



Witton Park Academy

SOCIAL GROWTH



Dedicated pathway for all Year 9 students to build character and confidence.



RAF Air Cadets

Forget sitting at a desk copying notes. Joining the RAF Air Cadets is an immersive, high-octane adventure that transforms you from a regular teenager into an elite leader ready to conquer the skies. Here is exactly what your thrilling journey will look like:

Every legend has a starting point. When you first join the squadron, you enter the Recruit Flight to master the basics of military precision.

- The Power of Uniform: You'll be issued your official RAF blue uniform. Learning to iron crisp creases and polish your boots until they shine like mirrors is about pride, respect, and looking sharp.
- The Sync (Drill): You'll learn formal military foot drill. There is a magnetic thrill when you and thirty other cadets snap your boots to the ground in perfect, rhythmic unison.
- The Badge: Pass your basic training, and you are awarded your First Class Cadet badge in front of the whole squadron. The real adventure begins!

Unleash the Adventure (The Core Cadet Experience)

- Air Experience Flying (AEF): The ultimate thrill. You will head to a real RAF station, strap into an aircraft alongside a real RAF pilot, and blast into the clouds. Once airborne, the pilot will say the magic words: 'You have control.' You will take the joystick and pilot a real plane, even performing barrel rolls if you are brave enough!
- Tactical Fieldcraft: Swap your blues for green camouflage uniform, paint your face, and learn how to move silently through forests at night without being spotted. You'll build hidden shelters and cook military ration packs over portable stoves.
- Marksmanship: Train on target rifles under the watchful eye of expert marksmen. Hit the firing range to test your focus, breathing, and trigger control to earn prestigious shooting badges.

Rising Through the Ranks

As you gain experience, you trade being a follower for being the boss. Show dedication, and you will be promoted to a Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO).

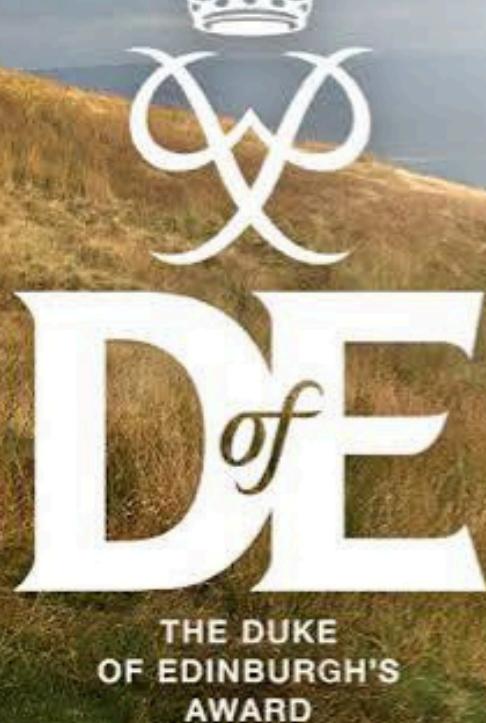
- Corporal: Your first step into command, mentoring new Year 8 recruits and leading team tasks.
- Sergeant: The mastermind of squadron nights, running large-scale exercises and acting as the vital bridge between the cadets and adult RAF officers.

You will learn how to command squads through intense survival challenges.

Annual Camps

The absolute highlight of the cadet calendar! For one spectacular week, you will live on an active, operational RAF base. You'll sleep in military barracks, eat in the mess halls alongside real soldiers and get exclusive, behind-the-scenes access to multi-million-pound fighter jets.

You'll tour the air traffic control towers and watch fast jets blast off into the sky right in front of your eyes.



Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Imagine being dropped into the wild with a compass, a massive backpack and your best mates, with one goal: survive the weekend, find your campsite, and conquer the wilderness. That is the Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) — the ultimate challenge to see what you are truly made of. You can start your Bronze Award right in Year 9.

Here is how you complete the quest:

Choose Your Skills

To win the award, you don't just sit in a classroom; you pick three real-world challenges to crush over a few months:

- The Skill: Become a master at something new. You could learn to code video games, bake masterchef-level desserts, play the electric guitar, or even learn photography.
- The Physical: Level up your fitness. Smash your goals in football, rock climbing, martial arts, dance, or skateboarding. It's all about beating your own personal best.
- The Volunteering: Become a local hero. Give back to the world by helping out in the community or raising money for a charity you care about.

The Expedition (The Real Test)

This is the part everyone talks about. You and a small squad of your friends will head out into the great outdoors for a multi-day trek.

- The Journey: You will navigate through hills, forests and valleys using nothing but a physical map and a compass (no Google Maps allowed!).
- The Camp: When you finally reach your checkpoint, you'll pitch your own tents under the stars and cook your own dinner on portable camping stoves. There is nothing quite like the taste of a hot meal you made yourself after a long day of hiking.

Why Take the Challenge?

DofE isn't just about hiking; it's a cheat code for your future. When colleges, universities, or future employers see that you have a DofE badge, they instantly know you are reliable, tough, and an incredible team player.



Sports Leaders

You don't have to be the fastest runner, the highest jumper, or the star footballer to dominate in sports. Being a Sports Leader isn't about how many goals you score — it's about becoming the mastermind who inspires everyone else to win. This is your chance to step off the sidelines, grab the whistle and take command of the game. Here is what it's all about:

Instead of just playing the sport, you go behind the scenes to learn how events actually work. You will discover how to plan epic sports tournaments, design chaotic and fun warm-up games, and organise safe, high-energy sessions. You'll learn the secret skills of professional coaches: communication, body language and how to get a crowd hyped.

The best way to learn leadership is by doing it. As a Sports Leader, you will run real sessions for your peers or for younger primary school students. You will deliver the pre-game pep talks, explain the rules clearly so everyone can join in and referee matches to make the big decisions while keeping the energy levels high.

Being a Sports Leader gives you an official, recognised qualification. It proves to teachers, colleges, and future employers that you aren't just a follower, you are someone who can be trusted with responsibility.

Why Take the Challenge?

It strips away the pressure of 'being the best athlete' and focuses entirely on your personality and confidence. It teaches you how to speak up, command attention and bring people together.



Young Leaders

Young Leaders

Ever looked at adult leaders, coaches, or project managers and thought, 'I could do that better'? Here is your chance to prove it. Being a Young Leader is all about stepping up, taking charge and becoming a real-life hero in your local community. This isn't about sitting back and watching things happen. It's about designing the future yourself. Here is how you take the lead:

You won't just follow someone else's plan; you will design and launch your very own community project from scratch.

You will spot a problem in your local area and come up with exciting ideas and projects to fix it. Want to build a brand-new community wildlife garden? Want to organise a massive charity gaming tournament? Or maybe set up a food bank donation drive at your school? You decide.

You will manage the budget, promote the event and rally a team of volunteers to make your vision a reality. Seeing something you created completely change your community for the better is an unforgettable feeling.

Why Take the Challenge?

Being a Young Leader is the ultimate way to prove you have what it takes to manage real-world operations. It shows colleges, universities, and future employers that you have the drive, the organisation, and the heart to make things happen.



Forest School

If you are tired of staring at screens and four white walls, it's time to trade the classroom for the canopy. Forest School is your ticket to the great outdoors, where nature becomes your playground, your science lab, and your obstacle course all at once.

This isn't just a walk in the woods. It's hands-on, muddy adventure where you learn ancient survival skills and test your brain against the wild. Here is what awaits you:

At Forest School, you learn real, practical outdoor skills that you can't get from a textbook.

- Firecraft: Learn the art of building a campfire from scratch, using flint and steel to strike a spark and mastering how to safely manage and extinguish a fire. (And yes, roasting marshmallows and making campfire hot chocolate is part of the job!).
- Tool Use: Get hands-on experience with real tools like bow saws, billhooks, and whittling knives to create camp gadgets, artwork or shelter frames.
- Shelter Building: Work with your team to engineer weatherproof dens using fallen branches, leaves, and clever rope knots. Will your shelter survive a bucket of water thrown over it? There's only one way to find out.

You will become an expert tracker and environmental investigator. You'll learn to identify secret paths left by wildlife, forage for useful plants, and discover how the ecosystem around you works by living right inside it.

Why Take the Challenge?

Forest School strips away the stress of exams and grades. It is a space where making mistakes is just part of the adventure and where solving problems with your hands builds a completely different kind of brainpower.



Musical Theatre

If you've ever wanted to burst into song, tell epic stories, or feel the electric rush of a live audience cheering for you, Musical Theatre is your ultimate stage.

This isn't just about acting. It is the ultimate 'triple threat' combo of acting, singing and dancing, all mashed together into one explosive performance. Forget standing on the sidelines; this is your chance to step into the spotlight and let your confidence go wild. Here is what your journey looks like:

- The Voice: Learn how to belt out powerful anthems, master vocal control and sing in mind-blowing four-part harmonies with the rest of the cast.
- The Movement: You'll learn high-energy choreography, from explosive street-dance styles to classic showstoppers. It's a total-body workout that teaches you rhythm, coordination and how to move in perfect sync with a massive crew.
- The Story: Step into the shoes of completely different characters; villains, heroes, rebels or comedy geniuses. You'll learn how to express massive emotions through a single look or line of dialogue.

Why Take the Challenge?

Musical Theatre is the fastest way to demolish social anxiety. It forces you to throw away your filter, be completely expressive and bond deeply with a cast who have your back through every single line, step, and note.

If you love performing in front of an audience.

If you love to sing, dance and act- this option is for you!

