

Youth Forum Update - October 2009

**Next Youth Forum will on Friday 11 December at the
NET Youth Centre, Abingdon**

**Topics will include: DVD "The Youth of Today" ; Can noise drive you mad?;
Neighbourhood policing; Homophobic Awareness; Consultation Young People's Plan 2010 -
2013; Vale Youth Cabinet Elections 2009 - 2010**

The following meeting will be on Friday 5 March 2010

Defence Academy, Shrivenham Visit 14 October 2009



Briefing and Overview

Major Lockwood gave an overview of the Defence Academy, together with a health & safety briefing. The Defence Academy includes Cranfield University offering post graduates programmes for non military personnel, including the College of Management & Technology. The Joint Services Command & Staff College provides officer training for all 3 armed forces. Serco and ESS provide the facilities management for the site.

Julia Faulkes from Serco gave a presentation on how they work with the Defence Academy to provide a range of services. These include facilities management such as recreation, accommodation, library, cleaning and catering, visitor services, IT and travel.

Question and Answer Session

A number of high level military personnel and MOD staff answered questions such as:

- (1) Have you ever been shot?
- (2) What's the best service go join Army, Navy or RAF?
- (3) What was the most difficult thing you have done?

There were a range of answers which gave young people a good insight into the various careers available within the Defence Academy. When asked what advice they would give young people they recommended that they take advantage of all training and education opportunities which are available to enable career development.





Lunch Break

The lunch was sponsored by ESS who runs the mess catering at the academy on behalf of Serco. This gave the young people the chance to meet officers and find out more about career opportunities at the academy.

End of the Day

The visit included a tour of the Defence Capability Centre which houses a range of tanks and other equipment. They were allowed access to the armoury where they were given information about the current weapons as well as those that have been used previously, including a rifle from the 1800s. There was an opportunity to handle some of the weapons, which they found exciting.



Feedback

52 young people attended from 9 different schools. 88% (46) found the meeting very interesting; 42% most enjoyed the tour; 9% enjoyed the whole day; 7% found the question and answer session most interesting; 28% the weapons room and 14% the opportunity to talk to staff during lunch.

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