

CCF RAF Section October camp RAF Honington

From the 20th to the 27th of October, 4 cadets from Calday Grange CCF joined Astor college CCF and members of 99 (Folkestone) Squadron and 1242 (Faversham) Squadron for an Autumn camp at RAF Honington, in the south of England, Bury St Edmunds. It is the home for:

- RAF police
- RAF regiment, and phases 2 and 3 of it's training,
- Force Protection

The cadets stayed in a satellite overflow camp only 3 miles away, RAF Barnham, used for chemical weapons and nuclear bomb storage since the first world war. However, all activities took place at RAF Honington. This station was founded in 1937, as part of bomber command, and has was home to classic aircraft such as the buccaneer and the tornado, before it was handed over to the RAF regiment when flying ceased in 1994. It is home to regiment training, and is responsible for protecting assets of the armed forces, in particular the RAF, in the UK and abroad.

Despite no aircraft being on the base, cadets were kept very busy with other activities, including...

- Fieldcraft - in which we experienced what it was like living in the field, eating from ration packs, practiced camouflage and were shown how the regiment would patrol an area,
- RAF Police day- we were told about the differences of RAF police from civilian police, given a tour of their building, including cells, were taught about forensics and were given a lesson in pressure points, before finally getting to hit things with batons, being the highlight of the week for some!
- A visit to RAF Duxford and the imperial war museum there. We saw hangars filled with classic planes, old and new, from all over the world, as well as some passenger planes, showing the progression of commercial flight through the years. We also saw vehicles, and land weapons in the "land warfare" exhibit,





- A visit to the RAF Regiment museum, which had a very hands on activities and exhibits, including, tanks and jeeps and even an old nuclear bomb (good photo opportunity!),
- A visit to the station armoury, where the cadets got to experience firearms in service with the RAF and even some from the world wars in person.
- DCCT for cadets more experienced with weapons (electronic shooting)
- A bowling night
- An evening on the station's climbing walls, which was a great opportunity for adventurous training.
- Visits by the acting station commander and the Station Warrant Officer,
- Information on RAF careers,
- First aid training,
- Leadership challenges and sports,
- Visits to the Force Protection centre, where drone strikes, detection of camouflaged objects and armoured vehicles of war were demonstrated,
- A disco, to finish the camp on a high note.



Honington was different from a lot of camps that even the NCOs and senior cadets had been on, due to its lack of aircraft, but was instead enjoyable in other ways, being meeting new people, learning new skills, doing things we wouldn't normally do on an RAF camp and working towards our own personal targets, be it drill, uniform, etc, but such a great a great camp wouldn't have been possible without the efforts of Flt Lt Johnson, Plt Off James-Burkey, TEST Sergeants, ours and those who had Honington in their jurisdiction, the ACLO, staff from Faversham, Astor and Folkstone squadrons, and staff at RAF Honington and RAF Barnham for accommodating us and giving us so many great opportunities. The cadets look forward to their next camp; it certainly has a lot to live up to!

Cdt Dom Jones

