



BRONZE DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

October 2019

Dear Parents/Carers

Your son/daughter has been invited to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh Award at Warlingham. This is a youth charity that gives all young people the chance to develop skills for work and life, fulfil their potential and have a brighter future. It consists of four sections: skill, service, physical and expedition. So that they are fully aware of what the scheme entails, it is essential that your son/daughter researches by visiting the award website at <http://www.dofe.org>

At Warlingham we run the expedition section of the award, your son/daughter needs to organise the other sections themselves in their own time. The skill, service and physical sections require a commitment of around 1 hour a week for 3 months, with one section being completed for 6 months. There is a list of acceptable activities available from the DofE website and <http://www.warlinghamschool.co.uk/76/duke-of-edinburgh-award>.

If your son/daughter would like to take part in the Award they need to complete the attached programme planner and return it to me in the science office by **Monday 11th November** at the latest. On the programme planner they should state what activities they will try to arrange for the skills, volunteering and physical sections of their award (it is not vital to have everything sorted at this stage). Spaces are limited to 90, when these have been filled a waiting list will be made.

Successful applicants will then need to organise themselves into groups of between four and seven students for the expedition section of the award. They will be required to attend weekly training sessions after school. These will commence in December and the specific days will be arranged at a later date. If students fail to attend the training sessions they will no longer be able to take part in the Award – NO REFUNDS WILL BE OFFERED.

The dates of the Bronze Expeditions in 2019 are:

- Thursday 23rd - Sunday 26th April – Training Expedition – New Forest
- Saturday 13th – Sunday 14th June – Assessed Expedition – Ashdown Forest

The Award requires both time and financial commitments; the Expedition Section of The Award will cost in the region of £130, plus the cost of equipment such as good walking boots and walking socks - most other equipment can be loaned from school. A more accurate costing will be provided once we have an idea of numbers.

Successful applicants will be notified by the end of the autumn term and there will be a meeting for students and parents in January (date to be confirmed) at 6pm at the school in the front hall. If you are unsure about what equipment to buy, please wait until after your son / daughter has had the training session on equipment and you've attended the parent meeting. We will provide expert advice at both of these events. In the meantime if you require any further details or would like to discuss any aspect of The Award please do not hesitate to contact me at the school.

One of the key skills that the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme aims to develop is self-motivation. This is an extra-curricular activity and staff will not have time to continually chase students to finish sections and complete tasks (although we will do our best!). Parental encouragement is essential to keep them up to date.

We have to pay deposits and purchase equipment throughout the year so we are unable to offer any refunds if your child withdraws from the scheme for any reason. Should you have any concerns about funding then please contact me.

One source of information will be our Twitter account @WarlinghamDofE – it will announce meeting times and deadlines for the participants and can be useful to look at historical tweets for ideas and advice. It is also used to keep you abreast of events whilst we are on expeditions.

Yours sincerely

Miss P Wilson

D of E Manager

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