



Bishop Wordsworth's School

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Website: www.bws-school.org.uk

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

29 September 2016

Dear Parent/Guardian

Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award

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 in the award we would now like to start enrolment. I have recently outlined to the sixth formers details of the Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Also for information, The United Learning Trust (ULT) recently published the results of a major survey, undertaken by them in association with Ratcliffe Hall Ltd, focusing on the methods major employers used for selection of new employees. It was primarily about graduate recruitment and asked for the employers' views on the attributes that were most attractive in candidate. The sample was asked what they considered to be the most important activities undertaken at school and were asked to rate them from 1-5, with 1 being the highest:

The Duke of Edinburgh Award came out on top for demonstrating what attributes and characteristics companies/employers valued as key determinants in the selection of employees. The following were rated the highest: leadership, teamwork, self-motivation, communication, confidence, consideration and the ability to learn.

Please ask your son/ward to collect an enrolment form from Reception, during break. The form will need to be returned to the DofE box in Reception by Thursday 20 October 2016. The price will be £100, this includes admin fees, enrolment onto edofe, the DofE pack and includes a £74 non-refundable deposit, to cover any students who need to drop out of the award during the academic year. Those students who are able to commit to the whole award will have their deposit refunded, ie £37 taken off the expedition fees in May and July 2017.

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, (see table below) 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, eg writing a book, gaining the next grade with a musical instrument, swimming life-saving skills. 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.



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- Expedition section. The dates are as follows:-

Training: Brecon Beacons – Sun 16-Tues 18 April 2017

Practice Expedition: Exmoor – Fri 26 May-Sun 28 May 2017

Qualifying Expedition: Dartmoor - Wed 5 July-Mon 10 July 2017

Please check these dates before booking your holidays as your son/ward 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.

- Residential section: Undertake a shared activity in a residential setting away from home for 5 days and 4 nights.

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

The Duke of Edinburgh website is available for further information. My role as their DofE Co-Ordinator is to ensure the successful completion of the expeditions supported by volunteer teaching staff, volunteer parent helpers and the continued admin support of Mrs Nute, amn@bws.wilts.sch.uk

If the numbers exceed two mini buses, ie 30 participants, we will have to hand-pick from the students who will be able to go on the expedition, on the grounds of how far on in the award they are before the practice expedition. There will be the opportunity to roll the award over to the next academic year and complete the expeditions in 2018.

Please pay the enrolment of £100 on-line via www.scopay.com. If your son/ward doesn't have a scopay account and you need a link code please email Mrs Herberts on amh@bws.wilts.sch.uk

Yours sincerely

T W Churchill
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