



October 2019

Dear Parents

This academic year we are inviting all year 9 pupils to apply to enrol with the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme at Bronze level. With this in mind I am writing to parents with details of the Award. If your child is interested in this opportunity please read this letter carefully and complete the payment of £40 only using ParentPay 'DofE Bronze registration' by end of school on Friday 18 October 2019.

The Award operates across the world in different forms with the aim of providing an opportunity for young people to learn new skills and develop existing interests in a non competitive framework. It operates at three levels (Bronze, Silver and Gold) and tests across four disciplines (Physical, Skill, Volunteering and Expedition) at Bronze and Silver level; at Gold level, a residential placement is also required. To attain any level of award requires dedication and effort and this is reflected in the high esteem with which the Award is held. Participants should be aware that in committing themselves to the Bronze level requires a minimum of six month's participation.

At school we will offer support, advice and ideas for completion of the Physical, Skill and Volunteering disciplines and it is the aim that these would be pursued over a six month period so that the award would be completed by the end of the academic year.

The Expedition section training will be carried out by members of BGS staff. Training will take place after school from 4:00pm to 5:15pm during the spring and summer terms, specific dates will follow. In addition to this four training events held at different weekends are planned. These are compulsory and non flexible and as such it is essential that participants can commit themselves to the dates listed in order to be eligible to complete the expedition component of the award within school. The after school sessions will cover important aspects of expedition planning and campcraft skills.

Training weekend dates:

26 January 2020	1 <sup>st</sup> Aid Course at School
2 February 2020	Ramsbottom Day Walk
25 and 26 April 2020	Expedition training
16 and 17 May 2020	Practice expedition

Assessed Expedition date:

18 and 19 June 2020	Assessed expedition
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Headmistress: **Mrs J Anderson BA PGCE Med**  
Headmaster: **Mr D Cassidy BSc**

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In order to cover the cost of training, log books, registration and licence a charge of £200 per participant is in place. This is made in two instalments:

- £40 non refundable to cover the cost of log books, registration and licence. Due by Friday 18 October 2019
- £160 to be paid following acceptance onto the Expedition Training at school. In order to qualify for expedition training which starts with the First Aid training event in January 2020 pupils must have their programmes for volunteering, skill and physical submitted to school for approval on the eDofE website by Friday 3 January 2020. **Failure to do this may result in not being able to complete the expedition section at school.** When pupils have been accepted onto expedition training the remaining payment of £160 will be due. Payment date to follow qualification on to Expedition Training.

It is advised that participants purchase their own rucksacks, walking boots and sleeping bags although there is a supply of this kit in school stores. All other camping equipment can be borrowed from the school. Other costs incurred, such as driving to venues to complete other disciplines of the award, must be met by participants.

If your child is keen to participate in the award and is prepared to commit themselves to it, then please complete the payment details on ParentPay.

Information about our first meeting, where we will cover the use of the DofE's electronic registration and management will be published shortly after the half term break. In the meantime I would advise pupils to look on the DofE website over the half term holiday to find activities for their programme.

<http://www.dofe.org/en/content/cms/doing-your-dofe/activities-sections/>

If you have any further questions please contact me at school.

Yours sincerely,

A. Dennis

Alan Dennis