



# Bishop Wordsworth's School

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

13 October 2017

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. I will be speaking to the students to outline the requirements of the Gold award. Several students have already approached me to find out when we are starting the enrolment process. If your son is interested in taking part in the award we would now like to start enrolment. We will be using the services of an external outdoor provider, H5 Adventure, who currently oversee our Bronze award, to ensure successful completion of the Gold expedition section.

Please ask your son to collect an enrolment form from Reception, during break. The form will need to be returned to the DofE box in Reception by Thursday 2 November 2017, the enrolment fee is £30. The training day, practice expedition and qualifying expedition costs are expected to be around a further £550.00

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, 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.
- Expedition section. The dates are as follows:-

Training day at Bishop Wordsworth's School : Sun 18 March

Practice Expedition and Planning day Brecon Beacons, Wales : Sun 8-Wed 11 April 2018

Qualifying Expedition Brecon Beacons, Wales : Fri 6 July-Tues 10 July 2018

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.

- 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

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 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 continued admin support of Mrs Nute, [amn@bws.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:amn@bws.wilts.sch.uk).

If the numbers exceed two mini buses, ie 28 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 2019.

Please pay the enrolment of £30 on-line via [www.scopay.com](http://www.scopay.com). If your son doesn't have a scopay account and you need a link code please email Mrs Herberts on [amh@bws.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:amh@bws.wilts.sch.uk)

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 a 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.

Yours sincerely

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