



# Queen Mary's Grammar School

Headmaster: R J Langton, M A

## The 'Cadet Experience'

### 4 Pupils share their experiences of being in the CCF

#### Pupil 1

I joined the QMGS CCF in September 2017, and on my first CCF session I was given the opportunity to go on an Outwards Bounds weekend away to Farchynys. During this weekend, we hiked around Snowdonia working as a group of cadets to guide ourselves around the mountains. This was a great experience for me, as a new member of the CCF, to get to know fellow cadets. The memorable experiences continued at school: learning how to safely fire a rifle, marching in the Remembrance Parades and learning how to disguise ourselves in forests on field days. In July, I went on Army Camp for a week which took place at Longmoor Training Camp. This was a challenging but thrilling week filled with exciting military-related activities. A highlight of the week was the 24 hour exercise which involved a platoon attack, setting up our bunker which we slept under protecting our rifle, and being on sentry early hours of the morning protecting our base.

During the Summer, I attended a rock climbing CCAT (cadet centre for adventurous training) course in a training camp in Lancashire for a week. Cadets from all around the country joined me on this week where we climbed up quarries and cliff edges around Yorkshire and learnt useful rope work skills. This was another memorable week and is a great character builder. Experiences like these develop me into a more responsible and independent cadet with a lot more resilience and perseverance which I can use to my advantage after my time at Queen Mary's.

#### Pupil 2

During my time in the CCF (5 years!), I have made memories which will stay with me for the rest of my life. The first of these was my very first RAF camp in 2015. Since then I've been on numerous Farchynys weekends, flying days, another RAF camp, an army camp and best of all a 10 day camp in Cyprus. I will never forget my first time on the school firing range, when our current CWO failed to hit the target on almost every shot and went on to proclaim himself "a lover not a fighter". Or the friends I made in Cyprus such as Freddie who decided it was a good idea to let one of the other lads give him a haircut with a pattern on the side or Josh who's Scottish accent could have a whole minibus laughing with the simplest one liner. Without meaning to sound like a Royal Navy advert, being a cadet has allowed me to do things; meet people and go to places I would never have been able to otherwise. I



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would whole-heartedly recommend it to anyone whether they are considering it or not. You never know what opportunities you may miss out on if you don't.

### Pupil 3

I chose to join the RAF section of the CCF in 2014 as did the majority of my form, it has been a long 5 years in which I have made multiple memories and been involved in a number of experiences. Along the years I have made unlikely long lasting friends with various senior NCOs of the past. The memories and friendship with these were formed over Farchynys weekends and annual camps. The extra activities available to us cadets are arguably some of the toughest but the most enjoyable and in my last two years I peaked with the Air Cadet Leadership Course and the more relaxed Cyprus Easter Camp. It would be impossible to list and name everything which I have done over the last 5 years as, unlike others, I have taken every opportunity available to us cadets and for everything I have put in I have got a lot more out. There is the early mornings and late nights on camp and courses, the tedious bulling of parade shoes for competitions and parades but the rewards for this hard work and effort are incomparable. I have made friends for life, got memories that will stay with me forever and valuable skills and qualifications that I can carry with me throughout my life and working career and all the hard work was topped off with being promoted to Flight Sergeant at the start of this academic year.

### Pupil 4

I joined the CCF 2 years ago having chosen QM over rival grammar schools because of the CCF and I wanted to fly! In year 9, I went on 3 visits to Cosford and undertook air experience flying, my grandfather asked "how much did this cost?", nothing, it was free! I attended RAF (RAF Benson) and Army camp (Longmoor), my great grandfather knew RAF Benson as he taught pupils from there and he enjoyed my stories about the camp. I have really enjoyed learning about flight, aeroplanes and this has also helped my studies too! Field days are good fun with my friends, we miss school and get involved in activities at an army training area, I recently met a soldier who served with the SAS! My most memorable moment was doing aerial acrobatics and taking videos from the cockpit!