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The Panther

The official newsletter of 146 Northwich Squadron



July/August - 2011

48 Entry Join The Squadron

25 new recruits officially joined Northwich Air Cadets over the weekend, by taking part in their passing out parade. This marks the 48th entry of cadets into 146 Squadron

The cadets joined the Sqn in March 2011 and have just finished their 18 week training course. They have taken part in a huge array of activities and training, including sports, radio comms, camping, hill walking, navigation and aviation studies.

To celebrate the success of their course, the cadets were treated to an RAF style dining in meal at Northwich Victoria Football Club. They were joined by guest of honour, Sqn Ldr Atkins from Training Ground at HQ Air Cadets:

"Never did I dream that I was going to be the reviewing officer tomorrow at your passing out parade and I am really honoured to be able to do that.

I am very grateful to your Sqn Commander and to you for inviting me here and giving me that opportunity to enjoy this wonderful meal and enjoy your wonderful company"

The meal was followed the next day by the cadets passing out parade, where they were all inspected and presented with their First Class Cadet badges by Sqn Ldr Atkins. Cadets from the rest of the Squadron and lots of proud parents and family were there celebrate 48 entry' success. Also present were Northwich Mayor, Alison Gerrard and Consort.

Sgt (ATC) Hensby, 48 entry course leader said:

"Number 48 entry have been a strong group of disciplined young adults who have displayed a fantastic attitude towards their training. I am incredibly honoured to have trained them alongside my NCO's and I am so proud to have seen 25 of them graduate as 146 cadets at the weekend! Well Done"

St Dunstan's Challenge

13 cadets from 146 Northwich Air Cadets, recently took part in a sponsored run for St Dunstan's, a charity helping to support blind servicemen.

The St Dunstan's Challenge inspires cadets to complete a half marathon in a fun and interesting way. The Northwich cadets choose to make their way around Oulton Park Race Circuit as many times as they could, in just two hours. The cadets all made a huge effort, arriving in fancy dress, with scooters and skateboards to complete the distance.

CI Sarah Ross, organiser of the event said: "It was lovely to see the cadets getting into the spirit of the event, arriving in fancy dress and putting in their best efforts"

The cadets completed a combined total of 89 miles, with one cadet, Simon Wood-Brignall, managing 13 miles on his mini scooter, an excellent achievement.

The final total raised by the cadets was £344.70, which will be presented to St Dunstan's at 146 Squadron later this month.



Other News

Promotions:

Sgt Whittle

Sgt Keegan

Sgt McClelland

Cpl Ward

Cpl Jessop

Cpl Stelfox

Facebook

www.facebook.com/atc146

YouTube

www.youtube.com/atc146

Editor

CI M Moores

Writers

Sqn Ldr P Twose

Sainsbury's Bag Pack

Cadets from the Sqn spent the day in Sainsbury's, Northwich, helping customers pack their bags, to help raise money for Sqn funds and for the Royal Air Force Association. The final total was £1014.47, a fantastic total for six hours work.



Northwich Air Cadets Gold Expedition

Nineteen cadets from 146 (Northwich) Squadron Air Training Corps have successfully completed their Duke of Edinburgh's Award Gold Expeditions in Snowdonia. The gruelling four day hike was declared the highlight of their Award experiences. The cadets, all aged 16 and 17, started planning the expedition routes in January and completed practice expeditions in the Dark Peak.

All nineteen cadets have previously qualified for their Bronze and Silver Awards through the Squadron and for most of the group this expedition completes the final section of their Gold Award.

During the debrief Snowdonia Panel Assessor Owen Williams thanked the teams for their accurate timekeeping and enthusiasm and informed them that he had already been contacted by a local landowner along their route who had been impressed by their politeness and obvious determination. He said: "It has been a real pleasure to work with teams who are such good ambassadors both for the Award Scheme and the ATC."

Squadron Leader Paul Thompson, Officer Commanding 146 Squadron, congratulated the teams and encouraged them to use their skills to benefit less experienced cadets on the unit. "We have a long record of 'Gold' holders, working both as cadet NCO's and also as adult staff, striving to develop younger cadets and this is undoubtedly one of the keystones of the Squadron's success."



100th BTEC for Northwich Air Cadets

Cadets from 146 (Northwich) Squadron Air Training Corps have gained their 100th BTEC through the Cadet Vocational Qualifications Organisation (CVQO) making them probably the most successful cadet unit in the country.

93 of the awards are Public Services BTEC's and seven are Music BTEC's with an impressive 87 of cadets gaining the higher Distinction or Distinction Star grades.

The BTEC is the equivalent of four GCSE's with the Distinction Star grade equalling four GCSE's at A*.

The Squadron has been participating in the BTEC Programme for four years. Sqn Ldr Atkins travelled from Headquarters Air Cadets to make the presentation on Sunday 10th July when Cadet Corporal Oliver Leach became the 100th Northwich Air Cadet to receive his certificate.

The following 146 Squadron cadets were also presented with their certificates at Distinction Star grade:
Sgt Matthew Nightingale, Cdt Naomi Carolan, Cdt James Forsythe, Cdt Shaun Stelfox, Cdt Arjun Uppal, Cdt Anna Wilde and Cdt Elliott Dickenson.



Organisation Changes In The Air Cadets

Due to various organisational changes in the Air Cadets, 146 Sqn will be moving from East Cheshire, South Manchester Wing to Merseyside Wing, as of the 1st of October.

We will also be joined by 202 (Winsford) Sqn, which is merging with 146 at the end of the month. We welcome 202 to the Sqn and hope they enjoy Northwich Sqn and take every opportunity available to them.

Qualified Aerospace Instructor Course First

Cpl Ward, a Staff cadet on 146 Squadron, has achieved a first, by being awarded a place on the next Qualified Aerospace Instructors Course (QAIC), ran by HQ Air Cadets.

The course, which has extremely limited places, aims to teach cadets lecturing techniques, advanced aeronautics (to enable them to lecture subjects on the Sqn), Air Traffic Control and flight sim training. At the end of the course, Cpl Ward will be awarded a blue lanyard, to replace his current yellow Staff cadet one.

For comments, feedback and contributions, contact: panther@theaircadets.org
If you are a parent and wish to be added to our mailing list, please contact: webmaster@theaircadets.org