



8 October 2018

Dear Parent or Carer

Re: Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award

Your son or daughter is now eligible to sign up for the opportunity to complete the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award at St. Martin's School. If the award is over-subscribed, then places will be drawn by lot. Students will also be required to hand in an application form (no more than half a page) to Mr Bias outlining why they wish to partake in the award. This is to show their commitment to completing the award. An assembly outlining details on the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award took place on Thursday 27 September.

The Award has four sections: Physical, Skill, Volunteering, and Expedition. The Duke of Edinburgh Award requires each participant to partake in a physical, skill and voluntary activity for one hour each week for three months. The participant must then complete one of the physical, skill or voluntary activities for a further three months. The expeditions will take place over two weekends with dates shown below.

The DofE scheme is a non-competitive scheme that will give your son or daughter the skills, confidence and a view on life that everyone is looking for, from employers to colleges and universities. Your son or daughter may be doing many of these activities already and the DofE is a way of getting recognition for them. It will also help the students to make a difference to other people's lives and your community, be fitter and healthier, to make new friends, and have memories to last a lifetime. Lastly, it inherently enhances college, UCAS and job application forms. More information can be found on the extensive DofE website: <http://www.dofe.org/>

The cost of the Bronze Award is £206 per pupil. This money is required for your son or daughter to complete the award providing they receive a place following the application process.

Your son or daughter must hand in their letter of application to Mr Bias before October half term to be considered for the award. Confirmation of places will be finalised after half term and payment letters will be sent out to successful parents. Please note that the full amount for the course will need to be paid via Parentpay.

In order for your son or daughter's successful completion of the award they must attend a series of compulsory training sessions after school. Students must also complete two weekend expeditions as mentioned above. The dates for these are listed below:

- 14 November - Introduction/ expectations - Team building - St Martin's (S004) - 1.30pm - 3.00pm
- 21 November - First Aid Course - St Martin's (South Hall) - 3.30pm - 5.00pm
- 5 December - Countryside code and food Selection - St Martin's (S004) - 3.30pm - 5.00pm
- 13 December - Food and cooking – St Martin's (Food Tech) - 3.30pm - 5.00pm
- 16 January - Equipment/ kit-lists/ rucksack packing - St Martin's (S004) – 3.30pm - 5.00pm
- 23 January - Camp craft - St Martin's (Outdoor learning space) - 3.30pm - 5.00pm

- 13 February - Basic navigation/ route planning - St Martin's (S004) - 3.30pm - 5.00pm
- 20 March - Route planning (practice expedition) - St Martin's (S004) - 3.30pm - 5.00pm
- 3 April - Route planning (practice expedition) - St Martin's (S004) - 3.30pm - 5.00pm
- 9 May - Equipment distribution - St Martin's (S004) - 3.30pm - 4.30pm
- 11-12 May - Practice expedition (Skreens Park, Chelmsford) - 11 May 12:00 midday/ 12 May 3:00pm
- 5 June - Route planning (assessment) - St Martin's (S004) - 3.30pm - 5.00pm
- 12 June - Route planning (assessment) - St Martin's (S004) - 3.30pm - 5.00pm
- 15 -16 June - Assessment expedition (Danbury) - 15 June 11:00am/ 16 June 3:00 pm

Failure to attend any of the sessions above will result in your son or daughter being unable to complete the award. The training sessions and route planning will be carried out in school. Transport to and from the expeditions is **NOT** provided and must be arranged outside of school.

The practice expedition will be carried out at Skreens Park campsite, Chelmsford, and the assessment expedition will take place at Danbury Outdoors, Danbury. More details regarding the expeditions will be provided at a later date.

If you have any further questions or concerns then please do not hesitate to contact me via: rbias@st-martins.essex.sch.uk

Yours sincerely

Mr R.Bias
Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award Co-ordinator