

Armed Forces Day 2016



Extension Ideas

Secondary Assembly
11-16 year olds

www.armedforcesday.org.uk

Armed Forces Day 2016

Be a part of Armed Forces Day

Local events across the UK will be celebrating our Armed Forces, past, present and future. Visit www.armedforcesday.org.uk and find out how your pupils can join in an event near you.



Celebrate the decision to serve

Create a display in your reception area or classrooms that celebrates the importance of helping others and respecting their rights, and of decisions that people make to serve others or their country. Start with what students can do in your school, and 'grow' your display to include students' ideas on what might inspire a person to join one of the Armed Forces.

Pupils can:

- *Join a national "salute" to the Forces through the #SaluteOurForces campaign, which asks people to send a an image of the simple gesture.*
- *Find photos and write captions to explain what is happening*
- *Create drawings and collages*
- *Write their own stories about helping or being helped*
- *Add local news articles about the work of the Armed Forces and how they have been celebrated in your area*

Fly the flag

Raise a flag to show your appreciation. You could join in with a flag-raising event near you, or why not raise one at your school.

You could:

- *Invite a veteran or serving member to speak*
- *Invite students to say a few words of appreciation through poems, songs or letters*



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Meet a veteran

Your local Royal British Legion can help you to find a services veteran who could visit your school and talk about their experiences in the Armed Forces. They might have experience of a historical war such as World War II, or even a more recent event such as the Falklands conflict.



Create a corner garden

Gardens and public spaces are often created to remember or celebrate a person, group or event. Why not put aside a corner in your school grounds and plant flowers or a tree as a reminder to students of the work of our Armed Forces. Don't be put off if you've nowhere to plant – why not create a container garden instead?

Celebrate a relative

Students may have relatives who have served in the Armed Forces, and who maybe still do. See if they could visit your school and talk about their experiences. They could provide some memorabilia (photos, a uniform, equipment or even medals) for a display.

Watch history as it happened

The British Film Institute and Imperial War Museum have film archives available to schools in the UK. You can search online, and could even find out if there are film clips with local relevance.

What are they doing?

Use the Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force websites to find out about where our Armed Forces are deployed around the world.

www.royalnavy.mod.uk

www.army.mod.uk

www.raf.mod.uk

www.armedforcesday.org.uk

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Students could:

- *Plot locations on a map or globe*
- *Find out about each location or country and the situation to which our Armed Forces are responding*
- *Discuss or debate students' perspectives on the situation, or the points of view that those affected may have*



Write a speech or poem

Students can compose and perform a short speech or poem, to:

- Show their appreciation and support
- Empathise with those who choose to join an Armed Service

Students could perform their work in your Assembly or other school or local activity to mark the event.

Celebrate help at home

Our Armed Forces provide help when it's needed in the UK. Students can search news websites and find out more about how they were there for UK citizens, for example during the Cumbrian floods of 2009.

Students could:

- *Create and video a role-played news programme explaining how the Armed Forces provided help*



Create a poster

Students can create a poster to capture their ideas on the importance of service and to celebrate the decision to serve our country. They could link this to opportunities to serve your school community as a positive response to your school's values and ethos.

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Meet your local servicemen and women

You may have an Armed Forces base near you, for example an airfield, naval base or regimental barracks. Students can use the Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force websites to find out. Why not see if there is a museum that you can visit, or if a serviceman or woman can visit your school and talk about what they do?

Students could:

- *Plan and ask questions*
- *Record their interview or talk*

Military bands provide ceremonial and marching music for our Armed Forces.

Students could:

- *Enjoy listening to examples on CD or MP3*
- *Watch a video of military music, for example from Trooping the Colour or the Edinburgh Military Tattoo*
- *Discuss the feelings and emotions that this sort of music can create*
- *Listen to some famous songs from the World Wars*
- *Rehearse and perform selected pieces as part of your school orchestra or band, for example in your Assembly or other activities to mark the event*



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Uniform to School Day

Students in a Combined Cadet Force or individual Cadet Force could take part in a 'wear your uniform to school' day. Teachers who are Cadet Leaders or Volunteer Reservists could also take part.

Invite participants to explain their choices and to describe what wearing their uniform means to them.



Promote your Cadet Forces

Invite members and / or leaders of your school or local Cadet Forces to speak to the school and promote the benefits of cadet training and membership. You could also see if any ex-cadets are now distinguished servicemen or women and invite them to speak to the school.

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