



October 2017

Year 10 Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Your son has expressed an interest in the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme. This highly-regarded Award recognises personal development through regular participation in a programme of activities in four 'sections':

- **Volunteering (Service):** undertaking service to individuals or the community
- **Physical:** improving in an area of sport or fitness activities
- **Skills:** developing practical and social skills and personal interests
- **Expedition:** planning, training for and completion of an adventurous journey in the UK.

Participants commit an average of an hour per week for each of the volunteering, physical and skills sections, two of which must be carried out over a period of 3 months and the remaining section over 6 months. They record their progress online through the 'eDofE' system. While it is an intention of the Award to encourage participants to push themselves and try new things, students can count activities they already do, and records can be back-dated a few weeks from the date of registration. Ideas and guidance on these activities – as well as more information about the Award in general – will be given in training sessions and much can be found at www.dofe.org.

The boys will be responsible for arranging and recording their activities in the first three sections, while the Expedition section is organised through school. Participants must train in the necessary skills and complete a Practice Expedition under closer supervision before being allowed to carry out their Assessed Expedition more independently. This will involve walking and navigating in a group, camping overnight and carrying all their own equipment – including meals and cooking equipment – to safely complete a planned journey of about 25km over two days. The dates for these two trips are as follows:

Practice Expedition: Fri 20th - Sun 22nd April or Fri 27th - Sun 29th April 2017
Assessed Expedition: Friday 8th - Sunday 10th June 2017

Boys who are concerned about clashes with sports fixtures should be able to choose between the April trips, but attendance on one of them will be essential to be allowed on the Assessed Expedition.

The April trips will be based at Jobbers Wood; this should keep the cost minimal (£12 last year inclusive of most meals). The second trip will cost a little more owing to the transport costs associated with getting to the South Downs National Park, but thanks to the willingness of staff – including those with outdoor qualifications – to give up their time, this should remain around the £40 cost of last year's trip.

PTO



The school has and maintains a stock of good quality rucksacks, roll mats, tents and approved stoves which we loan to the boys, in order to minimise the cost of participation and ensure the boys are properly equipped. The only specialist kit you might have to provide is sturdy walking boots and waterproofs. More advice on the sort of kit needed will be given to the boys during the training sessions that will take place regularly after school before the trips, so **I would suggest you hold off on buying new items** until then (the boys can also claim a discount in many shops once registered!)

The DofE charge £20 to register a participant on the Bronze Award and make a charge of £8 per student for admin. At this stage we also ask for a £17 contribution toward the costs of administration, replacement of equipment, copying of resources and so on at school, bringing the total initial cost for enrolment to £45. Payment for trips (£12 and £40 last year) will be requested shortly before each trip. Should the cost of enrolment, equipment, or the trips be a barrier to your son's participation, please do get in touch with me to see what can be arranged, as we will discreetly do all we can to ensure this opportunity is available to all.

Before enrolling your son, please note that while the expedition should be a fantastically enjoyable experience, we take our responsibility for the boys' safety incredibly seriously. While every effort is made to control risk on these trips – including training the boys in road safety, first aid, camp craft, and fire safety – outdoor activities do present risks and dangers. As such, the boys will be expected to conduct themselves with the utmost respect for the hazards involved, and to follow staff instructions and safety training at all times. Should any boy's behaviour fall below the standard expected in a way which presents a danger to himself or others, he would immediately be withdrawn from that expedition and any future trips, with the expectation that his parents or guardians would arrange his travel home at their expense.

If you would like to enrol your son on the Bronze DofE, please complete the enrolment form online at <http://tinyurl.com/tbshsdofe> and pay the £45 enrolment fee via ParentPay or by cheque handed in to Mrs Kitching in the admin office, by Friday 18th November. [N.B. the form is hosted by Google on an account managed by the school so your data is entirely safe and will only be used for DofE admin purposes.] There will be several after-school information and training sessions before Christmas that boys will need to attend (they will be able to choose from two of Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, based on the days boys have other commitments) and then there will be regular training sessions once a week on the same days from January until the April trips, followed by planning sessions in preparation for the June trip.

Details of the individual trips, along with consent forms, and requests for contact details and any updated medical information, will be sent out nearer to each trip. Should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me at school via email at robert.rawlinson@tbshs.org.

Yours sincerely,



Bob Rawlinson
Deputy Head of Sixth Form and DofE Coordinator