



# OUNDLE

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## School

4 October 2011

Dear Parents,

### **ANNUAL CCF (ARMY) SUMMER CAMP: 30 JUNE-7 JULY 2012**

This camp is only available to cadets of the Combined Cadet Force 2011-12: that is to say all cadets in the current 4-L6th forms. It is one of a series of "Central" Camps administered by Brigade regions across the country. At present, we do not know the location of our allocated camp – it is likely to be in either Yorkshire or Wales. We will confirm the location with you when we ourselves know. Recent previous annual camps have been held in Hampshire, Shropshire, Cornwall, Scotland, Yorkshire and Norfolk and all of these camps have been successful and enjoyable. The Ministry of Defence subsidises heavily the cost of the camp and the total cost to parents will be £45.00, not including spending money and money for return journey meals. The £45.00 includes the issue of equipment, clothing and transport, both throughout and to-from the camp.

The camp fulfills several functions, the most important of which are listed below for specific year-groups (please note that attendance at camp has benefits for **all cadet year-groups**, even if cadets have attended a similar camp before, as more senior cadets are given a greater degree of responsibility). A web page of the promotional route within the Army section at Oundle can be seen at <http://www.oundleschool.org.uk/extracurric/ccf/army.php>

1. For L6th form Army cadets to develop further their leadership skills under mild pressure, through fulfilling key appointments throughout the week. This would vary from perhaps commanding a section (8-10 cadets) to a platoon (up to 30 cadets). Within the Army Section of Oundle School CCF, **all L6th cadets are expected to either attend this Army camp or an equivalent alternative (centrally-run) military Leadership course if they aspire to reach Cadet Senior NCO rank in their final year – ranked Sergeant or above** (SCIC does not count for further promotion from JNCO to SNCO)
2. For 5<sup>th</sup> form Army cadets to develop their leadership skills at fireteam (4 cadet) to section (8-10 cadet) level. Army camp for the current 5<sup>th</sup> form represents a promotional hurdle for cadets to attend and perform well throughout, if they are to be considered for training to become a cadet Non Commissioned Officer. NCO training now operates during the L6th

year and attendance at camp at the end of the 5<sup>th</sup> form is a pre-requisite to commencement of their NCO training. 5<sup>th</sup> formers are encouraged to undertake a period of work experience between completing exams and Speech Day (which itself is a compulsory event for all Oundle pupils). Army Camp represents the first week of the main holiday and so 5<sup>th</sup> formers should therefore be just as available as cadets in any other year group.

3. As a pre-requisite "Passport" for 4<sup>th</sup> form Army cadets to enter into Advanced Infantry Training at the start of the 5<sup>th</sup> form. For the last 7 years we have operated this policy in the interests of maximizing safety and training effectiveness. 5<sup>th</sup> form Army cadets have been proved to be hugely disadvantaged if they have not attended camp. It is therefore a **requirement that any cadet hoping to enter into Advanced Infantry in the 5<sup>th</sup> form, must attend this camp.**
4. To facilitate **mandatory cross-over training for any cadets who elect to transfer from either the RN or RAF sections to the Army, at the end of their first year of training.** Effectively, the same as point 3.
5. Finally, for any cadet wishing to join the Joint Service Fire and Rescue section in the 5<sup>th</sup> form, they must attend this camp in order to do so. This ensures we get cadets of a suitable calibre going into this exciting section.

On a typical year, approximately 80-100 Oundle cadets attend. Training is delivered by both our own specialist officers and staff as well as those from the Army Cadet Training Teams designated to the camp. The programme will focus on the military side with infantry training (section and platoon attacks, ambushes and patrolling), a day of live firing on ranges, and a number of competitions based on military skills. Some adventurous training (eg kayaking) will also be undertaken. We conclude the camp with a 36 hour exercise which will utilize and develop further, all of the skills that have been learnt over the whole year.

**If your son / daughter wishes to gain further promotion and develop their career within the Army section of Oundle CCF, as a current 4-L6th former, they should book onto this camp as soon as possible. Experience has shown that a waiting list for places starts well before the Christmas Holiday.**

Please note that the camp runs from Speech Day 2012 to the afternoon the following Saturday. Owing to the pressures on staff during camp and the need to ensure that cadets derive the full benefit from the camp experience, the earliest any cadet would be able to depart the main party from the camp location would be at 0900 on the morning of 7 July 2012 (for those travelling either direct to airports or to destinations closer to camp than Oundle). Cadets that live abroad and need to book flights in advance should *not therefore book a flight before the evening of 7 July*. Almost all cadets normally take up the offer of MoD-supplied coach transport back to Oundle that day – which will arrive back in mid-late afternoon. It is important that parents understand this requirement before booking a place.

In addition, parents must understand that it will be impossible to organize any drop-offs between the camp location and Oundle on the 7 July, as the coach booking is organized remotely through

various MoD offices: a situation over which we have no influence or control. Parents who wish to collect may only do so very early at the camp location (before 0830) or Oundle (late afternoon). Belongings not taken on camp may only be left in Houses subject to Hsms' consent. It is recommended that parents / guardians transport unwanted kit away from Oundle before departure on Speech Day. The cut-off date for confirming whether parents will be collecting from camp or Oundle will be 11 June 2012, in order that final transport arrangements can be made in good time.

In order to make the commitment absolutely clear, parents and cadets are asked to send the attached consent form to Mrs Janice Dawe as soon as possible, and to keep a copy of the dates for their own diary record. Upon receipt of this form, the full cost of the camp (£45.00) will be levied on your next Quarter invoice as a **non-refundable payment**. The receipt of your form will be acknowledged. The reason for the cost being non-refundable is to try and minimize the number of cadets that might withdraw at late notice at a time when places cannot be reallocated. **It is essential that cadets and parents see the commitment to attendance as being "cast in iron"**. Cadets dropping out gives the School a poor reputation in the eyes of the regular army camp organizers; a situation which we cannot afford, especially in this era of public fund austerity. At camp, we very much rely on the goodwill of these same organizers. Cadets must ensure that they keep the week completely free therefore, once committed to taking part.

Once the proforma has been received and the camp list full and finalized, we will dispatch kit list requirements to all parents of cadets attending. This will normally be during the Easter Quarter.

We look forward to receiving your booking via receipt of the attached form in the near future. Meanwhile, if you have any questions, please do get in touch.

Yours sincerely,

**CW SYMES**

Major

Oc Army Section and Contingent Second in Command

Oundle School Combined Cadet Force