



THE BUCKINGHAM SCHOOL

A SPECIALIST SPORTS COLLEGE

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06 October 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

Yr9 Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award, 2020-2021

Earlier this year, we were able to start a number of students off on their Duke of Edinburgh experience. Since we returned to school in September, there have been a number of students who have expressed an interest in also taking up this opportunity.

The Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award scheme is an area that the School prides itself in. We deliver an excellent training programme, ensuring that students reach their potential in the areas which the Bronze Award aims to develop. These include:

- Self-confidence and self-reliance
- A sense of achievement and of responsibility
- Leadership skills and abilities
- Communication skills
- New skills, interests and talents
- Community cohesion

The Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award has four sections: Volunteering, Physical, Skills and Expedition. If your child wishes to take the Bronze Award they will first undertake a minimum of three month's activity for each of the Volunteering, Physical and Skills sections. They will also plan, train for and complete a 2-day (1 night) expedition for both a practice and qualifying expedition.

They will also need to spend a further three months on one of the Volunteering, Physical or Skills sections. Your child will need to decide at the start which section to spend this further time on. (They are able to change their mind later, however, for planning and goal setting they will need to choose a section at the start.) A full list of ideas of what students can do for each section is here: <https://www.dofe.org/do/ideas/> With the current Covid-19 situation, there is a lot of information on their website about activities they can complete in the current climate.

The practice and assessed expeditions will take place in the Summer Term in the surrounding counties. More information will come out regarding this nearer the time. The expedition will be observed by an external assessor and there will be staff from The Buckingham School supervising all groups. Dates for the expedition will be confirmed in the Autumn Term.

Students will need to have completed their Skills, Volunteering and Physical (2 sections for 3 months each and 1 section for 6 months) sections prior to the final expedition taking place.

The Buckingham School is concerned that every student should have the opportunity to attend school activities/obtain equipment, regardless of their financial circumstances. As such, it may be possible to subsidise those students who would otherwise be unable to attend trips/purchase items. Please feel free to write in confidence to Mrs K Bones at kbones@buckinghamschool.org, if you wish to seek assistance, or obtain more information about Pupil Premium funding.



Aim of Expedition

The aim is to demonstrate the skills necessary to complete the Bronze Award expedition. These skills include teamwork, independence, navigation and camp craft. The group will walk approximately 30 km over two days, carrying all their equipment, cooking their own meals and camping overnight.

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 child would like to undertake the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award, there is a non-refundable fee of £45 to cover the initial Introduction Pack and enrolment costs. This cost does not cover the cost of the expeditions; information for this will come out later in the school year. These are approximately £100, which is to cover campsite fees, transport and insurance for both expeditions.

Edofe Account

Once enrolled, students will be given a user name and will use their date of birth (8 digits) as their first login password. Students are advised to change their password after their first login. There is a DofE app that students should download, as throughout the Award, they will need to upload evidence and assessor reports after each section is completed.

Assessors

Students will need an assessor for each of their sections. This person cannot be a family member and must be over 18. The assessor should keep up-to-date with the student's progress throughout their section. At the end of the section, they will need to write a short report confirming they have spent the required time completing it. It is expected that students spend about an hour a week on each of their sections.

For those wanting to proceed, the initial payment can be made through ParentMail, before Monday, 19th October 2020. Should you have any issues accessing this site, please contact Mrs Newall on gnewall@buckinghamschool.org.

Students who choose to enrol on the Bronze Award will also need to join the Bronze DofE Google Classroom. Communication about the Award, help and advice will be posted here. Code: ak4kdgf

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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