

21<sup>st</sup> September 2012

## Cosford's Education Team receives national recognition

**The Royal Air Force Museum Cosford, has for a second time, been awarded the Sandford Award for its education programme by the Heritage Education Trust. Staff at the Museum are delighted with the achievement which is awarded to properties and collections in recognition of the educational services and facilities they provide to visiting groups, enabling them to learn more about our common heritage.**

This national award is given on a five year basis and was first awarded to the RAF Museum Cosford in 2007. In spring 2012, judges from the Heritage Education Trust visited the Museum to assess the Department once again. The assessment process included sitting in on all of the educational workshops on offer including; the 'World War Two Evacuee Experience', 'Let's Fly', 'Meet the Veteran', 'The Science of Forces and Motion' and 'Cold War Handling'.

RAF Museum Cosford Education Officer, Philip Clayton said:

*"This is a wonderful achievement for the Museum. To be recognised for a second time for the 'excellent service' we offer schools throughout the West Midlands shows the quality of our teaching staff and the resources we offer are recognised nationally. Over 25,000 school children visit us each year and get to experience and benefit from the service we provide"*

Upon receiving the award, the Museum received a judge's report praising them on a number of criteria including; the provision of the relevant educational resources and facilities that enhance the quality of the students' visit, combined with the development of the programme through consultation with educational customers and advisers.

In summary, Lead Judge Eric Steed stated:

*"The organisational expertise within RAF Museum Cosford is very well used to managing the large numbers of visitors who arrive daily; all are ensured of a fascinating day. The extremely well resourced Education Service is completely able to cater for the interests of people of all ages. Those visitors who are privileged to undertake study tours find themselves receiving high quality inputs from friendly, well informed members of staff. The information given is enthusiastically presented and engages visitors to ensure worthwhile learning experiences securely based on verified evidence. All members of staff are not only knowledgeable but share the enviable ability to enthuse visitors of all ages."*

Head of Access and Learning at the RAF Museum, Sue Fitzsimmons said:

*"Museums are one of the nation's great learning resources and I welcome the recognition this award gives to our unique educational offer."*

The 2012 Sandford Awards Ceremony will be held at Blenheim Palace on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> November and all five members of the Museum's Access and Learning team will be going along to receive their award. For more information on the Museum's Access & Learning programme, please call 01902 376200 or visit: [www.rafmuseum.org](http://www.rafmuseum.org). Entry to the Museum is FREE, open daily from 10am.

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**Notes to Editors:**

- Royal Air Force Museum Cosford, Shifnal, Shropshire, TF11 8UP
- Open daily from 10am
- Admission to the Royal Air Force Museum is free of charge.
- RAF Museum Cosford images & logo available at:  
<http://www.rafmuseum.org.uk/research/media-vault.aspx>
- For further information and all media enquiries please contact Michelle Morgans on 01902 376 212 or email [michelle.morgans@rafmuseum.org](mailto:michelle.morgans@rafmuseum.org)
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