



THE BUCKINGHAM SCHOOL

A SPECIALIST SPORTS COLLEGE

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12 November 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

Yr9 Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award, 2019-2020

The Buckingham School is offering Year 9 students the opportunity to take part in The Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award scheme. This is an area that the school prides itself on. Students have had an assembly about the award this week. 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 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.)

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

The dates for the expedition are:

Practice Expedition - 2/3 June

Qualifying Expedition - 25/26 June

It will usually take the students at least six months to complete these first parts of the Bronze Award.

Students will have to attend regular after school sessions initially once a month (sessions will take place on a Tuesday) to prepare for the expedition and then weekly in the weeks leading up to the expedition. These are a compulsory element of the award, and non-attendance at these sessions may result in removal from the programme. Students will need to have completed their Skills,

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.



Volunteering and Physical (2 sections for 3 months each and 1 section for 6 months) sections prior to the final expedition taking place.

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.

Completing the Bronze Award

After completing the practical aspect of the expedition, the final stage of this section of the Award will be a group presentation about their expedition which will take place in July 2020.

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 £80 which is to cover campsite fees, transport and insurance for both expeditions. The initial payment can be made through ParentMail, before Monday, 2 December 2019. Should you have any issues accessing this site, please contact Mrs Newall on gnewall@buckinghamschool.org.

If your child is interested in participating in The Duke of Edinburgh Award please ensure that payment is made and that they attend an information and sign up session on Tuesday 3 December in the Jubilee Hall from 3.20 – 4.15pm. Please encourage your child to attend this session if they would like to take part in this great opportunity.

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

Yours faithfully

Mrs V Cowley
Assistant Curriculum Leader for PE
Duke of Edinburgh Co-ordinator
vcowley@buckinghamschool.org

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