



51° NORTH



Summer 2026

The Magazine of RAF Brize Norton



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51 DEGREES NORTH MAGAZINE 2026 DEADLINE DATES

	DEADLINE	DELIVERY DATE
SPRING	5 FEB	19 MAR
SUMMER	14 MAY	18 JUN
AUTUMN	17 AUG	18 SEPT
WINTER	12 NOV	16 DEC



51° NORTH



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EDITOR'S FOREWORD

Hello everyone, and welcome to the Spring/Summer edition of 51 Degrees North, the station magazine of RAF Brize Norton.

As the lighter months arrive, the station continues to operate at pace, balancing an exceptionally busy operational programme alongside the events, activities and achievements that make Brize such a unique and vibrant place to work and live. This edition brings together just a snapshot of that activity, showcasing the people behind our output and the teamwork that underpins everything we do.

Over the coming months, we will see flying operations, engagement activity and community events sit alongside the day-to-day delivery of global Air Mobility. From training and exercises to charitable efforts, visits and station initiatives, there is always something happening and this edition reflects that breadth of effort and commitment across the force.

Spring and summer are also a time when we look outward, strengthening links with our local community and welcoming opportunities to represent

the RAF beyond the station gates. Whether through public engagement as we showcase in this edition, the recent RAF Falcons Launch Day, education visits or supporting local events, Brize continues to demonstrate professionalism, pride and approachability in all that it does.

As ever, this magazine would not be possible without your continued support and contributions. Your stories bring the station to life and ensure 51 Degrees North remains a true reflection of the people who serve and support here. Please keep sharing your news, no achievement is too small, and every contribution matters.

I hope you enjoy reading this edition as much as we enjoyed bringing it together. Whatever the season brings for you, stay safe and thank you for everything you do.

Until next time,

*Anita – MCO
Editor 51 Degrees North*



DEADLINE

PLEASE SUBMIT ALL ARTICLES BY 17TH AUGUST

Your article should aim to be between 300-500 words in length, with a high resolution picture over 1MB for every 100 words you write. You should ensure that personnel/activities in photos are named and that you provide the author's details, in case we require any more information. Send your completed articles to BZN-51DegreesNorth@mod.gov.uk. We look forward to receiving your articles and make every effort to publish as many of them as possible.

RAF Chaplain receives Distinguished Alumni Award

Squadron Leader Imam Ali Omar has received the Distinguished Alumni Award 2026 during the 62nd graduation ceremony at the Islamic University Madinah KSA during a ceremony held on 27th April 2026. The award was presented by the Governor of Madinah KSA HRH Prince Salman bin Sultan bin Abdulaziz and the Chancellor of Madinah University HE Dr Saleh bin Ali Al-Uqla. A total of 3328 students graduated on that evening from 180 countries. Madina University has so far graduated over 150,000 students since its inception in 1961.

The journey to receive the award was preceded by a letter from the university informing Imam Ali Omar of his nomination in recognition of his exceptional academic, religious and community contributions, as well as exemplary representation of the Islamic University and its graduates worldwide. The award carries enduring recognition, including formal recording of Imam Ali Omar's name in the University's distinguished alumni register, an honour roll that preserves and celebrates the legacy of the most impactful graduates in the history of the University.

For the Imam, winning this award was groundbreaking and overwhelming. As the Imam to HM Armed Forces and the first Imam to commission into the RAF, working as a regular chaplain at RAF Brize Norton, the award is a culmination of hard work, exemplary teamwork and diversity of the RAF and the Chaplaincy profession. Being recognised globally shows the impact we are making to the Royal Air Force and UK Armed Forces, breaking stereotypes and international outreach. As a chaplain the Imam works with colleagues from diverse backgrounds, this also includes providing frontline support to our Military personnel in UK and overseas.

Squadron Leader Imam Ali Omar said:

"I would like to dedicate this award to my team at the RAF Brize Norton Chaplaincy and the Station Commander at RAF Brize Norton. I am also grateful to the RAF Chain of Command who spearhead my leadership and management endeavours. It is my sincere hope that this award and recognition show the viability of a Muslim to join and work in our Armed Forces; an honour that I carry and feel proud to serve my country and faith."



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RAF Falcons display at new national festival, The Great British Farm-Fest

The Royal Air Force Falcons Parachute Display Team took to the skies as part of the exciting line-up for the inaugural Great British Farm-Fest, bringing their world-class display to audiences at the new national festival celebration.

Renowned for their precision, skill and professionalism, the RAF Falcons delivered a dynamic parachute display, showcasing the very best of military parachuting to festivalgoers from across the UK. Their performance combined high-energy aerial manoeuvres with engaging ground interaction.

The Great British Farm-Fest celebrated British farming, rural life and community spirit, offering a unique platform to connect with audiences of all ages. The inclusion of the RAF Falcons adds a distinctive element to the festival programme, reinforcing links between the Armed Forces and local communities.

Officer Commanding RAF Falcons Flt Lt Dom Compton-Davies said: ***"We were delighted to be part of the Great British Farm-Fest and to bring our display to a new audience. Events like this provide a fantastic opportunity for the team to engage with communities, inspire future generations and showcase the professionalism of the Royal Air Force."***



As ambassadors for the Royal Air Force, the RAF Falcons play a key role in promoting the Service through public displays and community engagement. Their participation in events such as the Great British Farm-Fest supports wider defence engagement objectives, helping to raise awareness of RAF careers and inspire interest in aviation and military service.

Festival organisers welcomed the addition of the RAF Falcons to the programme, recognising the strong appeal of the team and their ability to bring communities together through a shared spectacle.

For one young lad, meeting the RAF Falcons was extremely meaningful and memorable as his grandfather had served as a Parachute Jump Instructor (PJI) at RAF Brize Norton.

To keep up to date with the RAF Falcons and their upcoming appearances throughout the 2026 display season, follow them on social media across Facebook, Instagram and X.





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Tactical Medical Wing Marks 30 Years of Service

Tactical Medical Wing (TMW), based at RAF Brize Norton, have marked 30 years of operational success and significant achievement with a high-profile Capability Demonstration Event, launching a programme of commemorative activities to celebrate three decades of service.

The event showcased the Wing's specialist medical capability, operational readiness and expertise, highlighting the critical role TMW has played in supporting Defence operations at home and overseas over the past 30 years. Invited guests, stakeholders and partners gained an insight into how the Wing continues to evolve to meet current and future operational demands.

Serving as the opening event in a series of 30th anniversary commemorative activities, the Capability Demonstration Event reflected on key milestones and achievements, while also recognising the people whose professionalism and dedication have underpinned the Wing's success.

Senior leaders attended the event to underline the Wing's enduring contribution to Defence, its commitment to excellence, and its ability to deliver world-class medical support in demanding operational environments.

Officer Commanding Wing Commander Rosie Barrow said: *"The Capability Demo Day showcased Tactical Medical Wing at its very best; a team defined by professionalism, innovation, courage, and relentless operational readiness. As we open our 30th anniversary year, it is a powerful statement that our strength lies not only in the breadth of capability that we deliver, but in the exceptional people and partnerships behind it. Today's demonstrations brought to life a force that is agile, credible and ready to respond wherever and whenever it is called upon – a capability built over three decades of excellence, and one that will continue to rise to the demand of whatever lies ahead."*



Further events are planned throughout the anniversary year to celebrate Tactical Medical Wing's heritage, its ongoing operational impact, and its forward-looking role as a critical Defence medical capability based at RAF Brize Norton.



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Handover to Station Warrant Officer

RAF Brize Norton marked the handover of the Station Warrant Officer (SWO) role, as responsibility passed from WO Tug Wilson to WO Sim Rezazadeh-Wilson.

The Station Warrant Officer is the senior non-commissioned officer on the unit, playing a key role in upholding standards, discipline and ethos, while acting as a vital link between personnel and the Station Leadership Team.

WO Tug Wilson, who has served in the role since 2023, was thanked for his commitment, leadership and contribution to station life during his tenure. His experience and dedication have supported personnel across the station during a period of sustained operational tempo.

Tug said:

"I have fulfilled a career and life ambition by having the honour and privilege to be the Station Warrant Officer at the largest RAF Station. Some amazing memories, working alongside the brilliant workforce of RAF Brize Norton."

Incoming Station Warrant Officer Sim Rezazadeh-Wilson brings a wealth of experience to the role and will now assume responsibility for maintaining high standards and supporting the welfare

WO Sim Rezazadeh-Wilson said:

"Having served at RAF Brize Norton since 2002, I have witnessed first-hand how the station has evolved over time. One particularly clear memory for me, as a young Aircraftwoman, was seeing a female Senior Warrant Officer in post. Her leadership inspired me to work hard towards my own aspirations because to see it is to believe it is achievable. RAF Brize Norton is not only my workplace but also my home, and I am immensely proud and truly honoured to be taking on such a high-profile role."



Speaking at the handover, Station Commander Group Captain Louise Henton said:

"The Station Warrant Officer plays a pivotal role in setting standards and representing the voice of our people. I would like to thank WO Tug Wilson for his outstanding service and dedication to all those who work at Brize Norton and warmly welcome WO Sim Rezazadeh-Wilson into the role."

and professional development of service personnel at the RAF's largest station.

The handover also marked a unique moment for the station, with the role passing between a husband-and-wife team. Both WO Tug Wilson and WO Sim Rezazadeh-Wilson have served with distinction, bringing complementary experience and a shared commitment to supporting personnel and maintaining the highest professional standards.

RAF Brize Norton continues to support global air transport, air-to-air refuelling and aeromedical evacuation operations, with the Station Warrant Officer remaining central to sustaining the professionalism and ethos required to meet these commitments.



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The pub is now run by new landlords with years of experience in the hospitality and pub trade. Having managed and worked in pubs for many years, we're passionate about creating a welcoming, well-run local where quality, consistency, and community come first.

Behind the bar, you'll find an impressive selection of local ales, craft beers, fine wines, and spirits, all carefully chosen to offer something for every taste. Whether you're popping in for a quiet pint, catching up with friends, or settling in for an evening at your local, we're here to make it a great one.

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Exercise Rising Gains

The Royal Air Force's Parachuting Test Team recently deployed to Arizona, United States, for Exercise Rising Gains 126, delivering a demanding programme of parachutist training to maintain and develop the specialist skills required to support Defence operations.

Over three weeks, the team completed 64 sorties and more than 500 descents across a range of parachute systems. The training focused on building the skills needed to safely test and evaluate military parachuting equipment and techniques in complex environments, ensuring the team remains ready to enhance and strengthen today's capability while continuing to adapt for the future.

At the centre of the exercise was the Test Parachutist Course, which prepares personnel to operate beyond routine parachuting tasks. Alongside advanced canopy training, parachutists refined their ability to control descent with precision, operate safely in formation and land accurately. This reflects the Royal Air Force's focus on developing highly skilled people who are agile, integrated and ready to fly and fight.

The exercise also included demanding parachute serials such as intentional cutaway procedures, where parachutists safely practise the controlled release of



their primary canopy in flight. This training ensures personnel can respond effectively to unexpected situations and operate safely in challenging conditions.

Safety remained central throughout. All activity was conducted within clearly defined limits, supported by careful planning, disciplined execution and a strong safety culture. This enabled

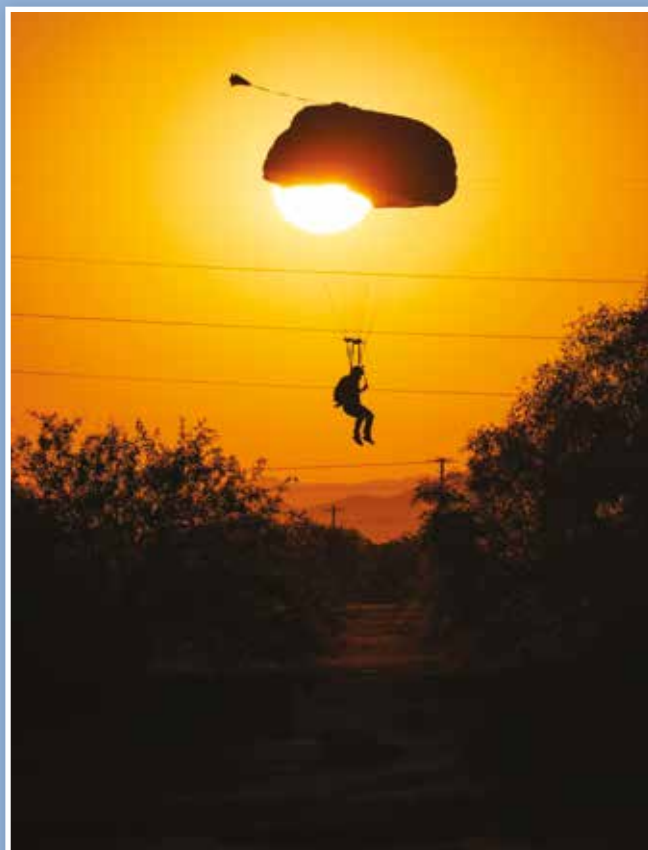
the team to adapt to environmental challenges, including changing weather conditions, while maintaining high standards.

Exercise Rising Gains gave the perfect opportunity to strengthen relationships with industry, partners and allies, improving the Royal Air Force's ability to operate alongside others and supporting a



NATO-first approach to collective defence. Delivering advanced training such as Exercise Rising Gains, the Royal Air Force continues to optimise its current

capability while modernising for future operations, ensuring its people remain ready to meet the demands of today and tomorrow.



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New passenger handling facility

RAF Brize Norton's Passenger Baggage Handling Project is continuing to progress, marking an important step forward in enhancing the station's passenger processing capability and overall resilience in support of Defence outputs.

The project forms part of a wider programme of work to improve how passengers and baggage are handled within the Air Terminal, ensuring infrastructure, equipment and security processes remain fit for current and future operational demands. Planned improvements will include modernised baggage handling equipment alongside updated screening and scanning capability, supporting both efficiency and passenger experience.

Matt Lane, Programme Manager, Brize Development Team said:

"This represents a key step forward in modernising the Passenger and Baggage Handling capability at RAF Brize Norton. Delivering upgraded handling systems and advanced screening technology will transform how we process passengers and baggage, enhancing operational resilience, improving passenger

flow and strengthening security across our primary Air Terminal."

As the project moves forward, work is focused on developing a more robust and effective handling and processing environment that supports the safe movement of personnel through RAF Brize Norton. This will strengthen the station's ability to deploy and sustain operations while maintaining appropriate safety and security standards.

The Passenger Baggage Handling Project aligns with long-term station development planning, which identifies enhanced passenger and baggage handling as a key enabler for operational effectiveness. Once delivered, the improvements will contribute to a more streamlined process for Service personnel, MOD staff and other authorised passengers using the Air Terminal.

RAF Brize Norton remains committed to continuous improvement of its facilities and infrastructure to support Defence outputs, with further updates on the Passenger Baggage Handling Project to be shared as the programme continues to progress.

The Station Commander Group Captain Henton said: "RAF Brize Norton plays a critical role in supporting Defence output through the movement of personnel worldwide. The Passenger Baggage Handling Project is an important investment in our infrastructure, helping ensure our facilities remain safe, efficient and capable of supporting both current operations and future demand. While I will not see the project through to its final delivery, it is encouraging to see it moving forward and progressing as part of our wider commitment to continuous improvement at the station."





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No.1 Air Mobility Wing Mark 20th Anniversary at Saint Clement Danes

No.1 Air Mobility Wing (1AMW) have marked their 20th anniversary with the dedication of a plaque at Saint Clement Danes Church in London.

Saint Clement Danes is the Central Church of the Royal Air Force, where recently past and current serving personnel came together to witness the dedication of a plaque, marking the 20th Anniversary.

No. 1 Air Mobility Wing specialise in passenger and cargo handling, and the safe loading and unloading of Air Mobility Force aircraft on global operations and exercises.

Wing Commander Turnbull, Officer Commanding No. 1 Air Mobility Wing said:

"Today is a momentous occasion for the Wing, marking the 20th anniversary of No. 1 Air Mobility Wing and the 60th anniversary of the UK Mobile Air Movements Squadron. To be Officer Commanding during this time is a huge honour for me. For the members of the Wing who've joined us here at the Church today, this unit will be their home in the RAF for many years to come. I've encouraged them to reflect on what it means to be here to be part of this milestone. Today we've taken the opportunity during the service to talk about the history of the Wing and look towards the future of movements within the RAF."

St Clement Danes Church is the Central Church of the Royal Air Force. Re-consecrated in 1958 as a perpetual shrine of remembrance to those who have died in service in the RAF. As well as holding the Books of Remembrance the church also contains over a thousand slate squadron and unit badge plaques in the floor, of which No. 1 Air Mobility Wing now join.



Group Captain Smith, Commander of the Support Force said:

"I was a Flight Commander on 1AMW very close to when the unit started, so to be here today as the commander of the Support Force whom the Wing now sit under, it's really special for me. 1AMW is a unit that throughout its 20-year span, has been consistently at the heart of defence operations. When you look at the sheer number of contributions to operations the unit has made over the last 20 years it's incredibly impressive. For the people serving on 1AMW today they should be proud for wearing that badge on their arm."



Falcons Focus

The 2026 Display Season is underway after the RAF Falcons Parachute Display Team officially launched their display season on home turf at RAF Brize Norton, marking an important milestone as they prepare for a full programme of displays across the UK and overseas.

Following a successful Launch Day, the team are now looking ahead to a season that places strong emphasis on public engagement, using each event as an opportunity to inspire interest in the Royal Air Force and showcase the people behind one of its most recognisable display teams. Alongside their displays, the Falcons regularly engage with school groups, families and young people, providing insight into RAF careers, teamwork and the values that underpin Service life.

Throughout the season, the Falcons' display programme will take them to a wide range of events across the UK and overseas, supporting RAF visibility, international engagement and recruitment awareness. Their ground engagement activity allows members of the public to meet the team, ask questions and learn more about the varied roles available within the RAF,

helping to encourage the next generation to consider a future career in defence. Officer Commanding RAF Falcons, Flight Lieutenant Dom ComptonDavies, said: "Launch Day at RAF Brize Norton was a fantastic way to start the season and gave us the opportunity to engage directly with our home audience. Public engagement is at the heart of what we do, and hopefully as well as enjoying the display, we can inspire interest in the Royal Air Force and highlight the wide range of career opportunities available. With an extremely busy display season ahead of us, we are looking forward to taking the team out on the road across the UK and overseas throughout this display season. Keep your eyes to the skies!"

As the season gathers pace, the RAF Falcons will continue to combine technical excellence with meaningful public engagement, strengthening

the connection between the RAF and the communities it serves while supporting recruitment and inspiring future generations.

You can follow the RAF Falcons on all social media channels or by visiting - [Falcons | Royal Air Force](#)



RAF Falcons soar across three standout days at Midlands Air Festival

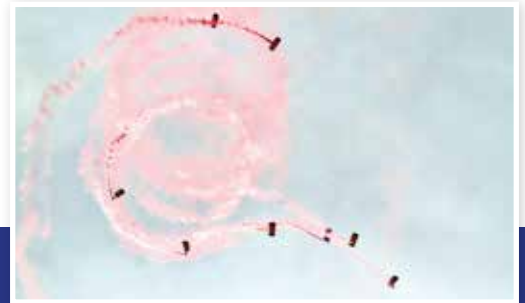
The Royal Air Force Falcons Parachute Display Team delivered three days of spectacular aerial displays at the Midlands Air Festival, captivating thousands of spectators and reinforcing their role as ambassadors for the RAF.

Performing across the weekend, the Falcons showcased precision freefall parachuting, expertly landing in front of crowds each day at Ragley Hall. Despite variable conditions, the team demonstrated exceptional skill, discipline and professionalism, ensuring safe and high-quality displays throughout the event.

Each performance saw the iconic RAF Falcons canopy formations take to the sky, followed by individual high-energy descents, smoke trails and pinpoint landings. The displays highlighted not only the technical expertise of the team but also the opportunities available within the Royal Air Force.

Alongside their displays, the Falcons engaged extensively with the public, meeting visitors, answering questions and inspiring the next generation to consider careers in Defence. The team's presence formed a key part of the festival's aviation offering, supporting wider engagement with RAF audiences.

The Midlands Air Festival continues to be a major event in the UK's aviation calendar, attracting a wide range of aerial displays and a large public audience. The RAF Falcons remain committed to supporting such events, promoting the RAF, and representing the Service with pride.



First year RAF Falcon Sgt Matt Higham said:
"This was my first Midlands Air Festival with the team, and it's been an incredible experience. Performing in front of such large, supportive crowds really brings home the privilege of representing the Royal Air Force. It's a steep learning curve, but being part of the Falcons team and inspiring others makes it all worthwhile."





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RAF Media Officer Shares Communications Expertise with Woodstock Stroke Club

Royal Air Force Brize Norton Media Officer delivered a presentation to members of the Woodstock Stroke Club, providing an insight into the role of RAF communications and the importance of effective media engagement.

The presentation focused on how media officers support operational activity, protect organisational reputation and ensure accurate, timely information reaches the public. Drawing on experience from the RAF's largest station, the Media Officer outlined how communications are planned and delivered across internal and external platforms.

This gave the perfect opportunity to highlight challenges faced by communications professionals across defence, including handling breaking news, maintaining public trust, and telling meaningful human stories.

Attendees also heard how the RAF works with national and local media, manages sensitive information, and adapts messaging for a wide range of audiences, from service personnel and their families to the wider public.

Representatives from the Woodstock Stroke Club welcomed the presentation as an opportunity to gain a better understanding of defence communications.

The engagement highlights the value of collaboration and knowledge sharing between the Armed Forces and charitable organisations, strengthening understanding across sectors.

Anita Jack, RAF Media Officer said:

"It was a privilege and a pleasure to be invited to speak with the Woodstock Stroke Club and discuss the vital role of communications within the Royal Air Force. Effective communication is essential in everything we do. Whether supporting military operations or raising awareness for important causes, strong relationships with the media and clear messaging are vital. It was a pleasure to share our experiences with the Woodstock Stroke Club, giving them an insight into the Media Officer role."



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Millennium Amenities Centre opens new kitchen

The Millennium Amenities Centre at RAF Brize Norton has opened a brand-new kitchen facility and now provides a fresh modern space for visitors to the centre and AirPlay youth activity groups to utilise.

AirPlay provides safe, supervised activities for children and young people aged 5 to 18 through a network of trained youth workers via the RAF Benevolent Fund which has supported the project.

RAF Brize Norton Station Commander, Group Captain Henton said:

"I was blown away at the transformation of this space. It's modern, light, colourful and the facility is going to be of huge benefit to all who use it, particularly AirPlay. It's another great tool that we've got to continue to develop young people and their skillsets - providing a brand-new kitchen area for the Millennium Amenities Centre to use as a space for hosting and provide support to families across RAF Brize Norton."

**Group Captain Henton
Station Commander RAF Brize Norton**



Craig Hutton, RAF Brize Norton Community Development Officer said: ***"It's gone from being a storeroom to being a multi-use kitchen space – it's incredible. I think everyone will see it as something not just for the now, but for the future too. This project will help develop children's life skills for years to come. So, it's an investment in our young people from the RAF Benevolent Fund and the RAF itself, showing that we're not just providing for service personnel but for their families too."***

**Craig Hutton
RAF Brize Norton CDO**

Andy Cairns Manager of RAF Subscriptions for RAF Benevolent Fund said:

"Part of our core responsibility is supporting members of the RAF Family – particularly young members, so we're very proud to have been able to help bring this new facility to life at RAF Brize Norton."

**Andy Cairns
Manager, RAF Subscriptions for RAFBF**

The RAF Benevolent Fund have supported the project and attended the opening of the new facility.



RAF Brize Norton FC: End-of-Season Football Recap

What a campaign. What a team. What a season.



RAF Brize Norton FC have once again had a phenomenal season culminating in a Southern League & Cup double, capping off a campaign where they only failed to win one fixture all season across 20 games.

- Southern League Champions
- Cup Winners

Week after week, this squad delivered—showing relentless consistency, determination, and quality across every competition, representing the Station with the positive physical and mental resilience we all strive for. From the first whistle of the season to the final trophy lift, the standard never dropped.

Our only setback came in the RAF Cup Semi-Final, where we faced a strong RAF Leeming side. While the result (2-1, after leading) didn't go our way that day, we wish them the very best as they head into the RAF Cup Final - a testament to the competitive spirit of RAF football.

With over 60 players representing the Station this year it has been a colossal effort, managing both operational commitment and getting players on the pitch.

The team were corralled and driven by Manager FS Jimmy, and his management team of FS Dave, Chf Tech Nicky, and Mr John Sword, with thanks to them and all the Line Managers whose continued

support made it possible for personnel to represent the station and add to its growing trophy success.

To go through an entire season with just one defeat, while lifting two major trophies, speaks volumes about the character, professionalism, and togetherness of this group. Next year, we go after the Treble, to add the RAF Cup, bringing it back to Carterton, as we did in 2024.



Awards for RAF Brize Norton Sub Aqua Club

At the Royal Air Force Scuba Annual General Meeting, RAF Brize Norton Sub Aqua Club has walked away with several awards.

The club achieved outstanding success at the AGM, walking away with three major awards and reinforcing its reputation as one of the leading diving clubs within the RAF.

The club was awarded Best Club 2025, recognising the significant growth, professionalism and commitment shown across all areas of adventurous training and diving delivery over the past year. The award reflects the hard work and dedication of the club's instructors, committee members and divers, who have continued to expand opportunities and participation across RAF Brize Norton.

In addition to the club award, RAF Brize Norton personnel were also recognised individually on the night. The prestigious Paul Goodwin Award 'RAF Scuba Diver of the Year' was presented to Air Specialist 1 (T) Blair, recognising exceptional

achievement, commitment and contribution to RAF diving across the RAF Scuba community.

The club also secured the Videography Award, recognising the high-quality media and content produced to showcase RAF diving, adventurous training and the experiences delivered through the club and community. The winning footage captured the professionalism, teamwork and unique opportunities that RAF Scuba continues to provide. This was presented to Mr Phil Blake of Airtanker.

These awards are a testament to the effort and commitment of everyone involved within the RAF Brize Norton Diving Club and demonstrates the positive impact adventurous training continues to have in developing personnel, teamwork and resilience across the Whole Force community.





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OPEN MORNING

Saturday 26 September

Start Their Cokethorpe Journey

Co-educational, independent day school for ages 4 to 18
with an extensive transport network.



cokethorpe.org



Set within 150 acres of picturesque West Oxfordshire parkland near Witney, Cokethorpe School is a co-educational independent day school for pupils aged 4 to 18, offering a seamless educational journey from early years through to Sixth Form. Blending heritage surroundings with a progressive outlook, the school provides an environment where academic ambition, personal development and a strong sense of community come together.

Cokethorpe is committed to inspiring pupils to achieve more than they thought possible. A culture of belonging underpins school life, encouraging pupils to become confident, curious and compassionate individuals, well prepared for life beyond school.

Cokethorpe has been proudly co-educational for over three decades, with 2027 marking 35 years of co-education - half the school's history. This established approach fosters an inclusive environment where pupils learn from diverse perspectives, develop mutual respect and build the interpersonal skills essential for modern life.

The school's approach to learning is guided by research-informed teaching, ensuring lessons are rigorous, engaging and responsive to individual needs. A broad curriculum enables pupils to explore a wide range of subjects, from the Prep School through to GCSE and A Level, with small class sizes allowing teachers to support and stretch each pupil, nurturing academic success and a lifelong love of learning. Pastoral care is a central strength of Cokethorpe. Built on kindness and mutual respect, the supportive community ensures every pupil feels known and valued. Structured systems and strong relationships between staff and pupils create a secure environment in which young people can build confidence, resilience and independence.

Beyond the classroom, pupils benefit from exceptional breadth, with an extensive co-curricular programme that includes over 100 activities in the Senior School. Outdoor education is a particularly distinctive feature, making full use of the school's expansive grounds and dedicated facilities. Opportunities such as kayaking, sailing, climbing, bushcraft and access to on-site rifle and pistol ranges allow pupils to develop practical skills, resilience and teamwork, while building confidence through challenge and adventure. Preparation for the future is embedded through the Futures programme, which provides tailored guidance on higher education and career pathways. Pupils receive expert support with university applications, apprenticeships and career choices, ensuring they leave with clarity and ambition.

Admission to Cokethorpe is selective, with entry points at 4+, 11+, 13+ and 16+, and scholarships and means-tested bursaries available. Overall, Cokethorpe offers a well-rounded education that combines academic excellence, outstanding pastoral care and rich opportunities beyond the classroom, enabling pupils to thrive and succeed.





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