trousers, all cadets are to wear plain black socks. Female cadets, when wearing skirts, are to wear 15 denier Nearly Black tights.

Male cadets hair is to be kept well cut and trimmed so that sideburns do not extend below the midpoint of the ear, and the back doesn't touch the top of the collar. Male cadets are to be clean shaven at all times when in uniform; however if cadets have a moustache it is not to extend below the edge of the mouth.

Female cadets hair is to be arranged in a manner that allows the wearing of the beret correctly. It must be kept neat and tidy and not worn longer than the bottom edge of the shirt collar. If the length of hair permits, a bun should be worn.

EXTREME HAIR STYLES AND COLOURS ARE NOT PERMITTED.

Discipline

Bullying of any type is not acceptable within the ATC and any accusations of bullying are investigated fully and if proven can result in cadets being dismissed from the ATC.

The ATC has a zero tolerance policy with substance abuse, and if any claims are proven to be true then the cadet will be dismissed from the ATC.

Social Media

The ATC and 492 Squadron make use of such social media such as Facebook and Twitter as a tool to help us communicate more effectively with both cadets and staff; however it should be noted that these sites are monitored and any misuse will be reported and dealt with accordingly. A Corps policy in the use of social media is available for all parents and cadets to read.



Please note that there is a closed group and an open, (closed group can only be accessed once a member of 492 SQN)



<https://twitter.com/492aircadets?lang=en>



Follow us on
Instagram

492RAFCadets



<http://www.youtube.com/user/492aircadets>

Activities and Events

Through out the year the SQN will advertise numerous events. In order to increase your chances of being selected for the activities and camps you want to go on, there are few things you can do:

1. Attend parade nights regularly.
2. Ensure you get involved with as many of the following:
 - a. Parades (such as Remembrance Day)
 - b. Wing Field Day
 - c. Squadron fund raising events
3. Keep an eye on the Squadron notices boards, online calendar and Facebook site for upcoming events.
4. Make sure you meet any relevant requirements (age, classification etc.).
5. Put your name down for as many events as possible.
6. Ensure you get the right consent forms and fill in the forms correctly and get them back to the organiser prior to the cut-off date given.

Many of the camps have a cost associated with them; for UK based camps this can range from £30 to £50 dependant on the camp and the activities undertaken, whilst overseas camps cost anything from £150 to £800 for the International Air Cadet Exchange Programme.

However, the cost of these camps should never stop you from applying for them. The Squadron subsidises many of these camps and events and in some cases (determined on

a case by case basis) will cover the basic cost of any camp for cadets who are not in position to do so themselves.

In order to be eligible for most camps or events, you must be a minimum of a 1st Class cadet.

Air Experience Flying (AEF)

AEF is an excellent opportunity for you to experience flying a single engine light aircraft. Whilst in the air you will be able to do aerobatics, navigation or simply a scenic tour of the local countryside. Prior to going flying you will be required to complete a health check to ensure you are fit to fly. There are several Flying Scholarships available for cadets to apply for; these vary in the length and level of instruction. For further information contact the Squadron Administration Office.



Gliding Induction Courses are also on offer and are designed to introduce you to the thrill and enjoyment of gliding and provide a springboard for Gliding Scholarships. Gliding Scholarships are an excellent opportunity for you to learn to fly solo. You will be given instruction in either a Vigilant motorised glider or Viking winch launched glider. The instruction takes you from the initial steps to fully control of the glider with the possibility of flying solo.

Shooting

492 Squadron benefits from access to an indoor air rifle range which allows you to learn the skills of target shooting. Small bore training on the .22 calibre No.8 rifle and full bore shooting on the L98 A2 (a cadet version of the UK military L82 A2 service rifle) and the L81 A2 target rifle is also available on a regular basis, as arranged by the Wing Shooting Officer. Prior to live firing, you must undergo training by qualified staff and pass a Weapons Handling Test.

Academic Training

The ATC runs an academic syllabus that progresses you through a wide range of subjects, which can result in you being awarded an NVQ BTEC in Aviation Studies (presently equivalent to 1 GCSE). Subjects include:

- Principles of Flight
- Airmanship



- Navigation
- Propulsion
- Radio Communications & Radar.

You will be issued with a unique username and password that allows you to access the ATC exam and training system Utlearn. This allows you to undertake additional study at home. In order to progress through the classification system, you should attend the scheduled exam nights.

Promotion

All promotions on the SQN are completed through an application process which includes an interview. Your efforts on the SQN prior to the application will also be taken into account. Qualities that are looked for are experience, leadership qualities, reliability and personal standards. If suitable you may be promoted to cadet Non-Commissioned Officer ranks. These ranks are:

- Cadet Corporal
- Cadets Sergeant
- Cadet Flight Sergeant
- Cadet Warrant Officer



492 SQN Structure

Commanding Officer
Flight Lieutenant Aitken

2nd In Command (2IC)
Flight Lieutenant Gilbert

Shooting
Flight Sergeant Casidy

Civilian Instructors

Miss Gilbert
Mr and Mrs Newell
Mr Sullivan
Miss Pook
Mr Brittain

How to Address a Member of Staff

Non-uniformed member of staff (Civilian Instructor) - A civilian member of staff should be addressed as Sir or Ma'am.

Sergeant- A sergeant should be referred to by their rank.

Flight Sergeant- A flight sergeant should be referred to by their rank.

Warrant Officer- A warrant officer should be addressed as Sir or Ma'am.

Commissioned Officer- A commissioned officer should be referred to as Sir or Ma'am. If you are wearing your beret when first addressing an officer, you should stand to attention and salute them. If you are not wearing your beret, just stand to attention.

These terms of address should be used at the end of sentences when speaking to the member of staff e.g. 'Would you like a coffee, sir?' or 'Are we learning first aid tonight, sergeant?'