



Left to right – Cadets Camille Thompson, (back) Karimah Farooqi, (front) Katherine Franche, Nikita Gaditswalelwe, Zulieka Gillard-Bell.

ACF detachment for Manchester Academy

An Army Cadet Force detachment in Moss Side, Manchester has been officially 'adopted.'

Proud parents and teaching staff watched as students of Manchester Academy's new ACF detachment received their berets and cap-badges to mark their sponsorship by the British Army's Adjutant General's Corps (Staff and Personnel Support).

The Academy has nearly 1,000 students aged 11 to 18. Eighty-five per cent of students are from black and minority ethnic communities and more than sixty languages are spoken at the school.

"Research carried out several years ago suggested that youngsters do better if they are involved in extra-curricular activities which are structured," explained the Academy's Principal Kathy August. "We were looking for structured activities that would take young people off the streets and give them something positive to do

in their spare time. The Army Cadet Force seemed a sensible idea.

"I am absolutely delighted this has happened and I was so pleased with the response. We thought there would be about a dozen youngsters interested but when we opened, there were over 30."

At the adoption ceremony the school welcomed representatives from the Adjutant General's Corps, including the Regimental Colonel, Colonel John Ward, as well as members of Greater Manchester Army Cadet Force, which will administer the new detachment.

"Manchester Academy is a flagship academy and is very forward thinking," said Colonel Les Webb, Commandant of Greater Manchester ACF. "I think what is happening in this academy is going to happen in other places in the future. Not all children respond to the traditional idea of classroom education. The ACF find that with teaching in a structured Army way, some youngsters really respond."



Colonel John Ward, Regimental Colonel, Adjutant General's Corps, presents an AGC beret to Cadet Joveen Roye.