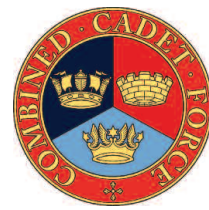


Royal Marines CCF section launch, May 2017



A cadet partnership
between Dame Allan's Schools
and St Thomas More School



A host of dignitaries came together to celebrate the opening parade of the Dame Allan's Schools and St Thomas More School Royal Marines Combined Cadet Force (CCF)

The second most senior Royal Marine in the country, Brigadier Richard Spencer OBE, was joined by the Lord Mayor of Newcastle, the Deputy Mayor of Gateshead and the Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Tyne and Wear, amongst other dignitaries, as he presided over the opening parade by cadets. The event included formal drill by the cadets an inspection by Brigadier Spencer, raising the CCF flag and the unveiling of a commemorative plaque.



This CCF contingent is particularly special. The majority are formed in one school, and as a result of the Cadet Expansion Programme students from another school may be invited to join it as a partner. However, this North East contingent was set up from

scratch by both schools. Dame Allan's has not had a cadet unit since 1959 and St Thomas More has never had one.

In addition, Royal Marines CCF contingents are rare and this is the only one in the North East, offering its 30 cadets an insight into the elite amphibious corps. The section is part funded by the Cadet Expansion Programme, funded by Libor fines, which was launched by the Prime Minister in 2012.

During the inspection Brigadier Spencer presented each of the cadets with a badge to commemorate the importance of the collaboration between the two schools and, as he addressed the audience said: 'I would like to commend the drive, enthusiasm and support which this Royal Marines CCF has shown. It is the first time an independent school and state school have set up a joint CCF RM and it will offer cadets some brilliant opportunities. The CCF can change young people's lives for the better. They will learn about self-discipline, resilience, leadership and many more valuable life lessons. The cadets here are as much a part of the Royal Marines family as those serving. It is a privilege to launch this contingent.'



Following the parade the cadets then showcased their skills in leadership, teamwork and problem-solving in a variety of activities.



Mr Jonathan Parkinson, Head of St Thomas More School said: 'It has been a pleasure to see all of the cadets doing so well today, and throughout their training. This is a fantastic initiative through which our students can develop a range of skills.'

Dr John Hind, Principal at Dame Allan's Schools echoed this, saying: 'We are delighted to have worked together with St Thomas More to launch this CCF contingent which will have a hugely positive impact on those cadets who

choose to be a part of it. Dame Allan's had cadet force units over 100 years ago, and I am thrilled to be able to offer it to our students again. Most importantly, what today shows is that partnership and understanding are the keys to success. This cadet contingent shows partnership between state and independent schools, an Anglican School and a Catholic School and a Newcastle and Gateshead School. We are very proud.'



The event was closed by the Royal Marines Corps of Drums.

What skills and qualifications can cadets gain as part of the CCF?

- Personal responsibility, leadership and self-discipline
- Teamwork
- Expeditions contribute towards the Duke of Edinburgh award
- First aid training
- Vocational qualifications
- Resilience and perseverance
- Independence, motivation and confidence in their own ability
- Communication skills
- Organisation and time management
- Creativity and problem solving
- Cadets are pushed to reach their full potential whilst having fun!

