



29 September 2022

Dear Parents

The Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award 2022/2023

Your child has expressed an interest in doing their Bronze DofE award.

An Information evening on the award will be held on Wednesday 5 October from 7.00pm and will be held online to speak to myself, DofE representative and the School of Outdoors team which is the AAP provider we will be using. [Virtual Meeting Link](#).

Last year, almost 210 students took part in the Duke of Edinburgh Awards at Borlase. The scheme is open to anyone over the age of 14, however you can start the Award with the school in Year 9 when you are 13.

The Award involves completing four sections: the physical; volunteering; skill and expedition sections.

Physical - improving in an area of sport, dance or a fitness activity

Volunteering - undertaking service to individuals or the community

Skill - developing personal interests, practical and social skills

Activities do not need to be completed at school: where students take part in activities outside school, and when the activity is appropriate, it can be counted towards the Award. All activities must be done on a voluntary basis and students are encouraged to organise their own activities. Before undertaking any external activity, please confirm with Mr Stevens that it will qualify for the Award.

Please note; the use of physical recreation section as skills may not be suitable as the Award has categorised activities and we are bound by these.

If there is any doubt, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us; you can also head to the DofE website for ideas on all the sections. All students taking part in the Award will need to attend meetings throughout the year where they will receive support in completing their Award.

Expeditions

The expedition section of the Award is facilitated by an external company called School of Outdoors. To complete the expedition section students need to take part in: a **training/ practice expedition** and an **assessed expedition**. As a school, we currently offer a walking expedition at the bronze level.

The assessed expedition will consist of 2 days and 1 night. The students are required to undertake 6 hours of 'planned activity' during each of the 2 days of the expedition. The assessed expedition is overseen by an external DofE Assessor. The expedition is not a guaranteed pass as students can be deferred if seen as underperforming.

As part of the cost for the expedition, the following kit is included: tents, stoves, fuel and navigation equipment. As part of the Award students will need to plan and provide their own food and walking equipment.

Supervision

The Duke of Edinburgh Award requires participants to be unaccompanied and self-reliant on expeditions. Provided that students have demonstrated the required level of competence and have shown suitable behaviour during training, they will not be directly supervised during the expedition. Appropriately qualified expedition staff will meet the teams at checkpoints along their planned route and students will also be briefed on what to do in case of an emergency. Whilst on expedition, any communication between parents/guardians and students will need to go through expedition staff as it is a requirement of the Duke of Edinburgh Award that direct communication is not permitted.

The dates for this year's expeditions are:

1. Training Day - School - 5 March 2023

This will be a day's training to go through Kit, Bag Packing, Food and Meal Planning and basic navigation run by School of Outdoors

2. Practice - Chilterns, Wallingford – 9am 10 March until 10am 11 March 2023

This will be a one day 1 night training practice. During this training we look at navigation, route planning, first aid, emergency procedures, camp craft, expedition cooking and nutrition, health and safety and kit requirements. This is made fun and enjoyable with practical learning techniques, mixed with games and activities.

2. Assessment Weekend - Chilterns, Watlington –25-26 March 2023

This is a two day, one night assessed expedition. The assessed expedition is the final part of the expedition section where the participants can prove to the assessor what they have learnt and how they have developed as young people.

Cost for the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award

The cost of the Award will be between £270 and £310, depending on the number of students taking part. If we have more students taking part the cost will be the lower end of the scale. Please note that transport will not be provided to and from the campsites detailed above. The cost to register for the Award has been included in the cost of the expedition.

We are asking for a **non-refundable deposit** of £100, to be paid by Monday 31 October. This will be followed by a balance payment no later than Friday 6 January 2023.

Please note, cancellations within 4-8 weeks in advance of the start date will forfeit 75% of the total fee and if a cancellation is made within 4 weeks of the start date, all fees will be forfeited. For those families whose financial circumstances would otherwise prevent their son/daughter from participating, please email the Business Manager, John Clegg, on finance@swbgs.com outlining the reasons why support is required, as soon as possible and at the latest by Friday 25 November.

If you wish to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme please log onto www.parentpay.com using your username and password to pay the deposit of £100. If you need a copy of your activation details please email parentpay@swbgs.com.

Yours faithfully

Mr D Stevens
DofE Coordinator

DUKE OF EDINBURGH Bronze Award – Year 9

It is important that you are aware of the following when paying your deposit:

- 1) It is essential that your son/daughter attends all of the published dates for the training, practice and assessed expeditions according to the published information. We are unable to offer alternatives if your son/daughter is unable to attend.
- 2) Your son/daughter must complete the previous section of the expedition Award to proceed to the next section i.e. in order to complete the practice expedition you must complete the training and in order to complete the assessment you must complete the training and practice expeditions.
- 3) Once paid the initial deposit is non-refundable, along with any subsequent payments. A payment schedule will be published for each programme. Between paying the deposit and the deadline for the final payment you will be required to pay any cost incurred on your child's behalf if you cancel e.g. registration fees. If you cancel after the final payment is due you will be required to pay the full amount. If you decide to cancel you should send an email to parents@swbgs.com for the attention of Mr Stevens
- 4) Your son/daughter signs up as an individual to the Award scheme. Groups for the expedition will be arranged by the DofE coordinator in order to meet the DofE requirements.