



September 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Re: Duke of Edinburgh – Bronze Award

I am pleased that your daughter has expressed an interest in taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. The award is a challenging programme of activities which help the individual learn new skills, help others and experience adventure. It will give your child a great sense of achievement. Many organisations, such as employers and universities, take a positive view of the Award and what it says about the person who has achieved it.

The Bronze DofE programme requires completion of 4 sections: Volunteering, Physical, Skills and Expedition. You must do a minimum of 3 months activity for each of the Volunteering, Physical and Skills sections and undertake a further 3 months for one of the three sections. These three sections should be organised and completed independently. We will provide guidance for each section.

The Expedition section involves planning, training for and doing a 2 day (1 night) expedition. For the Bronze Award there should be at least 6 hours of planned activity each day, at least 3 hours of which must be spent walking, although participants should expect to walk for longer than this. Participants will be in groups of 4-7 and will need to be self-reliant throughout the two days. This includes carrying all their own equipment, pitching their own tents and preparing their own meals. The purpose of the award is to promote independence and self-reliance: this means during the day time they are not under adult supervision although there will be regular check-ins with staff. During the overnight camp they will be accompanied. **These expeditions will run on the weekends of Friday 10th May – Saturday 11th May and Friday 7th June – Saturday 8th June. It is compulsory that your daughter attends both of these weekends to complete the award.**

Completion of the award will require regular attendance to DofE training sessions and these will be held after school on a Monday between 3.30pm and 4.30pm.

The cost of the Bronze award is £191. This is made up of; enrolment fees to DofE (£21) and payment to Ben Bullen Adventures who run the expeditions and training sessions (£170). There will also be a £20 refundable deposit required for equipment borrowed from school. This will be refunded when equipment is returned in good condition. All payments will need to be made via ParentPay and you will receive a Parentpay letter once your daughter has been accepted on to the award.

Students will need to make their own travel arrangements to get to the two weekend activities. These will be based in Dorking and East Grinstead, and students will meet and be dismissed from Dorking and East Grinstead train stations. Food for the weekend expeditions will also need to be purchased and will be organised and bought by each team. Group equipment will be loaned to students and this includes tents, stoves, gas and rucksacks.

If your child receives a free school meal or has done in the last 6 years you will only be required to pay £55 towards the cost of the programme plus the £20 refundable deposit. If this does not apply to you but you wish to apply for a financial hardship grant, please speak to me directly.



SYDENHAM SCHOOL

Specialist Science and Mathematics School



High
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Learning

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At present, due to limited resources, we are only able to offer 48 places for the Bronze Award. One third of the places have been reserved for targeted and Pupil Premium students, the remaining places will be available for any student to apply for. The application criteria for these places is detailed below and places will be allocated on the merit of the application. If we receive more strong applications than places, places will be allocated by a random ballot and a waiting list will be kept. The deadline for the applications is **3.30pm on Friday 28th September**. Any handed in after this time will not be accepted.

All students will receive a letter outlining whether they have been accepted onto the award or not via letters from their tutor the following week and those students who have been successful will be announced in assembly that week.

For more information on the requirements for the award please visit the following website
<http://www.dofe.org/>

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me. My email address is
a.bown@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk

Kind regards,

Miss A Bown
DofE Coordinator

Weak Application	Middling Application	Strong Application
The application shows a lack of understanding of the DofE program, and there is little or no evidence of independent research. There is limited consideration of the impact of the DofE program on their future life. Details about each activity are too brief or inappropriate.	The application shows the student has begun to understand the DofE program with some evidence of independent research. They have begun to consider the benefits of the DofE program on their future life and ambitions. They have shown some consideration for the demands of the program and how they will complete each section.	The application shows the student has an astute understanding of the DofE program, which is clearly supported by independent research. They have fully considered the benefits of the DofE program for their long-term future work and life. They have fully completed an overview of how they will carry out activities in each of the three sections, which are well thought through and achievable, with some insightful and innovative ideas.

Y9 DofE Application Form

Name:

Tutor Group:

A good application will be one that is well researched and shows that you are passionate about participating in and completing the DofE award. You will have established a clear idea of what you will do for the three sections – you will need to look on the DofE website to ascertain what is suitable for each section and have an idea on where/how you will complete these sections

You must *handwrite* your answers in the spaces provided below.

1. What do you think Duke of Edinburgh involves?

2. What do you want to gain from doing the Bronze Award?

3. Look at the website (www.dofe.org) and see what is involved for the volunteering, physical and skill section. Write down your ideas of what you could do and where you would do them. *All 3 sections must be done for 1 hour a week, 2 sections for 3 months and 1 section for 6 months.*

Section	No. of months	What will you do?	Where will you do it?
Volunteering			
Physical			
Skills			