

October 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

**The Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award 2019-2021**

The year 9 students recently had an assembly introducing them to the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award. This Award provides a marvellous opportunity for young people to expand their skills, get involved in their local community, develop their physical fitness, and sample a taste of outdoor living while appreciating what teamwork is all about!

A Bronze D of E programme has 4 sections:

- Volunteering
- Physical
- Skills.
- Expedition.

The first 3 sections above involve 1 hour a week on each activity, separately from each other, for 3 months. These must take place outside the school day. The student chooses one to extend to 6 months. They do not need to be done concurrently as we give the year 9s a year to complete these 3 sections. For ideas on each section, you can go to the PowerPoint presentation I put on for the year 9 students in assembly recently, on the School website under Enrichment Activities; Duke of Edinburgh; 2020-2021; or simply go to the Duke of Edinburgh website <https://www.dofe.org/>

The Expedition section involves planning, training for and doing a 2 day (1 night) expedition. Preparation for this is done in school. All other activities are done out of school (or part of in-school extra-curricular activities). Your son/daughter will need your support to maintain an hour a week commitment to these other activities in order to pass the requirements for the Award. Unfortunately, no family member can supervise or assess the activity, so it must be overseen by someone independent of the family.

The Duke of Edinburgh programme is a stand alone Award in the school and is funded by you the parents. As a result, we have to charge approximately £160 per person, with a deposit of £50 which will be non-refundable. The overall cost may vary depending on the numbers signing up, but can be paid in instalments over the next year. This fee covers:

- a training weekend at Blackland Farm with a professional outdoor company
- A practice expedition in the Washington area of the South Downs which includes an overnight stay on a campsite
- a Qualifying expedition (with assessors who we acquire from outside school) in the Steyning/Henfield area again with an overnight stay on a campsite.

We also have equipment which we can lend to students to save them having to buy tents, stoves, rucksacks and others. These need to be replaced regularly and are costly.

I encourage you to have a conversation with your son or daughter about getting involved. They need to be aware fully of what it involves as the Award does require a big commitment and it is a challenging programme. If your daughter or son is interested but unsure, please ask them to come and speak to me. If you would like them to get involved and they are also keen, but you are lacking the funds, please contact me and we can see what can be done to help.

If they wish to go ahead, they need to collect an **enrolment form** from me in B16 and fill this in and return to me. Once we have confirmed student numbers, the deposit amount will appear on your ParentPay account for you to make the first required payment to secure their place on the activity. I can then register them with the D of E organisation.

Once I have a clear idea of who is doing the programme, I will hold a meeting for parents to let them know how they can support their child to complete the programme.

Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me via email:  
[emead@theweald.org.uk](mailto:emead@theweald.org.uk)

Yours faithfully,



Esther Mead  
Duke of Edinburgh Coordinator