

Overwhelming support is flooding in for the Combined Cadet Force unit at Sirius, with head teachers and our Executive Principal expressing encouragement and pride in our achievements so far, matched only by the high praise we have received from Gerard Hardy, leader of the Schools Cadet expansion programme, who is extremely impressed with our team's progress.

Parade evening began with the exciting plans for our first overnight exercise. Cadets have chosen a Zombie apocalypse theme for our **Deadly Sirius** exercise, which will take place from 12<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> May 2018. A great opportunity to get muddy and learn relevant skills in a safe environment.

Several lucky cadets received their uniforms this week – shirts, jackets, socks, t-shirt, beret. The excitement for their long-awaited arrival was palpable. Boots are now ordered and the rest of the uniforms will be issued on the 20<sup>th</sup> February to those cadets who have shown consistently high attendance and positive contribution to the unit so far. It is expected that all cadets will wear their army uniform every Tuesday throughout the school day. Uniform must be kept clean and ironed, and must be worn with pride. Cadets were reminded that all uniform remains the property of the Ministry of Defence, and must be returned upon graduation / departure from the cadet force.

We welcomed our esteemed guest Billy, a serving soldier, who kindly gave up his evening during a very short and long-awaited period of leave between two operations of active service “somewhere very hot”. Cadets were fascinated by his experiences and were brimming with questions about careers and life in the Forces.

Drill continues to progress at a pace, with improved postures and formation. The pride in our unit is clearly emerging and shines through among our recruits.



The Army term “Drillpig” is a complement awarded unofficially to those who can sustain their precise position in the line of 3 ranks during marching and turning. From next half term we intend to award a “Drillpiglet” postcard in recognition of best performance on Parade.

Weapons will finally arrive for training after half term, and cadets will gain their first qualification in weapon handling and firing blank ammunition. This is proving to be an agonising wait for many cadets who joined the force for this very skill set. Not long now!

A buzz is building around the Academies, as younger students are constantly asking to become a cadet. Recruitment from Year 7 will begin in the Summer term, with a view to attract “new blood” for September – watch this space!

**This week's top cadets are: \_\_ Bruno Pomerancis (SAN) and Aaron Foster**

### Key Dates

- 20<sup>th</sup> February **Termly Report** – Latest news to have reached all our stakeholders across the Constellation Trust, the Old Kingstonians' Association and our esteemed leaders at the Combined Cadet Force.
- 1<sup>st</sup> March **CCF Conference** – Our Contingent Commander Beth Hewitt will attend the CCF Conference at the RAF Museum, Cosford. We hope to learn a great deal about future funding opportunities for expeditions and exercises.

- 6<sup>th</sup> March **Passing Out Parade** – Prestigious celebration to award all established cadets with their cap Badge. This is a great honour marking the confirmation of our most committed cadets as fully fledged members of our unit. Attendance of cadets is compulsory. Esteemed guests will include high-ranking dignitaries from all three forces, senior leaders and staff from across the Constellation Trust, representatives from the Old Kingstonians' Association. All established cadets will receive prior notice and formal invitations for families. We hope to see you there!
- 10<sup>th</sup> March **Lasertag** – Elsham Activity Centre. Cadets will enjoy a team-building reward for their continued efforts with this adrenaline-fuelled tournament! Places are limited.
- 22<sup>nd</sup> March **Old Kingstonians' AGM** – Contingent Commander E Hewitt and SSI K Faulkner to deliver presentations on our progress and rising profile as a successful school-based CCF unit.
- 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> May **Deadly Sirius** – Our first overnight weekend exercise. Cadets have elected a zombie apocalypse theme. Cadets will learn navigation, orienteering, problem solving and decoding skills in order to negotiate their safe passage through an escape room-style scenario across fields, through woodland and across open landscapes of the Yorkshire Moors. Places will be limited.
- 23<sup>rd</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> June **Summer Camp** – A week of training, drill instruction, practical fieldcraft and formal Parade. The highlight of the Cadet year, and a well-earned reward for all the cadets' hard work and achievements so far.
- September **Outstanding Cadet of the Year** – A new trophy will be introduced to our prestigious awards ceremony, Night of a Thousand Stars. The Old Kingstonians' Association have kindly elected to award our best cadet with their own trophy, to be displayed in school, and a commemorative plaque to keep. Cadets from the Sirius North and West components of our unit will have the opportunity to voice their own achievements and contributions as part of the nominations process. Criteria will include conduct both in school and on training exercises, performance at Drill and any other positive contributions they make to their community.