



THE BUCKINGHAM SCHOOL

A SPECIALIST SPORTS COLLEGE

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Headteacher: Mr A McGinnes

11 December 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

Year 12 Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award 2018-2019

The Buckingham School is offering Year 12 students a fantastic opportunity to take part in The Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award scheme. This is a highly esteemed award, which is looked upon favourably by universities and future employers as it allows participants to gain new skills and experience, which include:

- Increased Self-confidence and self-reliance
- A sense of achievement and of responsibility
- Development of leadership skills and abilities
- Improved communication skills
- A real-life demonstration of determination, commitment and resilience
- Improved team work.

The Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award has five sections, as outlined in the graphic opposite:

Participants will also plan, train for and complete a 4-day (3 night) expedition twice, one as a practice and one for their final qualifying expedition. The expedition will be done through an external expedition company – BXM Expeditions.

They will provide further guidance, support and information nearer the expedition time. We are hoping to arrange the expeditions in the Summer term 2019. Please note that a member of School staff will not accompany students on this.



Cost

If your son/daughter would like to undertake the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award, there is a non-refundable fee of **£40 to enrol**: payable by all students which includes the Welcome registration pack from DofE (**£28**) and the remainder is school enrolment and administration costs. This cost **does not cover** the cost of the expeditions which will come out later in the school year. These are approximately **£350** per student to cover both expedition trips (Practise and Qualifying), qualified staff, campsite fees, all training, group equipment (tents, Trangias) and insurance for both expeditions. Payment for this will be made direct to the expedition company – BXM Expeditions.

The cost of the residential can vary and we would encourage students to look at the following website for more information: <https://www.dofe.org/opportunity-finder/>. You'll find a number of different options available here.

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 S Gallagher or Mrs K Bones at office@buckinghamsschool.org, if you wish to seek assistance, or obtain more information about Pupil Premium funding.



Kate Aldersley, our Operations Officer from The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, has been in to talk to students and has given them some guidance on the activities they could use for each section, along with ideas and details about the expedition and residential section. She is more than happy to answer any questions you may have about the Gold Award and can be contacted by email at kate.aldersley@dofe.org.

If your son/daughter is interested in participating in The Duke of Edinburgh Award, please ensure that initial payment of **£40** is made through www.parentmail.co.uk, and that they complete the attached enrolment form and return it to me by **4 January 2019**.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me on dvail@buckinghamschool.org.

Yours faithfully,

Ms D Vail
Duke of Edinburgh Co-ordinator

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