



Brentwood School



Find out more →

The CCF

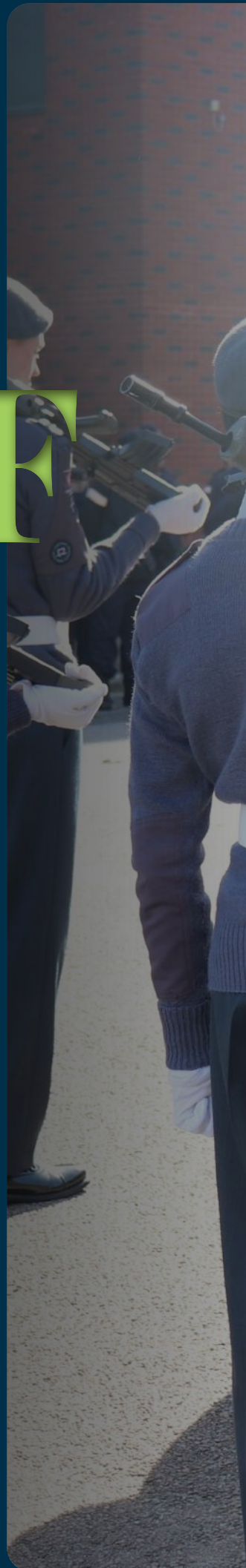
The Combined Cadet Force (CCF) at Brentwood School was established over 160 years ago and is thriving today. It is one of the largest CCFs in the country, and this is a testimony to the commitment and enthusiasm of countless members of staff over the years.

The CCF provides excellent opportunities for pupils to learn the valuable skills of working as part of a team and a first taste of the demands of leadership.

The primary aim of the CCF is not to provide a springboard for a career in the armed forces, although several pupils each year do pursue this path. The CCF is sponsored by the MOD and there are now over 500 CCF Sections in both State and Independent schools. The activities it provides enable pupils to develop interests and skills for the ever changing world in which we live, and above all, aptitudes to grow into responsible, thoughtful and moral adults who are considerate of the needs of others.

Michael Bond

Headmaster





Service Activities

Pupils join the CCF or Voluntary Service Activity in the Trinity Term of Year 9, having had a general introduction to both VSA and some CCF activities such as map reading, first aid and camp craft. Many pupils choose to stay on in both the CCF and VSA voluntarily in the Sixth Form and regard it as one of the highlights of their School career. Service Activities operate on a Tuesday and the activities are a compulsory part of the School curriculum as they are part of the timetabled day.

Each term there is a designated field day when lessons are suspended throughout the School and cadets spend the day on CCF or VSA activities either in or out of School. These might include such things as military activities at an MoD training area, a visit to an outdoor activity centre, flying, an overnight trip to Portsmouth or, for the VSA, a local community project.

Explore our grounds





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“I enjoyed being able to put the leadership lessons I had learnt into practice; I feel so much more confident talking to groups of people now. “

Max, Sixth Form Student



The Aim of the CCF

The CCF aims to provide cadets with opportunities to develop their qualities of teamwork & leadership, responsibility, resourcefulness and independence, through participation in a wide range of activities which are designed to stretch and challenge individuals.

As cadets progress in the CCF, they take responsibility for the instruction of younger cadets becoming Cadet Non Commissioned Officers (NCOs). Of equal importance, the CCF provides a framework within which cadets are introduced to a wide variety of activities outside the normal academic curriculum.

These range from basic first aid training to hill walking, canoeing and flying and are laid down by each parent service who provide support to the CCF via the provision of weapons access to the cadet training team and other items of kit.

We are fortunate at Brentwood in being able to offer cadets the opportunity to choose between the three Services – the Royal Navy, the Royal Air Force and the Army – and, although numbers are limited by the MOD, we can usually satisfy most cadets' first choice of Section.

Each Service Section has its own programme of voluntary activities during the School holidays.

Although the Ministry of Defence loans much uniform to cadets (and the cadet is required to return it clean when they leave the CCF), it is necessary for cadets to buy certain items such as boots which remain their personal property.

In addition, the School makes a yearly charge to cadets for participation which covers such things as transport and payment for Field Day activities. This charge is published by the Bursary each year.

The CCF

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The broad function of the Combined Cadet Force is to provide a disciplined organisation within a school so that boys and girls may develop powers of leadership by means of training to promote the qualities of responsibility, self-reliance, resourcefulness, endurance and perseverance, and a sense of service to the community.

It is firmly believed that the self-discipline required in Service life is equally important in the civil life of the nation today.

The specific function of the service training in the CCF is to provide the opportunity for young people to exercise responsibility and leadership, and to learn from the Services how they can best be developed: show them why the defence forces are needed and how they function: encourage those who have an interest in the Services to become Officers of the Regular or Reserve Forces”

Charter

The Purpose

The Charter mentioned previously clearly sets out the overall purpose of the Combined Cadet Force. However, it is well worth emphasising the salient points, which are to provide a disciplined organisation in a school so that its members, both boys and girls, may develop:

- Self-discipline
- Responsibility
- Self-reliance
- Endurance
- Resourcefulness
- Perseverance
- Leadership
- A positive attitude to service to the communities
- An understanding of why this country's Defence Forces are needed and how they carry out their functions.

If the aims are realised, then clearly a valuable amount of citizenship training has been achieved.

Staffin

All three sections are run by Officers who are full-time members of the School staff. The Contingent Commander has overall responsibility for the administration and activities of the CCF and is assisted by two School Staff Instructors (SSIs) who have extensive experience of the Armed Forces and Cadet Forces.

The Services each provide support for training at School and on Field Days and camps. This support is by way of regular visits to the School from Service personnel from all three Services who have specific responsibilities for liaising with an assisting School CCF Sections.

The nature of their support is to add an extra level of expertise and guidance to assist both NCOs and staff in effectively carrying out the training on offer.



*Find out
more about
co-curricular*

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Commanding Officers	
Capt Robinson	1861 – 1864
Lt C W Shickle	1864 – 1870
H V Higgs Esq	1915 – 1918
Lt Col G W Gore-Harvey	1918 – 1930
Lt Col H G Waldram MBE TD	1930 – 1949
Lt Col D J Jones TD	1949 – 1964
1943 Lt Col M G Hall OBE	1964 – 1989
Lt Col N J Carr	1989 – 1997
Lt Col LGT Retford	1997 – 2000
Lt Col N J Carr	2000 – 2001
Lt Cdr N D Copplestone RNR	2001 – 2007
Maj J P Seaman	2007 – 2008
Lt Col N J Carr	2008 – 2012
Maj H V Ottewell	2012 – 2014
Lt Col J P Seaman	2014 – 2019
Maj J Haron	2019 – 2025
Wg Cdr S Singh RAFAC	2025 –

Royal Navy Section

The Royal Navy Section has been a feature of the Brentwood School cadet force for many decades.

The Royal Navy staff officers and senior NCOs strive to ensure that the activities and experiences in the Royal Navy Section are challenging, exciting and enjoyable – and while treading these paths in safety, they also need to keep a sense of humour.

The main focus of the Section is to engender the cadets with leadership skills through adventurous activities and a wide-ranging syllabus of knowledge and skills.

The navy cadet is proud to be part of the Section and this is reflected in their immaculate appearance and respect for each other. One of the most poignant and impressive displays of the Section can be witnessed during the Remembrance Day parade through the streets of Brentwood.

The cadets pick up their knowledge and skills in three main arenas – Tuesday afternoon CCF activities, Field Days and at Navy camps and courses. Tuesday afternoon activities start and finish with a parade. The cadets are dispersed to

an array of different activities including leadership tasks, sailing at a local centre, ropework, navigation and chartwork, the .22 rifle range, first aid, outdoor survival, navy proficiency lectures and scuba-diving in the 25m pool.

Field Days generally focus on afloat activities – gaining kayaking and sailing badges or making use of the larger craft available at CCF(RN) HQ based at HMNB Portsmouth. HMS Collingwood is a regular host where the cadets get the opportunity to test their mettle on the full-size military assault course or to take control of a destroyer or aircraft carrier in the £2 million simulator.

Royal Navy cadets have priority placement on over a hundred camps and courses which run during the Easter and summer holidays – mostly free of charge.

The leadership weekend and first aid courses at Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, are particularly popular and many cadets have taken advantage of these to their immense benefit. Once cadets complete their sheltered water training they also have the opportunity to join the annual scuba diving expedition.



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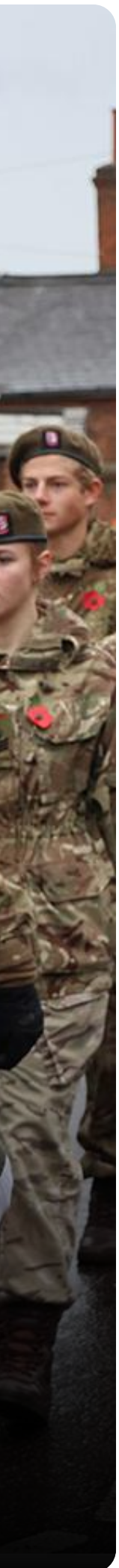
Army Section



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“I learnt how to work as a team and to work with people I don't normally mix with.”

Deeya, Lower Sixth



Army cadets are developed physically and mentally across a wide range of military and non military-based disciplines. Field days take place at regular army training establishments to give cadets the opportunity to practise their skills and experience authentic training conditions.

When they join Basic Company in Year 9, cadets begin the Army Proficiency Certificate. For their first term, they are introduced to drills and develop their military knowledge. They continue to study the syllabus through Year 10, learning navigation, fieldcraft, battlecraft, weapon handling, campcraft and First Aid.

As cadets progress through Year 10, they work towards passing the Advanced Infantry module of the syllabus. Additionally, all cadets are expected to complete their weapons training, run as a weekend training course held in School, and participate in at least one military overnight exercise conducted at a local military training area.

At the start of Year 11, all cadets go into Cadre Company to provide them with leadership training to allow them to become Non-Commissioned Officers (NCOs) themselves. They learn how to take charge of other cadets, give practice lessons and further their own understanding of leadership. Such skills will be useful whether or not they stay in the CCF in the Sixth Form. In the Sixth Form, as NCOs, they continue to develop their military knowledge and training as well as being entrusted with significant positions of responsibility. They become responsible for delivering excellent weekly training on Tuesday afternoons and are integral in the planning and execution of overnight exercises and Field Days.

The self-discipline, organisational and leadership skills developed as an NCO in the CCF can never be underestimated. The Cadet Training Centre at Frimley Park also offers an excellent Cadet Leadership Course and the Cadet Centre for Adventurous Training offers a wide range of courses that develop and challenge the individual. These include courses in skiing, commando training, signals, electronic engineering, leadership training and other adventure training courses in such areas as rock climbing, canoeing and mountain walking, leading to nationally recognised qualifications. Field Days are usually spent out of school on training areas or at Regular Army training establishments.

Activities can include range firing, infantry field training, rock climbing, canoeing, and orienteering. Overnight exercises, range days and survival training are also organised – all of which occur either over a weekend or at the start of a holiday. Each year, there is an opportunity to attend an annual Army Camp in the first week of the summer holiday, where a varied package of military and adventurous training activities is offered. These may include shooting, military exercises, watermanship, climbing and orienteering. It is expected that each cadet will attend Army Camp at least once throughout their time in the CCF. The Army Section receives training support from the Regular Army through the Cadet Training Team and we have close contacts with both the Royal Anglian Regiment and the Army Reserve.

The RAF section promotes and encourages a practical interest in aviation and the Royal Air Force. Cadets engage in individual and team building activities to develop confident leadership skills and a spirit of adventure.

Training begins in Year 9 after the Easter break, with an introduction to wearing uniform and learning basic drill manoeuvres. This, combined with studying lectures on the structure of the RAF, the badges of rank worn and a detailed knowledge of the cadet training plane, the 'Grob-Tutor', enables cadets to pass their RAF First Class classification. Once the classification has been completed, cadets are able to take their first air experience flight. Flying takes place throughout the year at RAF Wittering in Cambridgeshire and all cadets have the opportunity to experience flying within their first year of joining the section.

As the cadets move into Year 10, their training broadens to include a variety of outdoor pursuits as well as classroom based activities. Practical and theory sessions in map reading and first aid will build upon the instruction they received early in Year 9 and place it in a military context. After the October half-term, cadets will move on to the Leading Cadet classification training, intended to hone their teamwork, leadership and communication skills. Camp-craft, leadership tasks and radio communication all feature alongside the advanced RAF topics (principles of flight, airmanship, aircraft recognition and navigation). Cadets will also experience their first taste of weapons training, culminating in an opportunity to shoot on the School range.

By Easter, Year 10 cadets will be eligible to join one of the residential camps that the RAF offers nationwide. These camps are held for a week in the Easter and/or summer holidays at an RAF station in the UK and give cadets the opportunity to put their training into practice alongside cadets from other schools. The week will include activities such as visiting front line aircraft squadrons and sections such as Air Traffic, RAF Police, Fire and Training and Development flights. Depending on the station, there may also be the opportunity to fire on a full-bore range, sports activities, a night exercise and flying. UK Camps are subsidised by the MOD and usually cost c£150 per cadet for 7 nights.

Places on these camps are much sought-after and attendance is considered most favourably for later promotion within the Section. In Year 11, RAF cadets will join the other two Services in the Cadre Section. They follow a course intended to provide them with leadership training, to eventually allow them to become NCOs in the Sixth Form and assist with the training of younger cadets. They will also choose their specialist subject to study for their final RAF Classification– Senior Cadet – successful completion of which is compulsory for any NCO.

Throughout the School year, we also organise termly Field Days at a variety of establishments including; visits to RAF Bases, orienteering, visits to air heritage museums at Duxford and Hendon or adventurous training at local outdoor education centres, as well as the opportunity of going to air shows in the UK.

R Force



A young woman in a Royal Air Force uniform stands in the center, holding a sword. She is wearing a grey sweater, a dark skirt, a white belt, and a dark beret. To her left, a man in a similar uniform is seen from the back, holding a rifle. To her right, another person in a green uniform is seen from the back. The background is a red brick building with windows. The text "Royal Air Section" is overlaid in large pink letters at the bottom.

Royal Air Section

Adventure Training

Adventurous training and survival training play a prominent role in CCF activities. Each Easter, there is a week-long adventure training camp currently held at an outward-bound centre in Snowdonia. It is open to cadets of all ages and Sections and the activities on offer include training in navigation, hill walking, climbing, abseiling, kayaking, white-water rafting, a high ropes course, mountain biking and dry skiing.

Cadets also have access to a large number of adventure training courses run by the Cadet Centre for Adventure Training. These take place in Wales, Scotland and the north of England and cover climbing, sailing, canoeing and mountain walking.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award

The various CCF syllabi count toward the 'Volunteering' section of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. Many cadets take advantage of this to assist them in pursuing the Duke of Edinburgh's Award at all three levels.

Links

A number of Sixth Formers have benefited from the award of Sixth Form scholarships and several have joined the Services in recent years either directly from School or, more usually, from university to which they have sometimes been sponsored through Bursaries and Cadetships. There have been several Flying Scholarships won in the last few years.

Royal Air Force Air Cadets (RAFAC)

RAFAC is based at RAF Cranwell in Lincolnshire it was the world's first Air Academy and today, it continues to select and train the next generation of RAF Officers. Additionally, it is home to RAF Recruitment, No 3 and No 6 Flying Training Schools, Central Flying School, Air Warfare School, the Tedder Leadership Academy and Robson Academy and the Band of the RAF College.

RAFAC is divided into 6 regions, each region is responsible for the CCF(RAF) sections and Air Training Corps (ATC) Units in their area, the RAF Section at Brentwood School is based in the Central and East region and is parented by RAF Henlow in Bedfordshire. RAF Henlow, which was officially opened in 1918, currently houses the RAF Centre of Aerospace Medicine and the Joint Arms Control Implementation Group. It has a purpose built Cadet facility which is used for Camps and Courses throughout the year.

In recent times, while many RAF Stations have closed, the remainder are very welcoming and supportive to cadets; the RAF has a specific budget allocated to support RAFAC's mission to be the modern, dynamic, sustainable air-minded youth organisation of choice that offers fun and challenging opportunities for both cadets and volunteers.

HMNB Portsmouth

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The Royal Navy section of the CCF makes extensive use of HMNB Portsmouth. As well as being the oldest Royal Navy Base, it is the home base for two-thirds of the surface fleet.

The base is home to the Type 45 Destroyer squadron and a Type 23 Frigate squadron as well as mine countermeasures vessels and patrol vessels. In 2017 it also became the home base for the new fleet of aircraft carriers. Consequently, there is always a significant surface fleet presence at the base. The historic HMS Victory, the oldest commissioned warship in the world, is also based at Portsmouth.

Portsmouth is also the headquarters of CCF (RN) and many courses each year for the cadets are based at the facilities on Whale Island. Cadet accommodation is provided on HMS Bristol, a permanently moored destroyer dedicated to cadet activities.

The Royal Anglia Regiment

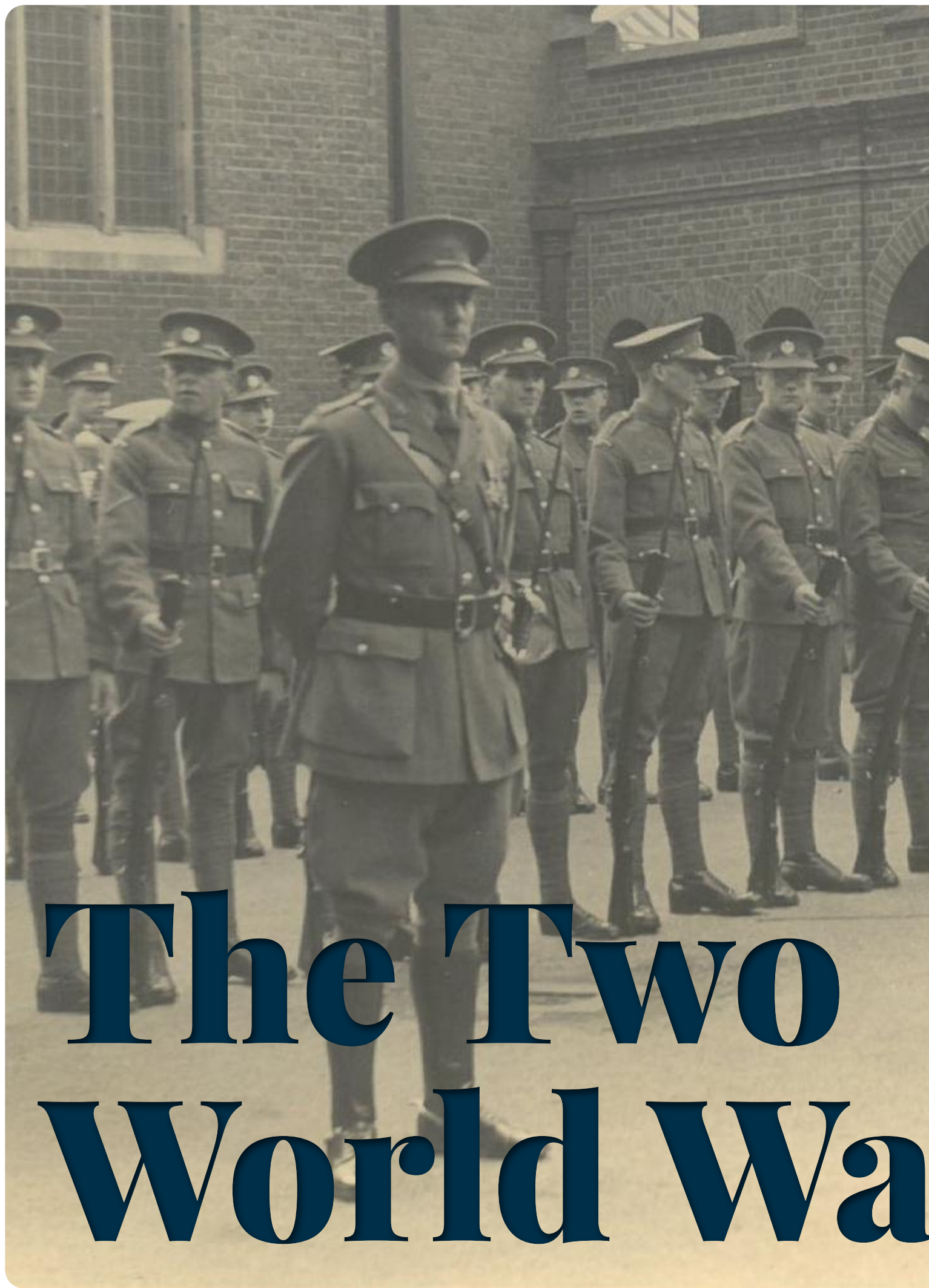
The Royal Anglian Regiment was the first large Regiment of infantry to be formed in the British Army. It is now the Regiment of ten counties of East Anglia and the East Midlands and is an amalgamation of the former Royal Norfolk Regiment (9th Foot); Suffolk Regiment (12th Foot); Lincolnshire Regiment (10th Foot); Northamptonshire Regiment (48th/58th Foot); Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment (16th Foot); Essex Regiment (44th/56th Foot) and Royal Leicester Regiment (17th Foot).

The Regiment takes great pride in its former Regiments, from whom it has inherited a number of colourful customs, details in its uniform accoutrements and battle honours. Its component former Regiments have a history going back to 1685 and have earned significant battle honours in every part of the world.

Today, following further reductions and amalgamations, the Regiment has two Regular Battalions, the 1st Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment, nicknamed "The Vikings" and the 2nd Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment nicknamed "The Poachers" plus one Territorial Army battalion.

Brentwood School CCF is proud of its long association with the Regiment dating back to the times of the original formation of the CCF when it was affiliated to the Essex Regiment that had its Regimental Headquarters at Warley, Brentwood. As the Essex Regiment underwent reorganisation and amalgamation, so the School CCF has changed its affiliations and is now connected with the 1st Battalion and the 3rd (Volunteer) Battalion. By special permission, Brentwood School CCF is allowed to wear the collar badges of the Eagle & Garter and the purple lanyard, both of which especially commemorate the historic connection with the Essex Regiment.

As a contingent, we are proud of our strong links to the Royal Anglian regiment, and since its formation 50 years ago, two Old Brentwoods have served as a commanding officer with the Regiment.



The Two World Wars

During the 1914–1918 War, sixty Old Brentwoods were killed, and during the 1939–1945 War, one hundred and seventy-three were killed. Their names are listed in the School Chapel and commemorated by the Memorial Hall for the First War and the pavilion for the Second War.

History of the CCF

1861	School Volunteer Rifle Corps Attached 21st Company Essex Rifle Volunteers
1914	School Cadet Corps
1918	Sir Antony Browne's School Cadets
1930	British National Cadet Association
1935	Officer Training Corps Junior Cadet Corps British Red Cross Detachment
1940	Junior Training Corps
1943	Junior Training Corps Air Training Corps
1948	Combined Cadet Force
1957	The CCF mounted a Guard of Honour for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on the occasion of the 400th anniversary of Brentwood School
1960	Centenary of Cadet Force Association
1979	Royal Navy Section started
2011	Brentwood School CCF 150th anniversary
2023	Celebrating 75 years of the CCF

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