

12th March 2009

Local Museum to offer children a 'Sideways' view of the Cold War

(20th – 24th April 2009)

The Royal Air Force Museum Cosford and the Sideways Theatre Company are pleased to announce the return of 'Coming in from the Cold'. Back by popular demand, this week long event for schools offers pupils the opportunity to experience at 'first hand' some of the most significant events of the Cold War era in a series of interactive workshops.

Students will be able to witness a powerful fly-on-the-wall encounter between Khrushchev and Kennedy as they argue over the fate of the world during the Cuban Missile Crisis. Both men need to ensure that they promote a strong image to their own countries. Can they find a solution that will save political face whilst preventing nuclear war? In this tense stand-off, pupils vote for the individual who they consider to be the stronger man, the man who at the end of the day had their people's and the world's true interests at heart.

Valentina Tereshkova, the Russian Cosmonaut, will take questions from students after giving an explanation of the arduous training programme she underwent to become the first woman in space. After which, students will learn more on the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, including Gerald Holtom and his design of the CND logo. Students will design their own peace placard and take part in a 1960s Peace March.

Then it's off to meet with a real life RAF Drill Sergeant who will put pupils through their paces on a parade ground - providing them with a rare insight into the discipline that would have been required by their grandparents during National Service. The whole day will then be rounded off in a fun "Spies" Game Show where children can earn valuable points by demonstrating the knowledge they have acquired during the course of their day, after one final workshop in which children will meet and question a real Cold War Veteran, try on various uniforms from the period and learn how lightly the Drill Sergeant actually treated them!

Philip Clayton, Education Officer for the Museum commenting on this innovative programme stated:

"It is wonderful to see the return of this popular interactive workshop. The demand from schools has been high and we have added extra items this year.

With the changes in the History Curriculum for GCSE and A' Level, we have been advised by secondary school teachers at KS4 & 5 of their needs, especially those looking at the Edexcel GCSE History B – schools History Project "

Places for this exciting opportunity are limited so please book early to avoid disappointment. Contact the Access & Learning team on T: 01902 376241 or email learning-cosford@rafmuseum.org

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Notes to Editors:

- Royal Air Force Museum Cosford, Shifnal, Shropshire TF11 8UP
- Open daily 10am – 6pm Closed 24 – 26 December and 1 January.
- Free entry and parking
- Photo Opportunities available for dress rehearsal and event
- For further information and all media enquiries please contact Karen Crick: 01902 376 200 or email: karen.crick@rafmuseum.org
- www.rafmuseum.org