



 **ROYAL  
AIR FORCE**  
**AIR CADETS**  
the next generation

# Information for new Cadets and Parents

862 (Sunbury) Squadron



# Introduction

## History

The RAF Air Cadets is a national uniformed youth organisation sponsored by the Royal Air Force. As an Air Cadet young people aged 12-18 are given the chance to take part in activities such as learning to fly or glide, rock climbing, hill walking, shooting and experience trips overseas whilst making new friends and gaining qualifications.

## Aims of the Air Training Corps

- Promote and encourage a practical interest in aviation and the Royal Air Force among young people
- Provide training which will be useful in the Services and civilian life
- Encourage the spirit of adventure and develop qualities of leadership and good citizenship

## Our Mission

To facilitate a modern, dynamic, sustainable air-minded youth organisation of choice that offers fun and challenging opportunities.

## 862 (Sunbury) Squadron

862 (Sunbury) Squadron was formed in 1977 and is one of 24 Squadrons that make up Middlesex Wing. In turn, Middlesex Wing is one of six Wings in London and South East Region. The RAF Air Cadets is made up of six Regions, and is controlled by a Royal Air Force Officer of Air Commodore rank, and a team of regular, reserve and civil servant staff from its HQ at RAFC Cranwell, Lincolnshire.

The Air Defense Cadet Corps was reorganised and renamed the Air Training Corps on 5<sup>th</sup> February 1941. The year 2021 marks the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Air Training Corps, also known as the RAF Air Cadets.



## Parade Nights

The Squadron parades throughout the year on Mondays and Thursdays, except for public holidays and over the Christmas/New Year period. The Squadron HQ opens at 19:15 every parade night and closes at 21:30. Cadets are expected to arrive by 19:10 and will be able to leave from 21:30. However, parents should be aware that on occasions there are requirements for cadets to remain behind to collect information or kit, etc.

During most parade nights there is a tuck shop available for cadets to buy drinks and refreshments during a break period between two 45-minute training periods.

The Squadron keeps our cadets informed of the nightly programme and future events through the RAF Air Cadets Cadet portal and Facebook. The 862 Facebook group is a closed group which is only open to active cadets. The 862 Facebook group enable staff to forward any important information and for cadets and parents/guardians to ask any questions.

Parents/ guardians are invited to join the WhatsApp group to ask questions and talk between themselves for information.

During their training, each recruit will be given usernames and passwords for Cadet Portal and Learn (the RAFAC's training portal and online exam system). Cadets must keep these passwords safe and secure.

# Cadet Training

## Eligibility to join

To join the RAF Air Cadets, you must be at least 12 years old (and in Year 8 at School) and no older than 17. The organisation is open to both sexes of any background, ability, religion or nationality. You don't have to join the armed forces; you just need to have passion for fun and adventure.

To be able to join, parents/guardians are required to give their consent, which is given through the completion of RAF form 3822A and a completed health declaration form (3822H). These documents will be provided to new cadets and parents when they join the Squadron.

## Recruit Training

Each intake starts with an induction evening where prospective cadets and their parents/guardians will attend a presentation about the Air Cadets and how you can join us. You will be given all the paperwork required to join and get a chance to ask any questions you have before making the final decision to join us.

The first three months at the Squadron will consist of basic training where you will be taught the key knowledge you will need for your cadet career, such as learning how to march and wear your uniform. You will also learn about the Air Training Corps, the Royal Air Force, the history of flight, airmanship, map reading, expedition training and basic radio communications. To consolidate your training, you will be required to attend the Initial Expedition Training (IET), which is a weekend away where you will put all of the skills you have learnt into practice. The information you gain during this period will be recorded into your First-Class Logbook which needs to be adequately completed by you to earn your First-Class classification. Upon completion of the first-class training, cadets will be able to attend most activities and camps, unless specific age restrictions/qualifications are required.



## Enrolment

On joining the Squadron, you will be a Junior Cadet, which will allow you to take part in activities that take place at the Squadron only. However, during the basic training phase you will be enrolled as a full member of the RAFAC where you will make the Cadet's Promise in a ceremony with the Squadron Commanding Officer in front of the Squadron and your family.

Once enrolled you will become a Second Class Cadet and will be given your RAF form 3822, or online version, the Cadet's Record of Service Book. This book is to be carried with you at all times when on Cadet activities and will be used to record all activities you take part in and any awards or qualifications you gain. After you have been enrolled you will be eligible to take part in activities away from the Squadron HQ, so long as you meet any other requirements for that activity.



## Uniform

On payment of the initial membership subscription of £12 per month, polo shirts can be bought at a cost of £15 and can be worn instead of school uniform until the blue uniform is issued.

During your recruit training you will be issued with your Cadet uniform. A refundable deposit of £20 needs to be paid for this long term loan from the RAF. The uniform should be treated with respect. Note: It costs the RAF in the region of £250.00 to supply it to you.

To supplement this, you will have to supply appropriate black parade shoes, black socks for male cadets and barely black tights for female cadets. For outdoor activities most cadets normally purchase camouflage uniforms and high leg boots privately. Details of where to obtain these items will be provided.



Full training on how to wear and look after your uniform will be given. Your uniform is only to be worn on approved RAFAC activities and all issued items must be returned to the Squadron on leaving. If you damage your uniform with no reasonable excuse, or have lost it, you will be charged for it, so look after it. Items that no longer fit, or are subject to fair wear and tear will be replaced free of charge. There are also regulations on how you have your hair cut, make up and jewellery that are expected to be followed. These will be explained to you during your recruit training.



Light blue uniform (No.2a)



Dark blues (No.2c)

Greens uniform (No.3)  
MTP (Multi-Terrain Pattern)

## Classification



### First Class

The first-class badge is awarded on completion of recruit training.



### Leading

To progress to Leading Cadet, lectures are given in the following subjects: Principles of Flight, Aircraft Knowledge and Basic Navigation. Examinations for these subjects and future subjects will be in the form of multi-choice exams and will be conducted through the ATC's online training program (Utilearn) which requires the Cadet to log in, using a username/password given to them in recruit training, so do not lose it!



### Senior

Three subjects from the following are studied to earn Senior Cadet status: Basic Air Navigation, Aircraft Handling and Flying Techniques, Air Power, Piston Engine Propulsion, Jet Engine Propulsion, Rocketry, Airframes, Avionics & Aircraft Electrical Systems, Military Aircraft Systems, Basic Principles of Pilot Navigation, Basic Air Navigation, Advanced Radio and Radar and Data Communications, with examinations taken on Utilearn.



### Master

To become a Master Cadet, lectures and online examinations will be conducted of 3 subjects that were not studied as a Leading Cadet. Again, senior cadet classification is achieved through online examination. After completion of the Master Cadet exams, the academic training is complete for cadets. At this point cadets also receive the award of a BTEC Certificate in Aviation Studies worth 2 GCSEs (A-C grade). Master cadets start to take on more responsibility and will work towards Instructor Cadet status.



### Instructor

To reach the Instructor Cadet Classification, cadets need to complete a Methods of Instruction Course, where they learn to become instructors as they will be expected to teach younger cadets.

# Opportunities

## Cadet Non-Commissioned Officer Ranks

As in the RAF, there are opportunities for promotion in rank and gaining extra responsibilities. These promotions are on merit only, not time served. The ranks available to cadets in the ATC are:

Cadet Corporal



Cadet Sergeant



Cadet Flight Sergeant



Cadet Warrant Officer



The main role of the Cadet NCOs is to maintain discipline among the cadets and assist in the operation of the squadron. As higher ranks are achieved, the responsibilities grow to mentor younger, less experienced NCOs and cadets.

## Flying

Cadets are eligible to fly once they have reached the age of 13 ¼, subject to medical fitness, and are enrolled. Most flying is Air Experience Flying in the Grob Tutor 2-seat training aircraft. The Squadron normally attends No 6 Air Experience Flight at RAF Benson, in Oxfordshire.

Flying in other aircraft is also available from time to time. Selection is based on previous flights and general performance of the individual cadets based on flight points.



Cadets over 17 can apply for a flying or pilot navigation scholarship through the Air Cadet Pilot Scheme. If successful, they will be given varying amounts of tuition on a light aircraft at either an AEF or a civilian flying school. There are also opportunities for training on microlights.

## Gliding

All enrolled cadets are eligible, subject to medical fitness, to attend one of the few Gliding Induction Courses (GIC) allocated to the Squadron. However, these courses are aimed at older cadets to prepare them for gliding scholarships. The GIC is in three stages and gives cadets an overview of operation of a glider. These are carried out at 618 Volunteer Gliding Squadron at RAF Kenley in the Viking T Mark 1.

At the age of 17, cadets can apply for a Gliding Scholarship. If successful, the cadet will attend 618 VGS at Odiham at weekends or attend a weeklong course during the summer. On successful completion of the course, Blue Gliding wings are presented, which are worn on the uniform. If the cadet shows the right level of aptitude and commitment, they will be given extra hours to train them to solo standard. If they then successfully complete a solo flight, they will be presented with Silver Wings, with further training available to progress to Gold wings



Further gliding opportunities are available to those cadets showing the right level of aptitude in gliding. These include becoming a staff cadet on the VGS, helping their operations at weekends, in return for further training towards full Glider Pilot Wings.

## Citizenship Training

Citizenship training has been part of the RAFAC's training programme since it was formed. This covers a variety of activities, which either help the local community and charities, or expose the cadets to new organisations and how they work.

Each year the squadron helps to collect money for both the Royal British Legion (The Poppy Appeal) and the RAF Association (Battle of Britain Wings Appeal). Local events are also attended including Remembrance Day and Sunbury Regatta. The squadron has regular visits to RAF Odiham and is also visited by guests who give interest lectures.



862 receiving the Community Involvement Award 2022.

## Duke of Edinburgh's Award

The RAFAC is one of the largest operating bodies of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, with many of the usual cadet activities counting towards the Physical, Skill, Volunteering and Expedition sections at Bronze and Silver, and additional residential section for Gold levels.

Some cadets' schools also operate the scheme and they can use activities from either organization towards their award. Cadets who gain a DofE award through their school can also receive the ATC uniform badge on presentation of their certificate to the Squadron DofE officer.

Cadets can register for the award through the Squadron and once the award has been completed the registration fee can be refunded.



DofE Skill - Baking

Expedition training



## Sports

The Squadron promotes healthy living and healthy competition through regular sports evenings at the Squadron. Cadets are able to represent the Squadron at various sports and may be selected to represent Middlesex Wing, London and South East Region and Corps (national) level, gaining sports 'blues' for their achievements. The following sports are the core sports of the ATC:

- Football
- Athletics
- Archery
- Swimming
- Rugby
- Netball
- Hockey



## Adventure Training

Adventure Training covers most outdoor activities the RAFAC has to offer. This includes week camps in North Wales/ Lake District and weekend camps, rock climbing, paddle sports, hill walking, mountain biking, and a whole host of other activities. There is usually a small charge for these activities. Full details will always be given.





## Shooting

A key activity in the Air Cadet Organisation is shooting. This is not a military skill, but a sport in terms of target shooting. Cadets can progress on different rifles from the .22-inch L144 cadet rifle to the full bore L98 Cadet GP rifle and L81 target rifle. Cadets' skills in shooting are recognised with a series of "Marksman" badges, and cadets can also take part in competitions, including the prestigious inter services cadet meet at Bisley and Cadet Inter Service Skill at Arms Meeting (CISSAM).



## Other Activities and Qualifications

There are a variety of other activities and qualifications on offer to cadets. This includes First Aid training, which can give the cadets the St John's Ambulance Essential First Aid (EFA) and Youth First Aid (YFA). Cadets also get the opportunity to work towards a Level 2 BTEC in Teamwork and Personal Development or Music in Practical Performance. These qualifications are available free of charge to cadets over 16 years old. Cadets can also learn how to use radios, and work towards nationally recognised radio qualifications.



## Nijmegen Marches

Each year in July staff and cadets who have qualified take part in the Nijmegen four day marches in the Netherlands. This is an endurance marching event over four consecutive days covering a total of 100 miles (140km), in which tens of thousands of walkers from all over the world come to Nijmegen to walk in and around the city and its beautiful wooded surroundings. Thousands of spectators cheer on the walkers along the route every day. After four days of walking, a fantastic entry along the Via Gladiola awaits the walkers, followed by the distribution of their well-deserved Four Days Marches medals. These are officially recognised Netherlands military medals. Training starts in January and continues through to July when the Marches take place.



## Parades

Each year the Squadron hold parades, the Battle of Britain Memorial Parade at Brookwood Military Cemetery, which takes place in September, and the annual Remembrance Sunday parade on the nearest Sunday to the 11th November. Parents and families are welcome to attend the parade at the War Memorial at Sunbury.



## Fieldcraft

Cadets have the opportunity to undertake fieldcraft training taking place on the squadron and consolidating lessons on military training areas. This training allows cadets the opportunity to develop their personal skills and knowledge in a wide range of field activities which relate directly to working and living in a field environment.

These courses are run on the squadron and on camps and the syllabus includes:

- Preparation and packing of personal equipment
- Admin in the field
- The 2 man shelter
- Why things are seen
- Personal camouflage and concealment
- Observation; judging distance
- Indication of targets
- Range cards
- Duties of a sentry
- Movement in the field by day
- Field signals
- Elementary obstacle crossing
- Selecting a route across country
- Stalking
- Introduction to night training
- Elementary night movement
- Harbour drills.





# Running the Squadron

## Staff

Every squadron in the RAFAC is controlled by a Commanding Officer who is usually a Flight Lieutenant in the RAF Air Cadets. They are assisted by a team of other officers, adult senior NCOs, and civilian instructors. All staff are volunteers and fit the RAFAC around their day job and undergo enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service checks and military security checks.

## Civilian Committee

The running of the squadron is overseen by the civilian committee, which is made up of parents and other friends of the squadron. They manage the financial side of the squadron's activities and provide welfare support.

Committee are responsible for fundraising, to support the cadets and the squadron.

New members are always welcome to join the committee. If anyone can give up a little time for the benefit of the cadets and squadron, please contact a member of staff for further details. We welcome new committee members and, occasionally, parent helpers.

## Subscriptions

The public money from the RAF does not cover all the activities that the RAFAC has to offer, and extra money is needed to supplement the equipment provided. To cover this, individual cadet subscriptions are charged at all levels (i.e., squadron, wing, region and HQAC). The money raised through subscriptions covers things such as sport, welfare facilities, training equipment, and running the squadron minibus. They are due from the day the cadet joins, until the squadron is informed of the cadet leaving. The current subscription cost is currently £12.00 per month.

To manage this, we have a civilian committee that meets once a month. The committee treasurer is responsible to the chairperson and committee for the accounts of the squadron. All parents are welcome to join and details of meetings are sent out to parents.

We ask that prompt payment of subscriptions is made by Direct Debit to enable us to run the squadron efficiently. A Direct Debit form will be issued as part of the cadets joining pack.

RAF FORMS 3822A AND 3822H MUST BE COMPLETED AND RETURNED WITH THE COMPLETED DIRECT DEBIT FORM.

If at any time you are unable to pay the required cadet subscriptions/ camp costs, etc., please talk to the Commanding Officer or the Squadron Adjutant. Your situation will be dealt with sympathetically and confidentially, and arrangements can be made to suit your circumstances.

## Gift Aid

This is a scheme by which the Squadron can claim the tax back from subscriptions and donations from the Chancellor (25p in every £1). Gift Aid is a tremendous form of revenue for the Squadron. Please complete the Gift Aid declaration and permit the Treasurer to reclaim this money.

- You must have paid an amount of income tax and/or capital gains tax at least equal to the tax that the squadron reclaims on your donations in the tax year, you can cancel this declaration at any time by notifying the squadron.
- If in the future your circumstances change and you no longer pay tax on your income and capital gains equal to the tax that the squadron reclaims, you can cancel your declaration by notifying the squadron.
- Please notify the squadron if you change your name or address.



## Hoodies & Polo Shirts

The cadets themselves expressed a requirement for a hoodie and polo top with the 862 squadron crest. We have therefore made these available at a cost of £25.00 per hoodie and £15.00 for the polos. These can be purchased by cadets after enrolment.

At any time should you require further information / assistance, please feel free to contact us. Meanwhile, I hope your child enjoys their time at cadets – it is an experience not to be missed!

## Current Staff and Roles

### Pilot Officer Chamberlaine

Commanding Officer with overall responsibility for the running of the Squadron.

### Squadron Adjutant Alison Johnston

Responsible for Recruitment, Health & Safety, Endurance Marching, Sports and Squadron Administration

### Training Officer Christine Chamberlaine

Responsible for Squadron Training Programme & Records, Sports & Fitness, Training Visits & Activities.

### Squadron Senior NCO Flight Sergeant Dean Humphreys

Responsible for the Senior Cadet NCO Team, Drill, Discipline & Uniform.

### Sgt. Rogers and Sgt. Smart

Responsible for the Junior Cadet NCO Team, Drill and Squadron Band.

## Important Information

### Contact:

Pilot Officer Scott Chamberlaine  
Commanding Officer 862 Sunbury Squadron

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Parade Nights: Monday and Thursday 19:10 – 21:30

