



THE BUCKINGHAM SCHOOL

A SPECIALIST SPORTS COLLEGE

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14 January 2022

Dear Parent / Carer

Year 9 Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award, 2022

Over the next two terms, Year 9 students will be offered the opportunity to take part in The Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award scheme. More information about the award can be found here: <https://www.dofe.org/do/parents/>

The Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award has four sections; Volunteering, Physical, Skills and Expedition. The aim of the award is, broadly, personal development. It is also a good way for individuals to demonstrate skills and attributes that they have beyond the classroom. If they find the experience rewarding, then there is the opportunity to progress onto Silver and Gold level Awards at a later date.

The enrollment fee for the Bronze Award is approximately £45, which includes an introduction pack. All candidates would be required to arrange and participate in weekly activities over a three-month period for the Volunteering, Physical and Skills sections. These activities may take place in or out of school. In some cases, it may be a matter of logging activities that they already do (e.g. playing a musical instrument), but it is important to think about this before enrolling on the Award.

These activities will not be arranged for candidates, so it is important to emphasize that they must be capable of arranging this aspect of the Award for themselves. However, participating in after school clubs would be one way in which to do this and this would be encouraged. Having completed these for three months, candidates are then required to choose one of their three activities to continue for a further three more months. All activities will need to be logged on the DoE website.

The fourth and final part of the Award are the Expeditions. This year, the Expedition aspect of the Award will be run by a company called "School of Outdoors" and will take place during the summer term. It will involve a full day of training followed by two expeditions. The first Expedition will be a practice and the second one will be the "qualifying" (assessed) one. Both Expeditions will be for 2-days (1 night) and will take place in the surrounding counties. These events will be staffed and delivered by "School of Outdoors" but there will always be at least one member of staff from The Buckingham School present in a supervisory role.

The approximate cost of this aspect of the award will be in the region of £180. Once the exact amount has been determined, we will ask for a non-refundable deposit, payable via ParentMail. Therefore, please bear this cost in mind before enrolling your child, in addition to the dates below. Please also note that two of the events involve missing days from school and so please consider how your child would cope with this and how responsible they are in terms of catching up work that they have missed.

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 finance@buckinghamschool.org, if you wish to seek assistance, or obtain more information about Pupil Premium funding.



Training Day: Wednesday 27th April 2022

Practice Expedition: Saturday 28th May 2022 - Sunday 29th May 2022

Qualifying Expedition: Monday 20th June 2022 - Tuesday 21st June 2022

We will be holding a “virtual” information evening for parents on Thursday 20th January at 6.00pm. If your child is interested in taking part in the Award, then please return the “Expression of Interest” form below. We will then send you a link to this meeting.

For those who are eager to start sooner, or who perhaps already know about the Award, it is possible to start the Volunteering, Physical and Skills aspects straight away. When your child has received their login to the DoE website, it will be possible to backdate what activities they have already done. Please note, however, that all activities will need to be verified at a future point and so they must be overseen by a suitable adult. For example, attending a running club or football club once a week would be acceptable but going jogging or playing football with friends in the garden would not be.

Whilst the Award is designed to be a challenge and is by no means easy, it is something that young people from all backgrounds and abilities can find very rewarding. Completing the Award does require a degree of commitment and hard work and so, if your child is interested in completing it, then please do encourage them, but also make sure that they understand what they are undertaking.

If you have any further questions then please do get in touch using the contact details below.

Yours faithfully

Mr J Lyne
Teacher of Geography
Duke of Edinburgh Co-ordinator
jlyne@buckinghamschool.org

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Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award – Expression of Interest

My child is interested in completing the DoE Bronze Award and I would like to attend the “virtual” information evening, taking place on Thursday 20th January 2022.

Name of child:.....

Tutor Group:.....

Signed (By Parent / Carer):.....

Print Name:.....

Email Address (for link to be sent):.....

Please return this form to the Internal Post Box (located outside Maths Office, Jubilee Building) no later than Wednesday 19th January 2022.

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