

16th October 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: CCF return to parading

Firstly, I would like to start by saying thank you for your cadet remaining engaged in the Cadets during this extremely difficult time. The time has now come where I hope they will all return to the unit for 'face-to-face' activities for at least part of our activities.

The aim of this letter is to highlight the planning and processes that have occurred to enable all cadets to safely return to activities. The timing of this has been driven by the Academy Trust, Government and MoD directives and the CCF is now in a position to enable some face-to-face activities to occur. The process has taken 3 stages:

Stage 1 – Make the Unit COVID-19 Secure: We have followed national guidance and risk assessments to ensure the unit is "COVID-19 Secure". That is, we have made it as safe as possible to conduct some face-to-face Cadet activity.

Stage 2 – Volunteers Safe and Ready: The unit volunteers and staff have received guidance and training on operating with a COVID-19 secure approach.

Stage 3 – Approval: Having demonstrated that both the unit and volunteers are ready, the Trust and MOD has given us approval to re-open the unit for face-to-face activity.

I am delighted to state that Arnold Hill Academy CCF has achieved stages 1 to 3 and can now re-open for some face to face activities following the COVID-19 secure guidelines. Our first planned parade night is Tuesday November 3rd 2020.

The decision for any cadet or volunteer to return is entirely a personal choice, based on personal circumstances. I can assure you that your Cadet will not be penalised should they not to return to Unit face-to-face activities at the moment. Please be assured however, that the unit has done everything possible to give you the confidence the unit is operating under strict COVID-19 Secure guidelines.

Cadets should attend in full cadet uniform for the entire school day as before. There will not be a morning parade, cadets should go to their lessons as normal. We will parade at 15:15 p.m. in B Block Hall (for year 10 cadets). The parade will finish at 16:30 p.m.

Naturally, the guidelines will also have an impact on the type of activities we can conduct, although the overarching aim is for the cadets to reinvigorate their relationships with fellow cadets and have fun. We have invested in extra equipment and kit to help support the planned activities and have an interesting mix of activities planned for the cadets this term.

It will be important that all cadets follow the guidelines regarding hand washing, social distancing and observe the floor markings and other notices within the unit. It is anticipated this will become routine to them very quickly, although please encourage your cadet to ask questions if they are unsure. We

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have maintained the year group bubbles model the Academy has put in place so changes will be minimal and the routines in place are well practised by the cadets already.

In order to assist with the regular washing of uniform, we will only be wearing cadets' issue uniform, until further notice. Any changes to uniform can be organised in the usual way through our stores but could we ask that any uniform that is returned be washed and kept in a plastic bag.

It has been decided that the use of face coverings is not required, although some cadets and/or adults may choose to do so and we respect that choice and we will allow the wearing of masks with uniform.

Any child with any of the recognised COVID-19 symptoms should not return to the unit and must isolate in the normal way.

Whilst residential courses may not be possible, there may be some day activities that are organised in the coming months. More details will follow as appropriate.

This has been an extremely difficult period for us all and whilst we are looking forward to our 'Return to Training', it is emphasised that the safety and security of your child is paramount at all times. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the unit for advice.

Yours faithfully

Andrew Craze
Contingent Commander