

March 2024

Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award

Dear Y10 students and parents/carers

I am writing to you about our Bronze Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Award scheme here at Notre Dame. We run DofE Bronze as an enrichment opportunity for Y10 students with the aim of students completing the whole Award in the Autumn of Y11. You may recall that I wrote in December 2023 outlining the Award and inviting applications from students. I am pleased to inform you that you child has got a place on the Award this year.

I would suggest students familiarise themselves with what the Award is about and the sections and commitment involved. Go to [DofE - The Duke of Edinburgh's Award](#) to find out more. You will discover that there are a number of sections of the whole Award. It is important that you understand that it is entirely down to the students to undertake the skills, physical and volunteering sections. The expedition section is the part that we will deliver in school. The students need to be independent and arrange their own activities and placements for the other sections. It is important for parents to note that we have no part in the activities and locations the students do for their activities and cannot comment on the safeguarding procedures in place at various organisations. The students can begin their activities at any time. I can also back date the enrolment for the students to the start of the school year to take into account time already spent doing activities.

I would like to emphasise that there is a large element of trust and responsibility on the expedition with staff supervising the expedition but not necessarily walking with students. As such all the meetings and training sessions are learning sessions and we would expect students to approach them as such. If behaviour or approach to learning causes concerns we may find it necessary to withdraw a student from the Award. Any costs incurred up to that point (enrolment fees) are non-refundable.

As part of the expedition preparation we have to do a certain amount of training. This forms part of our risk assessment. There are certain criteria of the expedition which have to be met (such as campcraft and a presentation). As such these dates and times are **compulsory for all students**. **Please note** that that we will be using the enrichment days in the summer term and as such we ask that students **do not** commit to anything else on the enrichment days as we will not be able to accommodate you on the DofE Award this year. A reminder of the dates previously provided to your child are below.

## **DofE Bronze dates 2024**

Optional drop-in sessions to introduce edofe - dates and times to be confirmed.

**Training** (after school – 15:45 to 17:45)

- Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2024
- Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2024
- Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2024

- Monday 8<sup>th</sup> & Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2024 (school enrichment days. NOT after school).
- Route planning meeting Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2024 (after school – 15:45 to 17:45)
- Kit handout Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2024 (after school – 15:45 to 17:45)

### **Expedition – qualifying**

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> & Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2024

Peak District based. Likely start/finish is in/around Bakewell. Students need to make their own arrangements for travel to/from the start/finish points. This can be by lifts or public transport. More details closer to the time.

**Kit return & presentations** – Wednesday 2nd October 2024 (after school -15:45 – 17:30 approx).  
Reserve date Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2024 for any kit not returned.

I have asked our Finance team to set the trip up via your My Child At School app and this is now available for you to make payments. The expedition part of the Award is costed at £45. This includes the £24.50 national enrolment fee as well as camping fees, loan of tents, stoves, maps, first aid kit etc but not suitable walking clothing or footwear. We do have a small supply of rucksacks & sleeping bags for loan. We always encourage students to borrow items such as rucksacks, eating utensils, plastic cups & bowls etc from friends/family wherever possible to reduce costs. I have asked for initial deposits by the 18<sup>th</sup> March if at all possible.

If you have any queries at this stage please do feel free to contact me at [mpickup@notredame-high.co.uk](mailto:mpickup@notredame-high.co.uk).

Yours faithfully

Mr M Pickup

Mrs C Forrester

DofE Coordinator

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