

16 September 2014

Dear Parent/Guardian

Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award – Year 10

As you are probably aware, for a significant number of years we have been able to offer the boys the opportunity to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh Award as an extra-curricular activity. If your son/ward is interested in taking part the Bronze award will hopefully be his first step towards independent personal development, recognising the needs of others and acknowledging their own achievements outside school. Taking part in the DofE is also valued by higher education and future employers. If your son/ward is interested in taking part in the award we are now starting enrolment. Please ask your son/ward to collect an enrolment form from Reception; the forms will need to be **returned to Reception by Friday 17 October 2014**. The price will be £25, this includes admin fees, enrolment on to edofe and the DofE pack.

Once again this year we will use the services of Mr Paul Webb of H5 Adventure to train and oversee the Bronze training and expeditions. Mr Churchill, Mr Webb, myself, and Mrs Nute presented to the year 10 assembly on Wednesday 17 September. I will be supporting the Bronze participants as their Bronze DofE Leader, with the assistance of teaching staff. Mrs Nute will continue to provide admin support. If you feel you have relevant expedition skills and you would like to help during the day hikes, or practice and assessed expedition, we would very much like to hear from you. Please contact Mrs Nute via amn@bws.wilts.sch.uk and she will liaise with Mrs Crook to timetable the relevant DBS, (old CRB), clearance procedure closer to the time of the overnight expeditions.

Once your son/ward has enrolled onto the Bronze award he will be given his edofe sign-in details and a booklet. The edofe is an on-line record system used to start and complete the award. The booklet can be used to write dates, details of their sections and they must take this to their assessors for completion. Mr Churchill, our DofE Co-Ordinator, will be holding Thursday drop-in sessions, with the help of the Gold participants during Thursday lunchtimes, in ICT3. The Bronze participants will be encouraged to go along and discuss with Mr Churchill any edofe problems and how to enter/download evidence etc.

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. This should ensure that they complete their award.

There are four sections to the Bronze award, as follows:

- Volunteering: for a non-profit making organisation or undertaking service to individuals or the community, eg scout leader, working in a charity shop, helping primary school pupils with maths.
- Physical: improving in an area of sport, dance or fitness activities.
- Skills: developing practical and social skills and personal interests, eg writing a book, gaining the next grade with a musical instrument, life-saving skills.

These sections will need to be completed for an hour each week for three months and one of the sections will need to be completed over six months.

Finally, there is the Expedition Section: H5 Adventure will train your son for planning routes, a practice day hike; training for and completion of an unaccompanied adventurous journey over two days and camping out for one night. As part of the training he will learn about cooking on Trangias, putting up and taking down tents, personal safety, first aid and what to do in an emergency. The fee for this section, payable before the training weekend, is £94 per student.

We intend to hold a parent/guardian information evening on Monday 13 October in the Sixth Form Common Room between 4–5pm. Your son/ward has had a separate overview during a Year 10 assembly.

The dates are as follows:-

Year 10 Assembly	Wednesday 17 September 2014
Information Evening	Parent/Guardian – Monday 13 October 2014
Training Weekend	Saturday 7 March 2015 Training at BWS Sunday 8 March 2015 Day Hike around Great Yews
Practice Expedition	Sat & Sun 18&19 April 2015 Savernake Forest
Assessed Expedition	Sat & Sun 6&7 June 2015 – Marlborough Downs

A recommended kit list can be found on the DofE page on the school web site alongside a user guide to edofe.

Yours sincerely

Mr T Gilmour
DofE Bronze Leader
Bishop Wordsworth's School