



30<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

## Year 9 Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award, 2023

Over the next two terms, Year 9 students will be offered the opportunity to take part in The Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award scheme. More information about the award can be found here: <https://www.dofe.org/do/parents/>

The Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award has four sections; Volunteering, Physical, Skills and Expedition. The aim of the award is, broadly, personal development. It is also a good way for individuals to demonstrate skills and attributes that they have beyond the classroom. If they find the experience rewarding, then there is the opportunity to progress onto Silver and Gold level Awards when they are older.

All participants would be required to arrange and participate in weekly activities over a three-month period for the Volunteering, Physical and Skills sections. These activities may be in school or outside. In some cases, it may be a matter of logging activities that they already do (e.g. playing a musical instrument), but it is important to think about this before enrolling on the award. Activities will not be arranged for candidates and so it is important to emphasize that they must be capable of arranging this aspect of the Award for themselves. However, participating in after school clubs would be one way in which to do this and this would be encouraged. Having completed these activities for three months, candidates are then required to choose one of their three activities to continue for a further three more months. All of this will be need to be logged on the DoE website.

Upon enrolment, your child will receive a Welcome Pack and a login for the DoE website and app. For each section, they will need an adult "assessor" to keep track of their progress and write an authenticated report at the end.

The fourth and final part of the Award are the Expeditions, which will be organised on their behalf. This year, the Expedition aspect of the Award will be run by a company called "School of Outdoors" and will take place during the summer term. It will involve a full day of training, followed by two Expeditions. The first Expedition will be a practice and the second one will be the "qualifying" (assessed) one. Both Expeditions will be for 2-days (1 night) and will take place in the surrounding countryside. These events will be staffed and delivered by "School of Outdoors", but there will always be two members of staff from The Buckingham School present in a supervisory role.

The enrolment fee for the Award is approximately £24, which includes an introduction pack. The Expeditions will cost a further £175, to be paid via ParentMail, however, transport is not provided so you will be responsible for getting your child to and from the Expedition locations. The dates are listed below; please think carefully about these dates before enrolling your child. Unfortunately, it is not possible for School of Outdoors to offer bespoke alterations and students are expected to take part in the Expeditions in full, in order to pass. Please also note that some of the events involve missing days from School, so please consider how your child would cope with this and how responsible they are in terms of catching up work that they have missed.

**Training Day:** Friday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2023  
**Practice Expedition:** Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> - Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2023  
**Qualifying Expedition:** Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> - Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2023

**Payment Plan – total cost £199**

£67 by 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023 (Welcome Pack & Deposit)  
£66 by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023  
£66 by 30<sup>th</sup> April 2023 (balance)

If you would like to enrol your child on to the Bronze Award, please complete and return the attached registration form to the Payments and Permissions box here at School, in a sealed envelope, marked for my attention. The “Payments and Permissions” Box is located outside the Maths Office in the Jubilee Building. Please return this no later than 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023. Places are limited and offered on first come basis, so please be sure to date your form. The initial deposit will also need to be paid via ParentMail by this same date. The outstanding balance will also need to be paid via ParentMail, according to the Payment Plan above.

If you have any questions about the Award, then please email me or post a question on the Google Classroom page. The code is: fciyhdi

Yours faithfully,

**Mr J Lyne**

Teacher of Geography  
Duke of Edinburgh Co-ordinator  
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