



Information for New Cadets and Parents

2235 (Deal) Squadron
RAF Air Cadets

Introduction



THE RAF AIR CADETS

The RAF Air Cadets is a national uniformed youth organisation sponsored by the Royal Air Force. As an Air Cadet you will get the chance to take part in activities that others can only dream about. Learn to fly, gliding, rock climbing or hill walking, Summer Camps on RAF Bases, experience trips overseas or simply make new friends and gain qualifications. The Air Cadets can literally put you on cloud nine.

AIMS OF THE RAF AIR CADETS

- To promote and encourage among young people a practical interest in aviation and the Royal Air Force
- To provide training which will be useful both in the services and civilian life
- To foster the spirit of adventure
- To develop the 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.

2235 (DEAL) SQUADRON

2235 Squadron was formed on 1st October 1950 and beforehand was a detached flight of 1859 (Eastry) Squadron, formed in 1942. It has served the needs of the "air minded" youth in Deal and the surrounding area ever since.

2235 Squadron is one of 32 Squadrons that make up Kent Wing, which is based largely on the geography boundaries of the county of Kent. In turn, Kent Wing is one of 5 Wings in London and South-East Region. The RAF Air Cadets is made up of 6 Regions and is commanded by a Regular Royal Air Force officer of Air Commodore rank, and a team of regular, reserve, and civil servant staff from its HQ at RAF College Cranwell, Lincolnshire.

CONTACTING THE SQUADRON

2235 squadron meets every Tuesday and Thursday from 1900hrs until 2130hrs at our Headquarters at the Drill Hall, Hope Road, Deal – 100m across the road from Deal Castle. Our contact details are:

Post: The Drill Hall
Hope Road
Deal
Kent CT14 7DF
Telephone: 01304 389024

Email:

Commanding Officer oc.2235@rafac.mod.gov.uk
Adjutant: adj.2235@rafac.mod.gov.uk
Training Officer training.2235@rafac.mod.gov.uk

Or follow us on Facebook/ Instagram/ on our Website: www.facebook.com/2235dealaircadets/
<https://www.instagram.com/2235sqn/> www.kentaircadets.com/squadrons/2235deal



Joining

ELIGIBILITY TO JOIN

To join the RAF Air Cadets, you must be between 12 and 16 years old. Other than that, there are no restrictions. The organisation is open to young people of any background, ability, religion, or nationality. You don't have to join the armed forces, or even have a desire to become a pilot, just have a passion for fun and adventure.

To be able to join you must have your parents'/ guardians' consent, which is given through the completion of RAF Form 3822A/H. There will also be a requirement of the payment of a membership subscription that will cover basic your time with us - see Subscriptions.

On joining the Squadron, you will become a Junior Cadet and will start your basic training. With this status you will only be able to take part in activities that take place at the Squadron HQ.

HOW THE RECRUIT INTAKE WORKS

Each intake starts with an induction evening where you and your parents 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.

If you do decide to come back and join us the first three months will contain your basic training. This provides you with the key knowledge you will need for your cadet career: learning how to march and wear your uniform, learning about the Air Training Corps and the Royal Air Force, how an airfield operates and the history of flight. We will even teach you how to map read and survive outdoors in preparation for camping expeditions.

But it is not all learning, you will have fun too with trips away, together with sporting and social activities at the Squadron. At the end of the recruit training, you will become a second class cadet. Then, the world is your oyster as this unlocks many of the amazing activities the air cadets have to offer. Using the basic knowledge you have learnt, you will be able to enjoy activities like flying and expeditions to a greater degree.

ENROLMENT

You will be enrolled as a full member of the ATC when you have completed your basic training. This will take place a couple of months after you join. When enrolled you will make the Cadets' Promise in a small ceremony with the Squadron Padre. On enrolment you will become a serving cadet and will be given your RAF Cadet Portal Login and access to the MyRAFAC App; the new electronic Cadet's Record of Service Book and ID. This App is to be always used when on Cadet activities and, together with the Cadet Portal, 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 in place.

UNIFORM

Upon joining, you will be given a form to order a Squadron polo shirt. This is to be worn on Squadron parade nights until you get your uniform. Additional or replacement polo shirts, hoodies and softshell jackets can be purchased from the Squadron.

After a couple of months with the squadron you will be issued with your blue cadet uniform. This is on long term loan from the RAF and should be treated with respect. Note: It costs the RAF in the region of £150 to supply it to you. You will be issued with the following items: beret and beret badge, dark blue working shirt, light blue Wedgwood shirt, black tie, brassard and badges, jersey, trousers and belt or skirt, and Geltex waterproof jacket. To supplement this, you will have to supply appropriate black parade shoes, black socks for those wearing trousers/ slacks and 15-20 denier barely/ nearly black tights for those wearing skirts.

The Squadron no longer issues the camouflage uniform used for outdoor activities, as this is not issued by the RAF. You will need to purchase this privately. PCS-MTP (Personal Clothing System - Multi Terrain Pattern) is the modern disruptive pattern used by the British military and the RAF Air Cadets and can be purchased at very reasonable prices on eBay, Cadet Direct, or from military surplus suppliers. On occasions, leaving cadets donate their combats to the squadron which we are happy to pass on free of charge, but this cannot be guaranteed.

Full training on how to wear and look after your uniform will be given. Your uniform is only to be worn on approved ATC activities and all issued items must be returned to the Squadron on leaving. Uniform that has been damaged beyond reasonable wear and tear or lost may be charged for. Items that no longer fit or are subject to fair wear and tear will be replaced for free. There are also certain restrictions on haircuts, make up and jewellery that are expected to be followed. These will be explained to you during your basic training.

PARADE NIGHTS

The Squadron parades throughout the year on Tuesdays and Thursdays, except for on public holidays and over the Christmas/New Year period. The Squadron HQ opens at 1830hrs on every parade night and closes at around 2145hrs. Cadets are expected to be on parade by 1900hrs and will be dismissed from 2130hrs.

During most parade nights there is a tuck shop available for cadets to buy drinks and refreshments during a break period between two 40-minute training periods.

On occasions, the squadron stands down (closes) for staff training or other uncontrolled reasons, for example extreme or bad weather. This will be communicated via the Cadet Portal.

 **PARENT PORTAL** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/281738969180528>

The Squadron operates a Parent Portal Page on Facebook which is where parents can receive information and notify the Squadron of absence or any other information you would like the Squadron to know. You can also ask questions and a member of the training staff will answer them if possible or alternatively you can request a meeting with the Commanding Officer for any concerns you would like to discuss in person. This is generally the quickest way of communicating with the squadron at all times of the day.



Opportunities

TRAINING AND CLASSIFICATIONS

The Air Cadets operates a progressive academic training system based on classifications. At each stage, except for junior cadets/second class cadets, cadets sit multiple-choice exams on set subjects to progress to the next stage. This works as follows:

Junior Cadet/Second Class

Cadets join as a junior cadet and become a second class cadet on completion of stage two training.

Stage One: The Air Training Corps, Drill and Uniform

Stage Two: The Royal Air Force, History of Flight

First Class

The first class badge is awarded on completion of a workbook exploring the following subjects: Flying Operations, Map Reading, Initial Expedition Training and Basic Communications.

Leading

The following subjects are then studied: Principles of Flight, Aircraft Knowledge, and Basic Navigation.

Completion of the subjects listed above is through online multiple-choice examinations, allowing you to gain the Leading Cadet Classification.

Senior

Again, the senior cadet classification is achieved through online examinations. On completion you will work towards the Master Cadet Classification studying three additional subjects not studied at senior level.

Any three subjects from the following are studied for each of these classifications: Basic Air

Navigation, Aircraft Handling & Flying Techniques, Air Power, Piston Engine Propulsion, Jet Engine Propulsion, Rocketry, Airframes, Avionics & Aircraft Electrical Systems, Military Aircraft Systems, Basic Principles of Pilot Navigation, Advanced Radio & Radar, and Data Communications.

Master

After completion of the Master Cadet exams the academic training is complete for cadets. At this point cadets are eligible for the award of a BTEC Level 2 Certificate in Aviation Studies (currently being revised). Master cadets start to take on more responsibility and will be expected to share knowledge with other cadets.

Instructor

To reach the Instructor Cadet classification, cadets need to complete Presentation Skills training and a Methods of Instruction course. To reach this level as they are expected to teach other cadets. Instructor Cadets are issued with a yellow lanyard on successful completion of the course.

CADET NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICER RANKS

As in the RAF there are opportunities for promotion in rank, gaining extra responsibilities. These promotions are on merit, at the discretion of the OC, and are not based on time served. The ranks available to cadets in the RAFAC are detailed below:

Cadet Corporal

Cadet Sergeant

Cadet Flight Sergeant

Cadet Warrant Officer



The main role of a Cadet NCO is to maintain discipline among the cadets and assist in the operation of the squadron. They are also there to help less experienced cadets with problems they may have.

FLYING

Any enrolled cadet who has completed the First Class Flying Operations module, and has completed the blue level synthetic training, is eligible for Air Experience Flying in the Grob Tutor 115E two-seat training aircraft. The squadron normally goes air experience flying at No.6 Air Experience Flight at RAF Benson, 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.

Older cadets can apply for a flying or pilot navigation scholarship through the Air Cadet Pilot Scheme (currently being revised). If successful they will get 12 hours tuition on a light aircraft at either an AEF or a civilian flying school. Upon completion, the cadet is awarded their scholarship "wings" that are worn on their uniform.

GLIDING

Gliding is aimed at the older cadets as the opportunities for Air Experience Flying are limited. All enrolled cadets are eligible to attend one of the gliding days allocated to the Squadron roughly 2 times a year. However, these courses are aimed at cadets over 15 in preparation for scholarships. Gliding training is in three stages and gives cadets an overview of operation of a glider. These are carried out at 615 Volunteer Gliding Squadron at RAF Kenley in the Grob Viking T Mk1 (G103 Twin II).

Once 16, cadets can apply for a Gliding Scholarship, subject to a medical certificate being signed by the family doctor. If successful, the cadet will either attend 615 VGS at Kenley over weekends or attend a weeklong course during the summer. On successful completion of the course 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.

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 advanced gold wings or even full Glider Pilot wings.

CITIZENSHIP TRAINING

Citizenship training has been part of the ATC'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). The squadron Chaplain also holds regular talks and discussions based on citizenship/society issues.

The main citizenship training is carried out through interest lectures and visits. Recent talks have included a WW2 Lancaster Bomber Pilot, an ex-Metropolitan Police Officer, an ex-British Airways 747 pilot, and a local company that operates UAVs (drones). We also organise trips to the RAF Hendon Museum, IWM Duxford, and much more...!



DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

The ATC is one of the largest operating bodies of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, with many of the usual cadet activities counting towards the awards. The scheme is made up of three levels: Bronze, Silver and Gold, with Physical, Skill, Volunteering and Expedition sections at each level. To gain an award cadets must complete a minimum amount of time taking part in certain activities counting to each section. For cadets who are too young to enrol at Bronze level (in school year 9), the RAF Air Cadets offer a Blue Pre-DofE Scheme.

Some cadets' schools also operate the scheme, and they can use activities from either organisation 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.

If registered through the Air Cadets, those cadets participating in the award at any level will have their registration fee refunded upon successful completion of the award.



SPORTS

A wide range of sports are played in the ATC competitively, from local up to national level. Many cadets get to represent their Wing or Region at their chosen sport, receiving a "blue" in recognition. The following sports are played in the ATC:

- Football
- Athletics
- Cross Country
- Swimming
- Rugby
- Netball
- Hockey



Some of these sports are played at an Inter-Squadron level, while others start at an Inter Wing level, with cadets attending trials to gain their place on the team.

ADVENTURE TRAINING

Adventure Training covers most outdoor activities the ATC has to offer. This includes weekend and week-long camps, rock climbing, kayaking, stand-up paddleboarding and a whole host of other activities. There is usually a small charge for these activities. Full details will always be given.

OTHER ACTIVITIES AND QUALIFICATIONS

There are a variety of other activities and qualifications on offer to cadets. This includes First Aid training, which will give the cadets accredited St John's Ambulance qualifications. Cadets also get the opportunity to work towards a BTEC Level 2 in Teamwork and Personal Development in the Community.

The Squadron has state of the art flight simulators including a fully enclosed replica Cessna cockpit which has been certified as a Part Task Trainer, meaning we can teach all aspects of flight training (simulated). Some of our staff have been assessed and awarded Flight Simulator Trainer status and can deliver a full flight simulator training experience, ready for when you step into a real aircraft.

PARADES

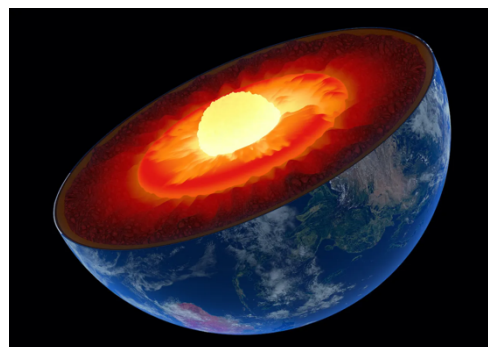
Most years, the squadron holds an Annual Formal Inspection & Presentation of Awards, usually in the winter, where the cadets are inspected by a serving or retired senior officer in the Armed Forces. It also gives the parents and friends of the cadets a chance to see what they can do, with displays put on demonstrating current cadet activities. It is one of only two compulsory parades each year.

The other compulsory parade is the annual Remembrance Sunday parade on the nearest Sunday to the 11th of November. Parents and families are welcome to attend the parade at the War Memorial at Deal Hospital.



AIR, SPACE AND CYBER

There is plenty of opportunity to learn about air, space and cyber in the RAF Air Cadets. The world is changing, and the RAF can no longer just focus on the 'third dimension' for strategic advantage. From the technology developed for space travel, to learning about satellites, pioneers and the universe, the sky is not the limit! In late 2024, the RAF Air Cadets will be launching the UK's first ever space qualification, and it's exclusively for our cadets – a BTEC Level 2 Certificate in Space Studies.



Running the Squadron

STAFF

Every squadron in the RAF Air Cadets is controlled by a Commanding Officer who is usually a Flight Lieutenant holding a Cadet Forces Commission (CFC), in the name of the Sovereign. They are assisted by a team of other Officers, Adult Senior NCOs, and Civilian Instructors. All staff are volunteers and fit the RAF Air Cadets around their day jobs. All staff must undergo an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check and Security checks.

Many of the staff have served in the armed forces or in the RAFAC previously, or have an aviation background. At 2235 Sqn, we are extremely proud that a few of our former cadets are now members of staff.

CIVILIAN COMMITTEE

The running of the squadron is assisted 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, provide welfare support, and run the squadron canteen. Sitting separate to both the Committee and the squadron staff is the Squadron President.

New members to the Committee are always welcome. If anyone can give up a little time for the benefit of the cadets and squadron, please contact the Chairperson for further details.

The Civilian Committee give regular updates and keep parents in touch with fundraising activities through the Parent Facebook Portal.

CHAIRPERSON CONTACT DETAILS

Email: chair.2235@rafac.mod.gov.uk

KEEPING UP TO DATE WITH WHAT IS GOING ON

During the first month with the squadron the cadets will be invited to join the Cadet Portal. This will allow them access to a secure area where notices are posted, together with details of the weekly training programme. This includes the activities, uniform required and any additional information.

To help the staff plan the regular parade night activities, the cadets are also asked to notify us of any absences through the Cadet Portal. This will allow the staff to adapt the training programme to suit the number and level of cadets attending.



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

Financial Matters



SUBSCRIPTIONS

The public money from the RAF does not cover all the activities that the ATC 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 insurance, sport, welfare facilities, training equipment, and most transport (including the squadron minibus). They are due from the day the cadet joins until the Squadron is informed of the cadet leaving, and uniform is returned.

To manage this, the civilian committee meets approximately every 6 weeks. The Squadron Treasurer is responsible to the Chairman, Committee and the Officer Commanding for the accounts of the Squadron. All parents are welcome to join, and dates of meetings are sent out to parents on the Parent Portal in advance.

We ask that prompt payment is made of subscriptions in order that we can run the Squadron efficiently. We request that payment in full by cash, cheque, or BACS. This payment can be made annually, twice-annually, or monthly.

The level of subscription is set by the Squadron Civilian Committee and is currently set at £15 per calendar month.

Payment is required as soon as the cadet joins us. Upon receipt of this payment, a set of coveralls will be given to the cadet at their first meeting, to be worn until uniform is issued.

RAF FORM 3822A/H MUST BE COMPLETED AND RETURNED WITH THE INITIAL SUBS PAYMENT.

If at any time you are unable to pay the required cadet subscriptions/ camp costs, etc., please talk to the Officer Commanding. 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 (23p 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 Sqn reclaims on your donations in the tax year, you can cancel this declaration at any time by notifying the Sqn.
- 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 Sqn reclaims, you can cancel your declaration by notifying the Squadron.
- Please notify the Squadron if you change your name or address.

There are other expenses that are optional and include purchase of polo shirts, hoodies, and softshell jackets.

BACS and CHEQUES

Please ensure all cheques are made payable to 2235 (Deal) Squadron ATC GP Fund

Bank Details:

Account Name: 2235 (Deal) Squadron ATC GP Fund

Sort Code: 52-30-23

Account Number: 08107300

FINALLY, WELCOME TO 2235 (DEAL) SQUADRON



The RAF Air Cadets is at an exciting time in its rich history and celebrated 80 years of training the next generation in 2021. As part of the RAF Astra initiative, our training is becoming more modern and relevant to the ever-changing civilian and military worlds of air, space and cyber than ever before. We strive to deliver the best possible cadet experience to every one of our young people, with core values of Respect, Integrity, Service and Excellence in an environment which is Safe, Secure and Enjoyable. The skills learned and experiences gained are certain to put our young people at an advantage in their adult lives, and we look forward to helping them on this exciting journey.

At any time should you require further information/ assistance, please contact me as the Officer Commanding of the Squadron. Meanwhile, I hope your child enjoys their time in the RAF Air Cadets – it is an experience not to be missed, and we look forward to welcoming you to our growing community.

Mitchell L Taylor

Flight Lieutenant RAF Air Cadets

Officer Commanding 2235 (Deal) Squadron

