



PEH/JBR/9th May 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

### Duke of Edinburgh Award - Bronze

It is the time of year when Year 9 students are invited to sign up to join the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award (D of E) run by the school – your son will have heard about the programme in assembly last week. Participants must be 14 years to start the programme, though we will permit individuals who are 13½ to start.

The D of E is an internationally run scheme to allow young people the chance to develop themselves through non-competitive, voluntary and progressive activities at three different levels – Bronze, Silver and Gold. Each level has four sections:

- **Volunteering:** undertaking service to individuals or the community
- **Physical:** improving in an area of sport, dance or fitness activities
- **Skills:** developing practical and social skills and personal interests
- **Expedition:** planning, training for and completion of an adventurous journey

At Bronze level, two of the sections are undertaken for three months and one must be undertaken for a six month period. Your son should arrange these activities himself and they should be undertaken out of school curriculum time. This involves quite a bit of time and dedication on the individual's part! Details of suitable activities for each of the sections can be found at [www.DofE.org](http://www.DofE.org). The minimum age that the programme may be completed is 14½ years.

### The Expeditions

The expedition section is the main area where the school assists with training and support. Your son will be expected to attend after school training sessions during the summer term in order to meet the training requirements to go on the practice expedition. Attendance will be monitored. The dates for the after school training sessions will be published shortly.

- To be able to participate in the practice expedition your son will have to complete at least one section in full and have filled it in on the *edofe* before *September 1st 2019*.
- To be able to complete the assessed expedition, your son will have had to complete all sections of the DofE and placed it on the *edofe* on or before the summer term 2020.

Having completed the training, your son will then need to complete a practice and a qualifying expedition, each lasting 2 days with an overnight camp. During these expeditions the boys will develop their navigation and camp craft skills to a standard where they are self-sufficient. Participants will be in small teams of 4-6 students.

Initially teams will receive some further training as they walk with leaders but then they will operate under 'remote supervision'. This is when their progress is monitored at check points on the route and in the campsite by leaders but for the main part of the journey, the teams are walking by themselves. Participants will not be permitted to use mobile phones for the duration of the venture, although they will have emergency contact details. The independent nature of the experience means that boys will be expected to conduct themselves in a responsible manner, showing excellent behaviour and attitude throughout.



There is a training program which the students have been involved with during Citizenship. There will also be further sessions as required, which all students are expected to attend. The dates will be confirmed at the first meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2019, 3.40 in the Pavilion. All students who have enrolled are expected to attend

The dates for the expeditions are as follows:

<b>Practice Expedition 1</b>	4/5 October 2019
<b>Qualifying Expedition 1</b>	25/26 April 2020
<b>Practice Expedition 2</b>	12/13 June 2020
<b>Qualifying Expedition 2</b>	<b>12/13</b> September 2020 TBC

### **Enrolment**

If you would like your son to enroll on Bronze D of E, please complete and return the enrolment form for the attention of Mrs Rogers in the Finance office and make a payment of £85 using the school's electronic payment system, sQuid, by **Friday 24th May 2019**. There are some questions that you will be required to answer during the checkout process when completing the payment on sQuid.

1. Select the item on sQuid and add it to your basket.
2. Click on your basket.
3. Click 'checkout' at this point you will need to enter the required details before the system will allow you to finalise payment.

Should you experience any difficulties with sQuid, please email the Finance department at [financeoffice@saintolaves.net](mailto:financeoffice@saintolaves.net) and they will assist with your query.

This cost covers

- Cost of enrolment to D of E and a user profile on the online *eDofE* records system
- Expedition costs for the Practice Expedition in September
- School trip insurance and a contribution towards the administration of the Award

Please do not hesitate to contact me on [pholla@saintolaves.net](mailto:pholla@saintolaves.net) if you have any questions.

Yours faithfully

P E Holland  
DofE School Manager