



THE BUCKINGHAM SCHOOL

A SPECIALIST SPORTS COLLEGE

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Dear Parent/Carer

Yr10 Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award 2017-2018

For the first time The Buckingham School is offering Year 10 students the opportunity to take part in The Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award scheme. This is an area that the school prides itself and your son/daughter has shown an interest in enrolling on this award. The Silver award does need dedication and independence to complete.

The Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award has four sections: Volunteering, Physical, Skills and Expedition. Depending on if your son/daughter has completed the Bronze Award in Year 9, the timings that they need to spend on each section is different to those students who are starting the award at Silver level.

If they have completed their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze:

They need to complete two sections at 6 months (one must be volunteering) and one at 3 months – see example below:

Volunteering section: for 6 months

Physical and Skills sections: 1 section for 6 months and the other section for 3 months

If they are entering straight in at Silver Level:

They need to complete an extra six months in one section; this needs to be either the volunteering or the longer section out of the physical or skill – please see example below:

Volunteering section: 12 months

Physical: 6 months

Skills sections: 3 months

They would also need to plan, train for and complete a 3-day (2 nights) expedition; once as a practice and once for their final qualifying expedition.

The assessed and practise expeditions will take place in the summer term in the surrounding counties. The expedition will be observed by an external assessor and The Buckingham School staff will be supervising all groups.



Students will be required to attend regular afterschool sessions to prepare for the expedition and plan their routes, prepare kits and menus for their expedition. These are a compulsory elements of the award, and non-attendance at these sessions may result in removal from the programme. Students will need to have uploaded evidence from their Skills, Volunteering and Physical sections prior to the expedition taking place. **If no evidence of the sections is available, they will not be able to take part in the expedition.**

Aim of the Expedition

The aim is to demonstrate the skills necessary to complete the Silver Award expedition. These skills include teamwork, independence, navigation and camp craft. The group will walk approximately 45 kilometres over three days, carrying all their equipment, cooking their own meals and camping overnight for two nights.

Staff

The expedition and training will be supervised by staff from The Buckingham School; however, students will be walking unaccompanied for some of the time. Duke of Edinburgh supervision by its very nature is designed to allow your child the freedom to make their own decisions. Staff will be present around the area, meeting your child at pre-agreed checkpoints and they will be present at the campsite throughout the night.

Cost

If your son/daughter would like to undertake the Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award, there is a non-refundable fee of **£45**; payable to cover the initial introduction pack and enrolment costs. This cost **does not cover** the cost of the expeditions which will come out later in the school year. This is approximately **£40-£50**, which is to cover campsite fees, transport and insurance for both expeditions. Payments can be made through ParentMail, before **Friday, 20 October 2017**.

Once decision has been reached to take part in this programme, please ensure that payment is made by the deadline and they attend their first meeting on 31 October 2017, **after school from 3.15pm until 4.30pm in PE2**. At this meeting, all students **MUST** come with the attached sheet filled out with their choices of what they are going to do for each of their sections. This includes their assessor's name (cannot be a family member), assessor's details and how long they are choosing to do each section for. There is an 'ideas sheet' to help with deciding each section.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

Mrs V Cowley
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Duke of Edinburgh Co-ordinator
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