

BECCLES SEA CADETS at Beccles Free School

Sea Cadets at Beccles Free School is a part of the very successful Beccles Sea Cadets that has been running in Beccles for many years. We have formed an association with this youth organisation and are extremely lucky to be able to benefit from their fabulous professional instructors and their resources.

Sea Cadets at Beccles Free School is available for students to join on **Wednesday afternoons** from year 7. If students join before they are 13, they will be Junior Navy Sea Cadets. From the last term in Year 8, or whenever a student is 13, it is possible to join the Royal Marines cadets, which is also part of the Sea Cadets organisation. The students go in to lunch first on a Wednesday so that they can meet under the bicycle park area beside the restaurant to leave and walk to the Sea Cadet Unit at 1.30pm promptly. Parents are asked to pick up cadets from the Sea Cadet Unit, Beccles Quay, at 4pm or that cadets have permission to make their own way home from the unit. Cadets needing to catch minibuses home will leave training at the unit half an hour early so that they will be back at school before the end of the school day.

If you join as a **Navy Sea Cadet**, you can take part in the following activities:

- Rowing
- Sailing
- Power boating
- Kayaking
- Canoeing
- First Aid
- Military knowledge
- Marching
- Ceremonial Events
- Catering
- Drumming
- And many more!

As a **Royal Marines Cadet**, you will do some of the above but you will concentrate mainly on the following activities:

- Learning how to survive outdoors by putting up a basic shelter and preparing MOD rations
- Shooting
- Learning how to camouflage yourself and move stealthily outdoors

There is **no fee** for joining Sea Cadets at Beccles Free School on a Wednesday afternoon. *

All **uniform and equipment will be leant** to cadets for the duration that they are involved.

Cadets have to commit to minimum of 1 year involvement. This is due to the amount of administration involved in accepting a student into Beccles Sea Cadets. Any concerns that students will miss out on the range of activities that they can choose from on Enrichment Afternoons at Beccles Free School should be allayed by the huge range of activities that they will take part in as a member of Beccles Sea Cadets.

What will you get out of being a Sea Cadet?

- The opportunity to take part in a huge variety of new experiences
- An understanding of the navy
- Becoming a member of a team
- Confidence
- Enjoyment
- New friends
- A sense of achievement
- New skills

Fears that are myths in Beccles Sea Cadets:

- Some pupils have thought in the past that you are signing up to be in the armed forces if you join cadets. This is NOT true. You are under 18 and not able to join the armed forces. You are simply becoming a cadet and so benefiting from all the fabulous activities that armed forces personnel get involved in without any of the obligations or dangers that come with it.
- Occasionally students think that being a cadet means you spend the afternoon being shouted at. This is NOT true. Instructors may shout, but only to be heard over the noise of an activity. Nobody will shout at you, ridicule you or embarrass you.
- Sometimes pupils don't like the thought of getting involved in case they are forced into doing things they don't want to. There will be many new activities and you will always be encouraged to take part. However, no one will force you to do something if you are not happy to do it.

Helpful things to know about Sea Cadets:

- 'Nutty' or 'Stand Easy' is the opportunity to buy a snack in break time – usually 3pm
- Ironing is involved
- Sometimes you will get wet

Please find and speak to one of these members of Beccles Sea Cadets if you have any further questions:

Commanding Officer of Beccles Sea Cadets: Lt Cdr (SCC) Joe Meadows RNR 01502 711858 becclesseacadets@hotmail.com

Adult instructor at Beccles Free School: Felicity McAlindon 07514 930232 fmcalindon@becclesfreeschool.org.uk

* If you wish to join in with Beccles Sea Cadet training on Tuesday and Thursday evenings and occasional Saturday training, there is a charge of £20 per month. Many students have started as a Sea Cadet on Wednesday afternoon enrichments and enjoyed it so much that they have gone on to join in with evening and weekend training.