

15th November 2016

Dear Parent/Guardian

Duke of Edinburgh's Award – Year 9 Bronze 2016/17

I am delighted to inform you that The Kings of Wessex Academy has a dedicated Co-ordinator especially for the Duke of Edinburgh Award. My role is to support students in all sections of their DofE journey. I will be monitoring students' progress throughout their award and will be available to support students in finding suitable evidence for each section of the award.

The Academy is delighted to be able to offer Year 9 students the opportunity to enrol on the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, Bronze this term. This award has four elements to it; Volunteering, Physical, Skills and Expedition.

Students who decide they would like to take part in the award will develop team skills and gain experience of working with others, developing their practical skills and physical stamina. The qualification may lead onto participation in the Silver award in Year 11.

I would like to invite you to a Parents' Evening on Tuesday 29th November, to be held in the main hall at 6pm, where information will be shared regarding the award.

To support students working towards their Bronze Award specialist support and guidance will be available through a weekly optional drop-in session on Tuesday lunchtimes, this will ensure the following;

- Participants are registered to the scheme online and understand how to use their record books and upload their evidence files
- Participants have appropriate placements for the volunteer element
- Participants have identified an appropriate skill element
- Participants have appropriate evidence for the physical element
- Organise for participants to complete expedition training, a practice expedition and qualifier expeditions. This element of the Award will be delivered by a DofE Approved Activity Provider (see below)
- Support for Participants to plan their expedition routes once training has occurred

Participants complete the volunteering, skills and physical elements in their own time. They will upload their evidence on to an eDofE profile to show completion of each section. Participants will need to identify suitable placements and assessors for each of these sections to complete all sections. This year, to ensure that students are committed to the award; only those students who have completed all sections of the award by 1st September 2017 will go forward to complete the expedition training September 2017, practice expedition October 2017 and ultimately the assessed expedition in Easter Holidays 2018.

The Expedition training and practice will take place in the autumn term of 2017 when students are in Year 10 and will be run by an AALA external provider. Somerset Adventures will provide all the support and training required for the entire Expedition section. Students will be required to attend all the training outlined below as well as the practice expedition weekend and the two day assessment expedition. The training and expedition days are for The Kings of Wessex students only. I will be present for a day at the training, practice and assessed expeditions.

Once students are signed up and have completed all sections of their DofE journey, parents will be informed of training and expedition dates by the end of Year 9.

These dates will outline the following;

Briefing for parents/guardians

Expedition Section Parents evening

Training Days

Practice Expedition

Assessment Expedition

The total cost of the Bronze Award will be **£185**.

This includes:

- Registration on the Award Scheme and creation of online eDofE profile
- Bronze participant pack and booklet
- Expedition training, practice and assessment
- Use of all group camping equipment, stoves, maps, compasses and all campsite fees
- Weekly drop-in support sessions with a qualified DofE trainer and expedition leader.

Participants will need to provide their own personal clothing, footwear, rucksack and sleeping bag for undertaking a walking expedition in the hills. Detailed kit lists will be issued at the first training session.

If you would like your child to participate in the award, we ask that you return the full amount for the registration fee on to the Scheme, amount of £25.00 to the main office by Thursday 2nd February 2017. All cheques should be made payable to **The Kings of Wessex Academy**, or alternatively, you can now pay online by logging onto the Academy website. Simply click onto the parents' link and select 'Internet Payments' from the menu. Payments must be accompanied with the parental consent form below, along with the attached DofE Enrolment form. The remaining £160.00 will need to be paid by the end of the Summer Term.

As with all Academy trips students will be expected to uphold the reputation of the Academy therefore impeccable behaviour is expected at all times throughout the course. Students are also expected to demonstrate excellent behaviour in Academy. Failure to do this could result in losing their place.

Absence following a school activity (for example: tiredness due to a late return, or sore feet following an extensive day walking) will not be authorised unless medical certification is provided. Without this evidence, students may not be allowed to attend further Academy enrichment activities.

Yours sincerely,

Esther Bryans

Duke of Edinburgh's Award Coordinator

ebryans@kovessex.co.uk

PARENTAL CONSENT FORM

The Kings of Wessex Academy, Cheddar

Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award Training and Assessment

As parent/guardian of _____ Tutor Group _____

I have read, fully understood and am satisfied with the details supplied about the above mentioned activity and agree to my son/daughter taking part in it.

I acknowledge that my son/daughter needs to complete all sections of the DofE award before he/she will be allowed to move forward with undertaking the expedition training.

I give my permission to be contacted by email in connection with Duke of Edinburgh. My email address is

I have read, fully understood and am satisfied with the details supplied about the above-mentioned activity and agree to my son/daughter taking part in it. I know of no medical reason why he/she should not participate. I am aware that

- a) Except for visits abroad, insurance arrangements are the same as those for pupils in the Academy, i.e. only provides cover if negligence is proven or accepted by the Academy and/or its employees.
- b) I should consider making my own insurance arrangements for personal accident cover for my son/daughter for Academy activities in the UK
- c) If a medical condition is diagnosed after final payment parents may choose to withdraw their child. Equally if the Academy feel they cannot accommodate the student within the pre-existing arrangement for the trip, the Academy reserve the right to withdraw the student place.

Signed _____ Date _____