



# THE BUCKINGHAM SCHOOL

## A SPECIALIST SPORTS COLLEGE

London Road  
Buckingham  
MK18 1AT

Tel: 01280 812206

Fax: 01280 822525

Email: [office@buckinghamschool.org](mailto:office@buckinghamschool.org)

Website: [www.buckinghamschool.org](http://www.buckinghamschool.org)

Headteacher: Mr A McGinnes

12 September 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

### Year 10 Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award 2018-2019

After a successful year of running Silver Duke of Edinburgh award, we would like to continue to offer 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 upon 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 whether your son/daughter has completed the Bronze Award in Year 9, the timing 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 six months (one must be Volunteering) and one at three months - see example below:

*Volunteering section: for six months*

*Physical and Skills sections: one section for six months and the other section for three months*

*Please note you can choose the same activity for Silver as you did from Bronze, but you need to show development in it. It's best to try something new!*

#### **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: twelve months*

*Physical: six months*

*Skills sections: three months*

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



The assessed and practice 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 'after school' sessions to prepare for the expedition and plan their routes, prepare kits and menus. 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**; 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 **£100**, which is to cover campsite fees, transport and insurance for both expeditions. Payments can be made through [www.parentmail.co.uk](http://www.parentmail.co.uk), before **Friday, 5 October 2018**.

Once a 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 **Tuesday, 9 October 2018, 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

Miss D Vaill  
Duke of Edinburgh Co-ordinator  
[dvaille@buckinghamschool.org](mailto:dvaille@buckinghamschool.org)

