

BJD/BronzeIntro/LH
October 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

Your son/daughter has expressed an interest in taking part in the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award. This letter is to inform you of what will be required of your son/daughter over the coming months should he/she be successful in obtaining a place on the Award.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award is an opportunity to access a challenging programme of self-development and fulfilment. Students have the opportunity to gain recognition, along with an award for achievement in four different sections:

- Service
- Skills
- Physical Recreation and
- Expeditions

The first three sections have to be completed out of school hours over a three-month period, not necessarily all at the same time, with one of them being undertaken for six months. All participants are given the guidance needed to choose suitable activities for each section and are often given credit for things they already do. They can develop an existing skill or try something new. Participation in the award is not competitive but is based on individual improvement and achievement. Students are encouraged to set their own goals; if they aim for these and achieve them, they will complete the Award. Previous participants undertook services at Crosshall Kids Club, Sue Ryder Care, coached young rowers and helped at Ford House residential home; skills learned included, playing the trumpet and looking after horses. Rugby and Horse-riding were both included in the Physical Recreation section.

Students will also be required to undertake a two-day expedition and two practice ones. Training will be on a Thursday after school (training schedule to follow). Participants are required to attend **all** training and the practice expeditions in order to participate with their group in the final expedition in June. If more than two meetings are missed, without a valid reason, I will not include students on expeditions. In addition two of the three above sections must be completed in advance of the assessed expedition for us to take students away for the final weekend. Training includes learning about first aid, camp-craft, clothing and equipment, map-reading, navigation and route planning.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award is a voluntary charity and a vast majority of the people involved give up their free time. However, students will be required to undertake a training weekend, practice and final expeditions and, in order to cover costs of photo-copying, transport and fuel on trips, and the use of equipment and maps, there will be additional costs for these activities. As a guide, last year the cost for all three activities was £140 for:

- A team-building and camp-craft training weekend in Norfolk, which includes a range of activities such as climbing, raft building and orienteering (23-25 March);
- the practice expedition in the local area (12-13 May) which will require students to be dropped off at starting points around Bedford;
- the final assessed expedition in Bedfordshire (16-17 June).

