

# Easter Camp RAF Lossiemouth

## CCF (RAF) Section Easter Camp - RAF Lossiemouth



During the Easter holidays 12 cadets from Calday Grange CCF joined 7 cadets from 273 (Wallasey) ATC Sqn and 4 cadets from 400 (Birkenhead) ATC Sqn, for a week long camp at RAF Lossiemouth on the coast of the Moray Firth.

RAF Lossiemouth is a front-line Typhoon FGR4 base with 1(F), 2

(AC) and 6 Sqns. Lossiemouth is also home to QRA (Quick Reaction Alert) North which protects mainly northern UK airspace from threats, with mainly southern defence being provided by RAF Coningsby in Lincolnshire. They are also preparing for the arrival of the P8-A Poseidon maritime reconnaissance aircraft to fulfil a current gap in the UK's defence network left by the Nimrod. The P8-A will be employed on searching for submarines, tracking ships and helping in SAR (Search and Rescue) operations.

Whilst we were there we had many different military and civilian activities and ate out of the Junior Ranks' Mess which provided good quality meals. The accommodation block was of a high standard with facilities such as a flight simulator and a computer suite in the accommodation building.



Among the cadets' favourite military activities include:

- All the cadets enjoyed a visit to 1(F) Sqn where we were shown round Typhoon aircraft in a hanger and told of the aircraft's capabilities. Some cadets enjoyed looking in the cockpit of a Typhoon, others were interested by the technical side. There were even some that enjoyed smelling the engines.
- We visited the Rolls Royce engine repair centre where we got to have a close look at an EJ200 engine and had a technician explain how it worked, looking at the two different sections of the engine and how the reheat section works.
- We also visited the Mountain Rescue service based at RAF Lossiemouth, their primary role is to rescue crew from an aircraft that has come down over mountainous terrain but also help rescue civilians alongside the coastguard.
- Some cadets also got to visit the fire section where they got to use big water cannons used for putting out aircraft fires.
- Other cadets were lucky enough to visit the Typhoon simulators and have a go at flying one. They are designed to be as realistic as the real aircraft but since the aircraft has many onboard computers, it is remarkably easy to fly. A few of the cadets managed to refuel in mid-air from a simulated Voyager tanker aircraft.
- Most cadets got the opportunity to go in the PTT (Part Task Trainer) which is an immersive flight simulator, and took their first step to gaining their blue wings badge (Part of the Air Cadet training Syllabus).

Away from the military activities, there were activities such as a visit to an aviation museum with lots of aircraft you could go inside, a visit to Lossiemouth beach, where we played games and had ice cream, and inter-flight competitions such as sports, command tasks and a bowling competition.

Overall it was a very exciting and interesting week that all enjoyed. It is possibly one of the best camps members of the section have been on, but it wouldn't have been possible without the help, organisation and support from Flt Lt Johnson, Off Cdt Johnson, Mrs James-Burkey, Sgt Lambert, and the personnel at RAF Lossiemouth.

The cadets look forward to their next camp.

Sgt James Scott-Myers