

October 2017

Dear Parent / Guardian

### **Duke of Edinburgh's Award – Year 9 Bronze 2017/18**

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 7<sup>th</sup> November to be held in the Main School Hall at 6pm, when 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 lunchtime; 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 started all sections of the award and entered this information on their eDofE account by 1<sup>st</sup> May 2018 will go forward to complete the expedition training on 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> May 2018. All sections of their award will need to be completed before a place on the assessed expedition 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> June 2018 will be guaranteed.

The expedition training, practice and assessed sections will be completed at the end of Year 9 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.

The expedition dates are as follows;

**Briefing for parents/guardians** - 7<sup>th</sup> November 2017, 6pm School hall

**Expedition Section Parents evening** – March 2018.

**Training Days** – 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> May 2018, in school.

**Practice Expedition** – 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> June 2018, East Harptree.

**Assessment Expedition** – 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> June 2018, Exmoor.

The total cost of the Bronze Award will be **£ 190**.

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. The county run a 'loan' scheme for most personal items. Details can be found at the following website; [www.somerset-youth.co.uk/club/youth\\_equipment\\_store/167](http://www.somerset-youth.co.uk/club/youth_equipment_store/167)

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 of £25.00 and a deposit towards the Expedition amount of £75.00 (total £100.00) to the Main Office by 30<sup>th</sup> November 2017, along with the attached enrolment form. 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 D of E Enrolment form. The remaining monies will need to be paid by the end of the Spring Term.

As with all Academy trips students will be expected to uphold the reputation of the Academy, therefore exceptional behaviour is expected at all times throughout the day and in the lead up to the trip. Failure to do this could result in students losing both their place and any payments made to date. Poor absence in the run up to an enrichment activity may result in the place being withdrawn and loss of all payments to date. This decision would be made at the discretion of the Academy. 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@kowessex.co.uk](mailto:ebryans@kowessex.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 \_\_\_\_\_