



THE BUCKINGHAM SCHOOL

A SPECIALIST SPORTS COLLEGE

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Dear Parent/Carer

Year 9 Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award 2018-2019

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 son/daughter wishes to take the Bronze Award, they will first undertake a minimum of three months of activity for each of the Volunteering, Physical and Skills sections. They will also plan, train for and complete a two-day (one night) expedition once as a practice and once for their final qualifying expedition.

They will spend a further three months on one of the Volunteering, Physical or Skills sections. Your son/daughter 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 practice expedition 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.

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

Current Year 9 students will have to attend regular 'after school' sessions, initially once a month (sessions will take place on a Tuesday/Wednesday) 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, Volunteering and Physical (two sections for three months each and one section for six months) sections prior to the 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 kilometres 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 2019.

Cost

If your son/daughter would like to undertake the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award, there is a non-refundable fee of **£45**; payable by all students 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. These are approximately £60-£70 to cover campsite fees, transport and insurance for both expeditions. Payment can be made through www.parentmail.co.uk; before **Friday, 5 October 2019**.

If your son/daughter is interested in participating in The Duke of Edinburgh Award please ensure that payment is made and that they attend an information session on **Tuesday, 2 October in PE2 from 1.30 – 1.50pm** and a sign up meeting on **Wednesday, 10 October after school from 3.15pm until 4.30pm in IT1**. 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

Miss D Vaill
Duke of Edinburgh Co-ordinator
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