

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Re: Introduction of the Combined Cadet Force (CCF) at John Spence

We are delighted to inform you that John Spence Community High School will be launching a Combined Cadet Force (CCF) unit from 1st September. This exciting initiative will provide our students with unique opportunities to develop valuable life skills, leadership qualities, and a sense of service and responsibility.

The CCF is a youth organisation sponsored by the Ministry of Defence and supported directly by Headquarters Northeast Cadet Training Team, which consists of both regular and former regular soldiers who bring a wealth of knowledge and experience. The CCF offers pupils structured training and experiences within a disciplined yet supportive environment.

Activities will include leadership exercises, fieldcraft, adventurous training, community service, and opportunities to gain recognised qualifications.

Through the CCF, our students will:

- Build teamwork, resilience, and self-confidence.
- Take on leadership roles and responsibilities.
- Engage in physical and outdoor challenges.
- Develop respect, self-discipline, and commitment.

Uniform and Equipment

Students joining the CCF will be issued with their uniform free of charge. However, cadets will need to purchase their own suitable boots. If this presents any difficulty, please do not hesitate to speak with us in confidence — we are keen to ensure that no pupil is prevented from joining due to financial concerns.

Weekly Parade

The CCF unit will parade every Monday from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm. Attendance at parade sessions is a core part of the programme and will allow cadets to take part in training, drills, and skill-building activities.

Headteacher Mr Jonathan Heath

John Spence Community High School, Preston Road, North Shields, NE29 9PU.

Registered address: Pele Trust, c/o Ponteland High School, The Crescent, Callerton Lane, Ponteland, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE20 9EG.
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Participation is voluntary and open to pupils in Years 8, 9, and 10, with recruitment beginning in October. We will hold taster sessions on 13th and 20th October for students who would like to learn more about what the CCF involves — including the structure of the programme, uniform arrangements, and opportunities for training and camps.

Please complete and return the attached consent form, giving permission for your child to take part and indicating which taster session (13th or 20th October) they wish to attend.

We believe the CCF will be an outstanding addition to our wider curriculum, supporting the development of well-rounded young people who are well prepared for the challenges of adult life.

Should you have any questions ahead of our open evening, please do not hesitate to contact us.

We look forward to sharing this exciting new chapter with you and your children.

Yours sincerely,
Sgt. Daniel Dotchin
John Spence Contingent Commander

Headteacher Mr Jonathan Heath
John Spence Community High School, Preston Road, North Shields, NE29 9PU.

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John Spence Community High School is part of Pele Trust.

Student Activity Consent Form

Student Name:
Parent/Guardian Name(s):
Contact Number(s):
Email Address:

Consent to Attend

I give permission for my child to attend the activity sessions.

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

Taster Session

Please indicate which taster session your child will attend:

- ☐ Session 1
☐ Session 2

Parade Participation

If your child enjoys the sessions, would you like them to begin parading with us after half term?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Undecided

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____