National VPC Newsletter

October 2026



Promoting a practical understanding of policing amongst all young people

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Encouraging the spirit of adventure and good citizenship

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Supporting local policing priorities through volunteering and giving young people a chance to be heard

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Inspiring young people to participate positively in their communities.

Welcome to the October 2026 edition of the National VPC newsletter. This action-packed edition highlights the activities & achievements of VPC Units, Cadets, and Leaders across the VPC in supporting Police Forces & Communities whilst developing young people

Do you have a story that can be shared with everyone? Has your Cadet unit done something to shout about?

If so, contact us at - vpc.admin@vpc.police.uk

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Thames Valley VPC give award in memory of PC



Each year West Berkshire Police Cadets do the Brereton Award, in honour of PC Roger Brereton who was killed on duty in the Hungerford massacre in 1987.

The **Hungerford Massacre** took place on 19 August 1987 in Hungerford, Berkshire, England. Michael Ryan, a 27-year-old gunman, carried out a shooting spree in which he killed 16 people, including his mother, and Pc Brereton.15 others were injured before the gunman took his own life.

Pc Brereton was responding to reports of a gunman in South View, Hungerford, when Michael Ryan suddenly opened fire on his police car. Despite being shot, PC Brereton managed to radio a warning to police control before dying at the scene. He was posthumously awarded the Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct in recognition of his bravery

The tragedy shocked Britain and led to major changes in firearms legislation, including tighter restrictions on gun

Each year Cadet Leaders vote for a cadet that they are proud of.

This year the Brereton Award was awarded to **Cadet Natalie** (pictured below left receiving her award).

Roger Brereton's son Paul and Roger's Grandson Taylor attended Sulhamstead to present the award to Natalie (with her parents present). It was a surprise for Natalie, and her parents were snuck into the back of the hall to watch the presentation!





One Cadet journey ends, another begins in Wakefield



It was an evening of new beginnings and fond farewells for **Wakefield Police Cadets**, as the unit recently welcomed its newest cohort while saying goodbye to a familiar face who began his own cadet journey nine years ago.

The evening marked **A/SO Ruben's** final shift as a Cadet Leader, ahead of an exciting new chapter in his career with South Yorkshire Police.

Ruben's journey with Wakefield Police Cadets began when he was just 13 years old, joining the unit's very first cohort nine years ago. Since then, he has progressed through the ranks from Cadet to Senior Cadet and Cadet Leader, while also beginning his policing journey as a Special Constable and, most recently, taking on the role of Acting Section Officer.

Throughout those nine years, Ruben has given a huge amount of his time, enthusiasm and commitment to the cadet programme. He has become a popular and valued member of the team, supporting younger cadets and helping to provide the same opportunities and experiences that started his own journey all those years ago.



His departure comes at a fitting time as Wakefield Police Cadets welcomes its newest cohort, who recently attended their first session following their induction and parents' evening.

For the new cadets, this is the beginning of their own journey. Over the months and years ahead, they will have the opportunity to develop their confidence, learn new skills, work as part of a team and make a positive contribution to their communities.

Ruben's story is also a fantastic example of just where that journey can lead.

Sergeant Jonathan Sewell said:

"*Ruben has been part of Wakefield Police Cadets from the very beginning, and it has been a privilege to see him progress from a 13-year-old cadet into the person and leader he is today. He has given a tremendous amount back to the unit and has been a fantastic role model for our cadets. He will be very sadly missed, but we are incredibly proud to see him taking the next step in his policing career.*

As we say goodbye to Ruben, we are also welcoming a brand-new group of cadets to Wakefield. Hopefully, Ruben's story will show them just how far the opportunities, friendships and experiences that begin here can take them."

Everyone at Wakefield Police Cadets and National VPC would like to thank Ruben for everything he has contributed to the programme and for the example he has set for those following in his footsteps.

We wish him the very best of luck as he begins his new chapter with South Yorkshire Police, and every success for the future.

Cumbria VPC have had a busy few weeks

Head Cadet Lucy from **Workington Police cadets** was selected by the High Sheriff of Cumbria, Shirley Fawcett. (Both pictured far right).

It is the first time in their history that Cumbria has had a High Sheriff Cadet. It is even more special as it is the first time ever that Cumbria has had an all-female shrieval team!

This is a historic first and one Cumbria are extremely proud of.



Workington Cadets also helped marshal a multi terrain race in Egremont for the 'crab fair' one of the oldest fairs in England.

Without volunteers the race wouldn't have been able to go ahead.



Cumbria cadets were fortunate to attend the emergency services show at the NEC. Cadets from all 5 units in Cumbria came together and travelled to Birmingham! The highlight of the day was getting to see so many emergency services vehicles and spending time with some retired service dogs! (pictured below)





Cumbria is also delighted to be getting their Duke Of Edinburgh awards back up and running! Cadets recently went on a practice expedition in the Lake District which was a huge success!

DE YOUTH WITHOUT LIMITS

National Cadet Week 2026

National Cadets Week 2026 was the first-ever national celebration of the UK Cadet Forces, which took place from 5 to 11 October 2026. The week celebrated the achievements of Cadets and Adult Volunteers while highlighting the positive impact of all Cadet organisations on young people and local communities.

National Cadets week was supported by His Royal Highness King Charles, who sent a message to all Cadet organisations, pictured below. In addition, a summit was held at Buckingham Palace, bringing representatives from Cadet Organisations together.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

Monday 28th September, 2026

I am particularly delighted to send my warmest congratulations and best wishes to all cadets, adult volunteers, families and supporters of cadet services across the United Kingdom during this inaugural National Cadets Week. For many years I have recognized the benefit of uniformed youth groups in instilling a sense of self-discipline and self confidence in the younger generation that can only come from challenging team activity inherent within such organizations. This is why, in 2009, I founded Youth United as a way of promoting the benefits of uniformed service and providing opportunities for young people to partake in challenging physical activity which involves teamwork and direct service to the community.

For more than a century, the Cadet Forces have helped generations of young people discover their strengths, broaden their horizons and develop the confidence to face life's challenges. In every part of our country, from our cities and towns to our rural and coastal communities, cadets come together to learn new skills, build lasting friendships and contribute positively to the communities in which they live.

At a time when young people are growing up in an increasingly complex and rapidly changing world, opportunities to develop resilience, responsibility and a sense of purpose have never been more important. The Cadet Forces provide exactly that. Through adventure, teamwork, leadership, service and personal challenge, they help young people realize their potential, whilst fostering the qualities that strengthen both individuals and society as a whole. These experiences help nurture capable, compassionate and confident young people who are prepared to make a positive difference wherever life may take them.

I would particularly like to highlight the contribution of the adult volunteers who so generously give their time, energy and expertise. It is now more than ever that we need more willing volunteers to step up and serve future generations of cadets.

To every cadet, volunteer, family member, employer and supporter, I can only thank you for your example of duty and service. Your commitment is helping young people to develop the skills, character and confidence they need to flourish, while making a valuable contribution to the future wellbeing of our United Kingdom.

CHARLES R.

During the week VPC schemes celebrated both their Cadets and Adult Volunteer Leaders. Some examples -

Wiltshire VPC: Wiltshire Police highlighted that its 84 cadets across four sections had completed more than 670 volunteer hours since March 2026. Their work included supporting community events, distributing information leaflets and engaging with the public alongside neighbourhood policing teams.

Havering VPC: Cadets welcomed the Mayor of Havering to their parade evening at Emerson Park Academy. They showcased their training and community involvement, including support at the Harold Hill open day and Trading Standards test-purchasing activities.

Merseyside VPC: Cadets helped police and Special Constables at Liverpool's Chinese New Year celebrations, supporting public engagement during a major community event.

Lancashire VPC: The Police and Crime Commissioner met cadets at Lancashire Constabulary headquarters, discussed his responsibilities and policing priorities, answered their questions and thanked them for their contribution to local communities.

North Wales VPC: The Police and Crime Commissioner met cadets to mark National Cadets Week. Highlighting volunteering, community projects, personal development and practical training such as first aid, alongside the benefits of developing leadership, teamwork and communication.

North Worcestershire VPC: Cadets from across North Worcestershire attended the High Sheriff's Shrieval Service at Worcester Cathedral. New cadets helped welcome dignitaries and guests and assisted with the collection, developing confidence and communication skills at a formal civic event.

Workington VPC: Workington VPC welcomed Maryport Army Cadets (pictured right) for a joint session focused on learning, teamwork and shared activities. This provided an opportunity for young people from different cadet organisations to work together.



Humberside VPC: Humberside Police used the first National Volunteer Police Cadet Week to showcase the different aspects of its cadet scheme and recognise the contribution cadets make to policing.

Dorset VPC: Dorset Police highlighted the development of its cadet scheme from one unit in Bournemouth to five units across the county. The force used National Cadets Week to recognise cadets and volunteer leaders and explain the scheme's benefits to young people

Coventry VPC: Coventry Cadets (pictured right) have helped many charities through Fundraising, collections, and support.

They collected for the Coventry Refugee & Migrant Centres 'Coventry Destitution Fund', which is "a vital lifeline for those seeking safety in Coventry"

They concentrated on collecting:

- Food: Adequate food to maintain health and well-being.
- Clothing for the cold weather such as Jumpers, hat's and gloves.
- Healthcare: Nappies, wipes, sanitary goods, deodorants etc.





Thames Valley VPC: held a Cadet Day at Sulhamstead where they were joined by SCAS and Armed Forces Cadets, along with TVP Cadets, to deliver an engaging, scenario-based training day for cadets that promotes, supports, and advocates for all the Armed Forces and Emergency Services. The event aimed to provide cadets with practical skills, leadership development opportunities, and an insight into the roles and responsibilities of partner organisations and to make friends with other Uniformed Youth Groups as all the Cadets were split up and mixed into groups.

Malton VPC: swapped patrols for prizes as they hosted a fun-filled Bingo Night at retirement housing complex Deansfield Court in Malton.



Residents enjoyed an evening of laughter, friendly competition, and plenty of bingo calls, all organised and delivered by the cadets. From donating prizes, to handing out cards, to calling the numbers and chatting with residents, the cadets showed outstanding confidence, teamwork, and community spirit throughout the event.

The evening was a great opportunity to bring generations together, create new connections, and celebrate the positive impact young people can have in their local communities. A huge well done to all the cadets involved for making the event such a success and helping to spread smiles during Cadet Week!

NATIONAL CADETS WEEK

Brighton & Hove VPC Summer Camp







17 cadets and 4 leaders from Sussex Police's **Brighton & Hove VPC Unit** went on their residential Cadet Camp at PGL Liddington for 2026 where they were able to take part in a whole heap of fun activities. The cadets pushed themselves to take part in; laser tag, archery, laser clay shooting, paddleboarding, crate climbing and trapeze, alongside a whole load of team building activities with a healthy dose of competition!





Camp encourages the cadets to try new activities, boost their confidence and for some it may have been their first residential away from home. For those who had their last camp, we hope you have enjoyed many years of annual residentials and will encourage any newer cadets to come along in 2027.

As always, JoJo, the PGL host, praised our organisation as a unit and was impressed with the cadets numbering off before activities and being on time, or early!

Nottinghamshire VPC have a PGL adventure too…









Nottinghamshire Cadets eased into their weekend with PGL games, ready for an early start the next morning.

Saturday kicked off with the vertical challenge and a survivor session where they had to navigate the wilderness to set up a shelter.

A quick break for lunch followed, before they headed to the lake for a raft building session, with varying success!

A quick game of archery tag rounded off the daytime activities. Finally, they wrapped up the evening with a campfire.

For the last day, the cadets demonstrated their teamwork to scale Jacob's ladder before a game of laser tag. Still eager to cram more in the cadets took a leap off the trapeze before going on to the axe throwing. Finally, the cadets boarded the bus to return home. A weekend thoroughly enjoyed by all, where their teamwork, communication, and survival skills were put to the test

Herts VPC see what's behind the cell door



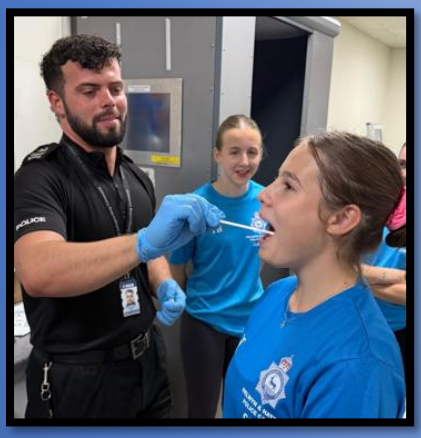
The **Welwyn & Hatfield Police Cadets** recently enjoyed a fascinating visit to Stevenage Custody Suite, gaining a rare behind-the-scenes insight into one of the most important and often unseen areas of modern policing.

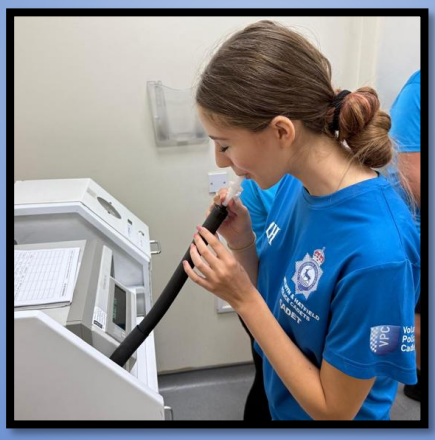
For many Cadets, a Police Custody environment is something they have only ever encountered through television dramas and documentaries. The opportunity to step inside a real Custody suite, view a Cell, and learn about the processes that take place following an arrest provided a valuable and eye-opening experience.

The evening offered a highly interactive introduction to the custody process, enabling Cadets to see first-hand how detainees are processed, cared for and managed while in police detention. The session highlighted the vital role that custody staff play in ensuring the welfare, safety, and legal rights of those brought into police custody.

Cadets were able to take part in a range of practical demonstrations, including providing DNA samples, having their footprints recorded, using the B.O.S.S. chair and experiencing an evidential breath test. These hands-on activities brought the criminal justice process to life and helped demonstrate the procedures, safeguards and technology used within custody suites every day.







The visit also provided an excellent opportunity for Cadets to ask questions and gain a deeper understanding of the challenges and responsibilities associated with custody operations. Seeing these processes first-hand offered a unique perspective on a specialist area of policing that is rarely visible to the public.

The session was engaging, informative and thought-provoking throughout, providing Cadets with a greater appreciation of the work carried out within custody suites and furthering their understanding of the wider criminal justice system. Experiences such as these continue to form an important part of the Police Cadet programme, helping young people learn more about policing and the many different roles that contribute to keeping communities safe.



Gwent VPC help vulnerable man

Gwent Cadets recently went to the assistance of a vulnerable 86-year-old man.

His fence had been damaged by an individual spray painting his newly installed fencing with a Nazi symbol and some names. The homeowner was unable to paint the fence due to his age, an added issue was that the fence was overlooked by a local primary school.



Gwent leaders had received the report, secured funding from our Positive Impact Fund, secured the paint and brushes, and rounded up 4 awesome cadets to spend some of their Sunday assisting the gentleman by painting his fence.

They managed to miss the rain showers, and hope that their work has covered the graffiti.





Luckily, they have more paint left over and can revisit again soon when the weather is a little better.



Junior Cadets explore History, Democracy and Teamwork



This summer, **Kent Police Cadets' Junior Cadet** groups enjoyed two memorable educational visits, giving young people the opportunity to learn, explore and build friendships outside of their regular cadet sessions.

Junior Cadets from **Medway and Maidstone** visited the Houses of Parliament, where they gained a fascinating insight into how the country is governed.

The cadets were able to explore parts of Parliament not normally open to the public and learn about the role of Members of Parliament and the democratic process. The visit brought classroom learning to life and provided a valuable introduction to public service and government.



Meanwhile, Junior Cadets from **Folkestone and Dover** visited Leeds Castle, where they explored the historic castle, learned about its rich history and enjoyed a variety of activities including the famous maze, crazy golf and birds of prey displays.

The maze challenge proved particularly popular, encouraging cadets to work together, communicate effectively and support one another.

Despite many cadets meeting for the first time, both visits demonstrated the positive impact of the Junior Cadet programme in helping young people develop confidence, teamwork and social skills. New friendships were formed, memories were created and cadets embraced every opportunity to learn from their surroundings.

Not to be out done…..**Kent Senior cadets** were offered four residential experiences across Britain and Europe, including Light the Lakes in Cumbria, Operation Snowdon in North Wales, Operation Overlord in Normandy and Operation Market Garden in the Netherlands.



While each journey offered unique experiences, they all challenged cadets to step outside their comfort zones, develop resilience and discover what they were capable of achieving. From climbing mountains and completing long-distance walks to exploring sites of historical significance and participating in international commemorative events, cadets were given opportunities to learn in ways that cannot be replicated in a classroom.

The overseas visits to Normandy and Arnhem also provided powerful opportunities to reflect on the sacrifices made by previous generations. Walking historic battlefields and visiting military cemeteries helped bring history to life and encouraged cadets to gain a deeper appreciation of service, courage and remembrance.

Feedback from parents and guardians highlighted increased confidence, maturity and independence among participants, demonstrating the lasting impact these experiences can have on young people. For the volunteers who support the programme, seeing cadets grow in confidence and achieve more than they thought possible remains one of the most rewarding aspects of their role.



West Yorkshire 'Salvagers'



West Yorkshire Police Cadet Leaders Sgt Stuart Clarke and PC Sally Baines spent their August Bank Holiday Monday at Leeds Festival.....well, the aftermath of the Leeds Festival!

Sgt Clarke and PC Baines, who are part of the **Kirklees VPC Leadership Team**, signed up to be "Salvagers" and were given 5hrs access to the campsites and everything the festival goers had left behind. Both were in a state of shock at the sheer number of items - tents, sleeping bags, self-inflating mats as far as the eye could see, as well as lots of evidence of the parties that had gone on too!



Between them they managed to salvage 15 self inflating mats, 12 roll mats, 15 sleeping bags, 12 microfibre towels, 2 pairs of hiking boots, 5 camping mallets, 3 waterproof coats, and 6 bucket hats, all of which will be washed, cleaned and given to their Cadets for their Duke of Edinburgh Expeditions. Lots of other random bits and pieces were salvaged such as camping chairs for Leaders, a camping cot bed and even a gazebo.

West Yorkshire Police are about to welcome a new cohort of Cadets from September, and some Parents had already been in touch with concerns about the cost of the DofE kit list, so all items salvaged will be given new owners.

The pair were amongst other "Salvagers" from groups and charities who were scouring the fields for reusable items such as Scout groups on the hunt for tents and Foodbanks looking for unopened food - one charity later said they'd handed over ½ a tonne of food found left behind to a local Leeds foodbank.

"Salvagers" applications usually open in Spring for both Reading and Leeds Festival sites, and applicants are subject to a PNC Check. You have to be part of an organisation or Charity in order to be accepted, and the only window of opportunity to salvage is from 3pm to 8pm on the Bank Holiday Monday after the Festivals have ended.



It is well worth doing if you want to get extra kit for your Units - a lot of the items found were good quality brands, and they had only been used for that weekend! Some items were unused and still had the tags on. Not only can you kit out your Cadets, but you are doing your bit to save the items from going to landfill. Look out for social media posts by Festival Republic who run both Reading and Leeds Festivals for details on how to sign up to salvage.

Merseyside attend Emergency Services Show

In September 15 cadets from **Merseyside VPC** attended the Emergency Service Show at the NEC, Birmingham. The Cadets had a great time, speaking with stallholders and also meeting other Volunteer Police Cadets from around the country.



The event brought together blue light, rescue, and public safety professionals. As Europe's leading event for frontline response and resilience, it featured cutting-edge operational equipment, high-value networking, and deep-dive seminar stages.

This year marked the 20th year of the show. Cadets receive VIP invites through a partnership between the organisers and National VPC and are given access which is not available to the general public.

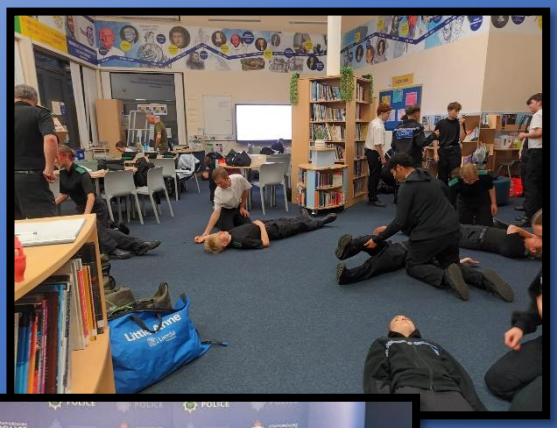




Staffordshire VPC get trained and awarded

Staffordshire Cadets recently received First Aid training and were also celebrated at their Local Policing Awards







West Mids. Cadets problem solve and get physical

Wolverhampton Cadets - Cadets supported by their Cadet Leaders, accompanied PC Tatchell and PC Evans with a patrol in Wolverhampton City Centre. Cadets were given a briefing over the issues that have been arising at the local skate park. With a view of identifying what changes can be made and how the skate park could be made safer, they were tasked by PC Tatchell to have a look around and identify any key features of the park that may be creating opportunities for





PC Tatchell – *"By tasking the Cadets to engage with members of the public within the skate park and have a look around the area helps paint a picture of issues arising and potential changes that can be made to make the area a safer place, this gives Cadets a voice to address current issues in their local area".*

Cadets then fed back their findings which were written down and provided to the City Centre Inspector. PC Tatchell – *"Their answers are very important and helped form a document that was shared amongst the Senior Leadership Team".*

Sutton Coldfield Cadets – Cadets focused on physical activity, taking part in a variety of games and fitness challenges, which included the bleep test.

Cadet Commander Saira – *"With many Cadets aspiring to have a career in Policing we put them to the test to see if they had what it took to pass the fitness standard required to become a Police Officer. Out of 8 Cadets who took part 2 were successful".*

Cadets had a great time and want to revisit this again in the future. Feedback from Cadets was that they appreciated the physical demands of Policing and the hard work to reach those standards.





Suffolk VPC go Dutch

In August several cadets from all 6 Suffolk units **(Ipswich, Martlesham, Bury, Stowmarket, Lowestoft & Sudbury)**, visited Holland as part of the annual international activity trip. As per previous trips, the purpose of this trip was for the cadets to experience a new country and culture, often including attempts at speaking the language, a little bit of history, team building through working and spending time with cadets from other units that they might otherwise meet only twice a year, and ultimately have some fun.





Day 1 started with a very early rise to make the gathering at Landmark House for 6.15am, followed by a minibus journey to Folkestone for the Eurotunnel trip to the continent. For at least one cadet this was his first time on the Eurotunnel train and his first experience of Europe. Once arrived at Calais, it was an onward journey of approximately 4 hours to their campsite, Eurocamping Vessem.

This is a very large site with access to numerous facilities for all, including 2 swimming pools, mini-golf course, football pitches, shop and ice-cream vending machines. Once pitches had been allocated , it was time to offload the vans, pitch tents and gazebos, and then the cadets were tasked with cooking the evening meal. Following the meal, cadets were allowed some chill time, before bed at 10pm (at least for those who weren't talking most of the night)!





Day 2 started with an early rise for the cadets as they had a planned trip to Amsterdam. Upon arrival, they parked up close to the Johan Cruyff Arena (home of Ajax football team for those interested in football), before a short train journey to Amsterdam Central Station.

Cadets were then broken down into small groups, with a leader per group, and tasked with a scavenger hunt around the city. The tasks included, buying a flower to give to a stranger, Finding some street art and finding a Dutch police officer and having a conversation.

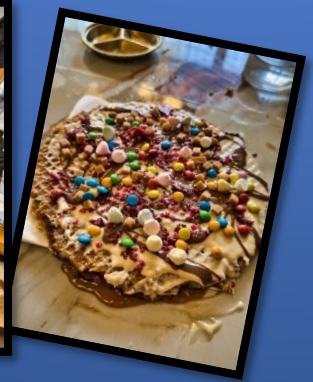
The scavenger hunt ended outside Anne Frank's house, where we then boarded a canal boat for a 2-hour journey of the canals.





Whilst on the boat, the guide was very engaging, explaining the reason behind the number of canals in Amsterdam, why some of the houses overlooking the canals lean outwards, the differences in the houseboats parked at the side of the canals etc. Again, most of the cadets found the experience interesting and it was quite relaxing after the earlier 2 hour walk around the city.





To finish off their day in Amsterdam, the cadets were introduced to, and able to make, their own Stroopwaffel provided through The Flagship Waffle Experience. Cadets and leaders were provided with ingredients and instructions, and over the next hour each created a waffle that was approx. 12" across and decorated with chocolate, caramel and sweets of their own choosing. They were very tasty, but VERY sweet!

Day 3, it was a slightly later rise before it was time to head to Efteling Theme Park for a day of rollercoasters and log flumes.

Not much more needs to be said about this day, other than all, cadets and leaders both, had huge fun and some even challenged themselves with their first ever rollercoaster.







Day 4. Today started off with another later rise, before heading to Camp Vught.

Camp Vught, or Konzentrationslager Herzogenbusch, was the only SS concentration camp outside Nazi Germany during World War 2. Upon arrival, Cadets and Leaders were met by guides who gave a quick talk on the history of the camp.

The cadets found this talk and tour very moving and informative, especially when told that the youngest person killed at the site was only 6 days old.

Day 5 – early rise, pack up campsite, before heading to the Hook of Holland and a ferry trip back to Harwich and the onward journey to Landmark House.

Overall, yet another great trip. Every cadet will have taken something away with them, whether it be sampling new culture or food, interacting/engaging with and supporting new cadets, pushing their limits on the rollercoasters, or learning some new history with the camp tour; each will have created new experiences and create memories.

Here's to the planning for 2027!



Volunteer Police Cadets

Do you have a story that can be shared with everyone?
Has your Cadet unit done something to shout about?
If so, contact us at –

vpc.admin@vpc.police.uk

SCAN ME