



JAMES McCUDDEN

This centre has been named after James Thomas Byford McCudden as the supreme example of the ethos we wish to promote. Having joined the Royal Engineers as a bugle boy, he transferred to the Royal Flying Corps in 1913 as an engine mechanic. In this role he came to Halton for three days in 1913 with 3 Squadron, which was flying reconnaissance missions for the "Brown Army" during the annual army manoeuvres. A year later he was serving with the squadron in France and from then on rose rapidly through the ranks becoming an observer and then a pilot. He excelled as a fighter pilot and by the time of his death in a flying accident he had shot down 57 enemy aircraft and been awarded the Victoria Cross, 2 Distinguished Service Orders, 2 Military Crosses, a Military Medal and a Croix de Guerre. Throughout his flying career he remained a "hands on" engineer who tuned and, where necessary, modified his own aircraft. Also he always took great pains to protect and encourage his subordinates, setting the finest possible example