

Date: January 2016

Our Ref: Bronze DofE Intro

Reply to: Mr C. Cook, Borough Road Centre

**An introduction to the Duke of Edinburgh’s Award**

Dear Student & Parent / Guardian,

Your son/daughter has expressed an interest in taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh Award. Please find attached information explaining what is involved in the participation of the scheme, and an enrolment form for you to complete. Please note that completing a DofE award is a big commitment for students and will require both the support of college staff and yourselves for them to succeed. To attain the Bronze award the participants must complete each of the four sections; Volunteering, Skills, Physical and Expedition.

We will be able to provide guidance and in some cases placements for the Volunteering, Skills and Physical sections but it is largely down to the participant to organise these. We do, however, provide most of the equipment and organisation necessary to complete the Expeditions.

At Bronze level, the Expedition section involves an intense weekend training day in school covering the basic principles of camping and walking. It will introduce the participants to items of expedition equipment, in particular, items that the school will provide. There will also be a number of training sessions after school concentrating on the planning of the routes and discussing expedition procedures. If the participants do not attend the organised training then they will be unable to participate in the expeditions. The expeditions consist of a 2-day practice walk involving 1 night camping, and a 2-day assessment expedition involving 1 night camping in the South Hams area. All ventures will take place during weekends in the summer term of 2016.

The date of the initial DofE meeting is on **Wednesday 20th January at 15.00**.

The cost to take part in the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Scheme will be **£25** per participant. This fee covers the cost of the enrolment pack, and set up costs. This fee should be handed in to the Waterleat Road reception in a sealed envelope together with the completed registration form before the end **Wednesday 27th January**. Please note there are limited places available and these are allocated on a first come, first served basis. Another payment of **£25** will be due prior to the expedition in July.

If you would like any further information please feel free to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Mr Chris Cook

Head of Outdoor Education

**The Duke of Edinburgh’s Award – What is it?**

The Duke of Edinburgh’s Award is a voluntary, non-competitive programme of practical, cultural and adventurous activities, designed to support the personal development of young people aged 14 – 25.

It offers an individual challenge and encourages young people to undertake exciting, constructive, challenging and enjoyable activities in their free time.

Participating in the Duke of Edinburgh’s award enables students develop communication skills, problem-solving abilities and proves they have dedication and perseverance. It also proves they can be responsible and work as a team to attain a predetermined goal. These are valuable qualities when looking to enter into higher education and employment.

**What does the programme consist of?**

It is a four section programme with three progressive levels:

* **Bronze** (for those aged 14 and over)
* **Silver** (for those aged 15 and over) and
* **Gold** (for those aged 16 and over)

**The sections involve:**

* **Volunteering** (helping other people in the local community)
* **Skills** (covering almost any hobby, skill or interest)
* **Physical** (sport, dance and fitness)
* **Expedition** (training for, planning and completing a journey on foot)

**How long will the Bronze award take to complete?**

You must continue with one of the sections for at least 6 months, the other two for 3 months.

Before the expeditions begin there will be an intense training day designed to introduce participants to the various items of equipment and procedures encountered on expeditions.

**The Bronze award involves:**

* Your commitment to gaining the award
* Attending after school meetings and training sessions
* Keeping up with a Skill, Service or Physical Recreation for six months
* Keeping two weekends free for expeditions
* Being organised and getting your logbook signed

P.T.O.

**Aim of the Volunteering section**

To encourage service to individuals and to the community.

**The Principles**

You should identify the voluntary service required, gain some knowledge of the needs of those whom you are assisting and then receive briefing and training in the skills required to give that service.

The value of participation in the Volunteering section comes from training, giving practical service and appreciating the needs of the community.

**Aim of the Skills section**

To encourage the discovery and development of practical and social skills and personal interests.

**The Principles**

This section should encourage you to pursue activities within a wide range of practical, cultural and social environments.

The skill may be an existing interest or something entirely new.

**Aim of the Physical section**

To encourage participation and improvement in physical activity.

**The Principles**

This section offers a wide range of programmes in the belief that:

* Involvement in some form of enjoyable physical activity is essential for physical well-being.
* A lasting sense of achievement and satisfaction is derived from meeting a physical challenge.
* Sports are enjoyable and can lead to the establishment of a lasting active lifestyle.

**Aim of the Expedition section**

To encourage a spirit of adventure and discovery.

**The Principles**

All ventures involve self-reliant journeying in the countryside, conceived with a purpose and undertaken without motorised assistance. The venture must present you with a challenge in terms of purpose, planning and achievement with minimum external intervention.

If you need help or any further information, visit the Duke of Edinburgh’s Award web site

**www.dofe.org**

The Duke of Edinburgh’s award requires commitment and effort on your part.

The awards are not automatic; they have to be earned by hard work!