



Bishop Wordsworth's School

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Head Master: Dr S D Smallwood BSc (Hons) PhD NPQH

14th October 2019

Dear Parents/Guardians

Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award

As you are probably aware, for a significant number of years we have been able to offer our students the opportunity to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh Award as an extra-curricular activity. If your son is interested in taking part in the Bronze award we would now like to start enrolment. We will be continuing our partnership with the external outdoor provider, H5 Adventure, to ensure successful completion of the expedition section.

The overall cost, including training day, practice expedition, qualifying expedition and licensing is expected to be around £150.00. This cost will be split into 2 payments: £22 deposit and £128 final balance to be paid by 31/03/20.

Please ask your son to collect an enrolment form from Reception and return it to the DofE box in Reception by **Wednesday 23rd October 2019**.

Deadline for deposit payment: Wednesday 23rd October 2019

To pay please access WisePay through your sons Insight account and select '**WisePay Finance Portal**' the item can be found under the **Trips and Visit Tab**. If you have any issues accessing WisePay please email Trips@bws.wilts.sch.uk, Parents/Guardians who may find it difficult to meet the deadline for payment should contact the Finance Office on ext 260.

Below is a general outline of what the award entails, but of course the Duke of Edinburgh website will give a broader overview. We expect the boys to complete all sections of the award, or have a very close end date, before taking part in the practice expedition next year. This will ensure, we feel, that they will complete their award. They will need to find and record an assessor for each activity and add this information onto their 'edofe' account for our approval.

Four sections to the Bronze DofE Award:

Volunteering: for a non-profit making organisation or undertaking service to individuals or the community, eg scout leader, sporting volunteering at football/rugby etc working in a charity shop, helping primary school pupils with maths etc.

Physical: improving in an area of sport, dance or fitness activities, trying something new.

Skills: developing practical and social skills and personal interests, eg gaining the next grade with a musical instrument, any extra-curricular language, life-saving skills, and cooking are some examples.

Expedition: As part of the training day he will learn to safely cook on Trangias, map reading, navigation, planning routes, putting up and taking down tents, personal safety, first aid and what to do in an emergency. This section also includes an overnight practice expedition to train for the completion of the qualifying expedition. (Parents / guardians to provide transport to and from expeditions).

- Training day at Bishop Wordsworth's School: **Sun 15 March 2020**
- Practice Expedition – Marlborough Downs: **Sat 9 May - Sun 10 May 2020**
- Qualifying Expedition – Marlborough Downs: **Sat 11 July - Sun 12 July 2020**

Please check these dates before booking your holidays as your son will need to attend all of the above!

For your Expedition section, you will need to plan, train for and complete an unaccompanied, self-reliant expedition with an agreed aim. You must do the correct training for your level and mode of travel, at least one practice expedition, a qualifying expedition (the one that is assessed) and a final presentation in order to complete the section. The presentation is a verbal presentation given at the end of your qualifying expedition. A recommended kit list can be found on the DofE page on the school web site.

* Two sections will need to be at least an hour a week for three months (ie 12 weeks) and one section will need to be completed over six months.

Please ensure that we have current emergency contact details and details of any medical conditions and that your son takes all necessary medication with him on this trip. If you need to update any information please email Mrs Hayward on sah@bws.wilts.sch.uk

The Duke of Edinburgh website is available for further information. My role as their DofE Co-Ordinator is to oversee the successful completion of the expedition section with the services of H5 Adventure; we are also supported by volunteer teaching staff, volunteer parent helpers and the admin support of Mrs Sally Jones.

Yours sincerely

J M Oldham
Duke of Edinburgh Co-Ordinator
jmo@bws.wilts.sch.uk

Expedition details

Bronze Practice – Marlborough Downs

All participants will be expected to make their own way, car sharing where possible, to Overton Hill car park, Avebury (SN8 1QG) on Saturday 9 May. *(The car park lies approximately 600 meters after the post code on the north side/left hand side of the A4 towards Marlborough)*

Sat 9 May (overnight) - Blacklands Lakes Campsite, Stockley Lane, Calne, SN11 0NQ

Groups aim to finish between 1300-1500 hrs. This will, of course, depend on their efficiency clearing the campsite and their pace. Collection will be the same as the drop off – Overton Hill car park.

Bronze Qualifying – Marlborough Downs

All participants will be expected to make their own way, car sharing where possible, to the lay-by North of Marlborough, on the A346, one mile after passing Marlborough Golf Club, (SN8 1RZ/Grid Reference 188 707) on Saturday 11 July.

Sat 11 July (overnight) - Lakeside Campsite (Grid Reference 074 789/SN4 7RZ).

Groups aim to finish around 1400-1500 at the Barbury Castle Country Park Car Park, (Grid Reference 158 761), postal code SN4 0QH on Sunday 9 June. SAT NAVs can take you off the road onto a muddy track, so please beware! (The park lies about three miles south-west of Chiseldon. From the M4 Junction 15 follow the A346 towards Marlborough until you see signs for Chiseldon. Then follow signs for Barbury Castle).

During the expedition, the participants will be unaccompanied in their teams. H5 advise participants to carry their **mobile phones in sealed dry bags**; also to remind teams that they will be giving their verbal presentations at the end of the qualifying expedition.

Participants will need to purchase their own gas as sadly we do not have the facility to safely store this at school. They will need to come prepared with food and funds for the duration of the expedition. It would be beneficial to have a pre-kit check one lunch time and any borrowed equipment needs to be taken home and returned dry/aired/cleaned ready for other groups to use.