



Bishop Wordsworth's School

Exeter Street, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP1 2ED

Telephone: 01722 333851

Fax: 01722 325899

E-mail: admin@bws.wilts.sch.uk

Website: www.bws-school.org.uk

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

14th October 2019

Dear Parents/Guardians

Gold 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 Gold 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, expeditions and licensing is expected to be around £420. This cost will be split into 3 payments: £30 deposit and 2 payments of £195.

Please ask your son to collect an enrolment form from Reception and return it to the DofE box in Reception by **Friday 8th November 2019**.

Payment schedule:

Deposit payment - £30 : Friday 8th November 2019

Instalment 1 - £195 : Friday 7th February 2020

Instalment 2 - £195 : Tuesday 31st March 2020

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.

Five sections to the Gold DofE Award:

Volunteering: for a **non-profit** making organisation, (this sadly rules out vets but does include Wilts Wildlife Hospital), or undertaking service to individuals or the community, eg scout leader, working in a charity shop, helping primary school pupils with maths etc. for 12 months.

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

Skills: developing practical and social skills and personal interests, gaining the next grade with a musical instrument, swimming life-saving skills. Improvement in a MFL language, (ask your teacher first), cooking at home, observed and assessed by neighbour, family friend etc. (This section, for obvious reasons, cannot be assessed by a family member). Driving lessons – but keep a weekly log sheet to add as evidence on edofe.

Residential section: Undertake a shared activity in a residential setting away from home for 5 days and 4 nights. For example University taster weeks, (Mrs Armstrong our Careers Officer can advise), volunteering away from home, activity weeks etc.

Expedition Section: The dates are as follows:-

- Training day at Bishop Wordsworth's School: **Sun 15 March 2020**
- Practice Expedition and Planning Brecon Beacons, Wales: **Sun 29 Mar - Wed 1 April 2020**
- Qualifying Expedition Brecon Beacons, Wales: **Fri 3 July - Tues 7 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.

* Physical and Skills sections: One section for 12 months and the other for 6 months.

If you haven't completed the Silver or Bronze award, you must undertake a further 6 months in either the Volunteering or the longer of the Physical or Skills sections, ie 18 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

Gold Practice - Brecon Beacons

Sunday 29 Mar Treats Campsite, Llanthony, Abergavenny, Monmouthshire NP7 7NN
Mon 30 Mar Grange Trekking Campsite, Capel-Y-Fin, Abergavenny NP7 7NP
Tues 31 Mar Newcourt Farm Campsite, Felindre, Three Cocks, Brecon, LD3 0SS

We will leave school at **0600** on Sunday, so please arrive no later than **0545**. We aim to arrive at Golden Grove Campsite, Llangenny, Crickhowell, NP8 1HD around 1000 for kit inspection and six hour hike.

After a de-brief, on Wednesday 1 April, we will complete route cards and green forms for the qualifying expedition before returning to school aiming to arrive at BWS around **1700**.

Gold Qualifying – Brecon Beacons

Fri 3 July Black Mountain Caravan & Camping Park, Llanddeusant, Llangadog SA19 9YG
Sat 4 July Maes-yr-eglwys Farm, Pen-y-Cae, Swansea Valley SA9 1GS
Sun 5 July Bryn Bwch Farm, Pontneddfechan, SA11 5UT
Mon 6 July Blaenglyn Farm, Libanus, Brecon, Powys, Wales. LD3 8NF

We aim to leave school around **0930**, meeting at BWS no later than **0900**. Upon completion we will return to BWS for around **2000** hrs on Tuesday.

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.