Leadership Opportunities

Every year, some 200 cadets participate in the promotions courses where they undertake training in many aspects of leadership. Our cadets have the opportunity to lead a Section of eight cadets, a Company of 100 cadets, or the entire Unit of 600 cadets. The Cadet Unit provides an opportunity for our cadets to experience very tangible leadership opportunities.

Annual Field Exercise (AFX)

The highlight of the cadet year is the annual camp which runs over eight days in the bush. As well as learning to live in the field, our cadets participate in high and low ropes courses, abseiling, trekking and many other fun activities. Teamwork is an important part of the cadet experience.

Promotion Courses

Our annual promotion courses train all participants in the essentials of leadership, management, and risk assessment.

CAS Drill Competition

The Cadet Unit at Knox has a close relationship with the CAS Cadet Units at Barker, Trinity, Waverley, and St Aloysius and competes annually for the prestigious title of ‘CAS Drill Champions’.
Confidence Building

The Cadet Unit encourages self-confidence and gives cadets the opportunity to challenge themselves in a variety of different situations. This may be through abseiling from great heights, swinging on high ropes, crawling through wombat holes or standing up in front of others and teaching a lesson.

The Knox Grammar School Cadet Unit is a member of the Australian Army Cadets. It is an inclusive youth development organisation and a significant part of the Knox Grammar School co-curricular program. As a part of the Australian Army Cadets, our unit embraces the military structure and sequential development created over years of military experience. The School’s Unit has evolved into a modern, dynamic organisation that is approximately 600 strong.

The Cadet program at Knox seeks to provide an enjoyable experience for all of our young people; an experience that is challenging and relevant in the 21st Century. The training program is outcome based and includes key competencies such as:

- Leadership
- Field-craft
- Resource management
- Ceremonial preparations

The training program is varied and enjoyable, providing cadets with valuable life skills delivered in a sequential program over four years. The Unit prides itself in actively involving all students and providing each one with an opportunity to succeed. Learning outcomes are presented horizontally over the four years with Year 9 students involved in acquiring basic skills across a range of competencies. Year 10 students choose to either pursue a leadership role at the level of corporal or lance corporal, enter a specialist platoon including medics, signals, administration, engineers (pioneers), training or logistics, or enter our senior company, A Company. Year 11 students can choose to further continue their chosen path into leadership at the sergeant level or to progress through their chosen specialty area. In their final year in the Unit, Year 12 students have a very ‘hands-on’ role in leading the Unit in all of the various specialist areas.

Training takes place at school on a Friday afternoon. Here our cadets learn basic skills such as bushcraft and survival, first aid, field craft, navigation, roping, watermanship and drill. As our cadets move through the different levels of training they experience instruction in, and practical application of, many vital aspects of modern life, including: leadership and command, public speaking, interpersonal communication, human resource management, risk management, information management, self-discipline and OH&S.

Training also involves preparation for a number of major public celebrations, including Anzac Day and the Passing-Out-Parade. The cadets prepare for these occasions by practising various drill movements on Friday afternoons prior to the parades and the Unit is spectacularly led through the parades by the School’s iconic Pipe Band. These occasions are part of the important traditions of our school and are enjoyed by many in the Knox community.

The Australian Army Cadets and the Knox Grammar School Cadet Unit are partially supported by the Australian Army but are not part of it. Cadets and officers are not members of the Australian Defence Force. The Knox Grammar School Cadet Unit has forged a strong place in this national organisation through its professionalism, involvement and skill and is often sought to provide support and advice in a number of areas on behalf of the Australian Army Cadets.