

# Tunbridge Wells Girls' Grammar School Combined Cadet Force

UIN: TO319A

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Tuesday 9th October 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Your daughter is invited to join the Year 9 TWGGS' Combined Cadet Force (CCF) introduction programme starting on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2019. The TWGGS' contingent is the only all-female, state girls' CCF in the country and it is the largest female contingent nationally. The only pre-requisites for meaningful participation in the CCF are enthusiasm and commitment – there is not a “cadet type”. The young people who flourish within CCF and progress into positions of rank invariably become excellent self-managers and develop a high degree of personal responsibility and confidence. They can abide by sensible rules and regulations and have the self-control to channel their energies into becoming leaders within the organisation.

CCF offers a wealth of experiences and skills including advanced first aid, drill, navigation, field craft (including cooking and camping), shooting, signals, fitness and much more. In the relatively short time we've been running (2012), our girls have travelled to South Africa, Kenya, Canada, Iceland, Bavaria, the Amazon and the Himalayas. They have also debated in the House of Lords, visited 10 Downing Street, met many politicians at various events, attended military dinners, sailing school (including powerboats and gained RYA sailing qualifications), passed various courses in Adventurous Training and Leadership, successfully competed in a range of competitions and parachuted out of planes. We also undertake lots of other activities such as participating in the town's Remembrance Day parade, poppy collection, earlier in the year visiting the “Ice Maidens” (unsupported all female expedition across the Antarctica) at the National Army Museum, outdoor “Survival” camps, a visit to the battlefields of the Somme this autumn, community involvement and lots of camps for those interested in first aid, shooting, engineering etc.

Above all the Army values and standards of Selfless Commitment, Respect for Others, Loyalty, Integrity, Discipline and Courage sit at the heart of what we do.

This year we are also hoping to run the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award for cadets, completing it by the end of Year 9 for those who want to participate. This will run alongside their CCF training but, in order for it to succeed, we need parental help. Please read the attached letter for further details.

Once you have discussed this with your daughter and they have made the commitment to join, please complete the form below and return it to the Economics' office by Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> November with a cheque for £22 payable to “TWGGS CCF”. This fee buys your daughter a TWGGS CCF hoodie and covers their insurance while your daughter trains with us. We anticipate Bronze Duke of Edinburgh, if it is run, will cost approximately £70 per pupil but we will write to you in due course for that. If any pupil finds any cost prohibitive but wants to join CCF or do D of E, please do not hesitate to speak with Major Reynolds, our Contingent Commander, in confidence on [economics@twggs.kent.sch.uk](mailto:economics@twggs.kent.sch.uk). Similarly, any medical concerns that you may have can be addressed through the same route in confidence.

The initial programme is for 6 weeks up to February half term and will include drill, navigation/orienteering, command tasks, (problem solving tasks that show lateral and logical thinking whilst highlighting leadership potential) and weapon training. Initial clothing should be their new CCF hoodie (with any amount of clothing underneath to keep warm!), PE tracksuit trousers and trainers. For the duration of this 6 week period, they wear this to school in place of normal uniform. However, their hoodie must be worn throughout the school day and should not be removed in classes or at breaktimes.

This letter is also available online at [http://www.twggs.kent.sch.uk/pages/letters\\_home.html](http://www.twggs.kent.sch.uk/pages/letters_home.html) and click on CCF

During the spring term your daughter will be given a further form where they can provide a more binding commitment to cadets if they like it and then full uniform will be issued. There is a cost for boots (you can choose to source these yourself) and a beret but I will write to you next term once your daughter has decided if they like it or not. If they do they will then go on to learn the basic skills of being a cadet by participating in rotating 5-week programmes of first aid, field craft (camouflage, movement in the field, cooking, shelter building), navigation, signals, weapon training and drill.

The initial programme begins on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January immediately after school, meeting in the canteen. They should finish every week no later than 5.15pm. Our senior cadet, Regimental Sergeant Major Carew (Upper 6<sup>th</sup>), who presented to your daughter today, will lead the training programme under my supervision.

For your calendars, should your daughter wish to continue with CCF after February half term there will be a weekend at Crowborough Army Camp on the 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> March (leaving straight from school) where the girls will further their skills including shooting, self-defence, navigation, leadership, drill, use of the air rifle and an obstacle course. Further details will be provided nearer to the time but we see camps as a key way for cadets to expand their knowledge in areas which is simply not possible with our usual one hour per week. We find that girls that miss these camps can often subsequently struggle so we encourage attendance wherever possible.

Last year we started up a Royal Navy section and this will be available to girls in the summer term although there is no issue with army cadets going on most naval activities and camps and vice versa. The Navy programme naturally has less focus on weapons and field craft however the benefit of having an Army and Navy section in our contingent means both sides can benefit from the other.

A key benefit of CCF is that girls gain confidence and friendship outside of their existing peer group and we're not in a position to consider preferences for sections except where there may be issues already identified to Mr Walker.

Please note that we post all notices re. CCF on the school website ([http://www.twggs.kent.sch.uk/pages/letters\\_home.html](http://www.twggs.kent.sch.uk/pages/letters_home.html) and click on CCF at the bottom).

Please do not hesitate to contact me directly on the below email address should you have any queries.

Yours sincerely



Captain Graham Naismith  
[0412naismi@armymail.mod.uk](mailto:0412naismi@armymail.mod.uk)



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**TWGGGS' CCF Year 9 Programme 2018/19 (to the Economics Office by 31/10/2018)**

My daughter..... in form ..... would like to join the TWGGGS' Year 9 CCF programme. I enclose a cheque for £22 payable to "TWGGGS CCF".

My daughter also wants to take part in the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh scheme (further payment details to follow)

Their Hoodie size is (please circle)      S      M      L      XL  
(These are 'Fruit of the Loom' branded hoodies)

Signed  ..... (Parent/Guardian) Date  .....