



8 November 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

Re: Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award

Your son or daughter is now eligible to sign up for the opportunity to complete the Duke of Edinburgh's (DofE) Bronze Award at St. Martin's School. If the award is over-subscribed, then places will be randomly allocated. To demonstrate their commitment to completing the award, students are required to hand in an application form (of no more than half a page) to Mr Bias outlining why they wish to partake. An assembly outlining details of the DofE Bronze Award will take place on Tuesday 12 November.

The award has four sections: Physical, Skill, Volunteering, and Expedition. The DofE Award requires each participant to partake in a physical, skill and voluntary activity for one hour each week for three months. The participant must select one of these activities to continue 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 them to make a difference to other people's lives and your community, be fitter and healthier, to make new friends, and generate 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/>

Your son or daughter must hand in their letter of application to Mr Bias by Friday 15 November to be considered. The cost of the Bronze Award is £175 and if successful, your son or daughter's place will be confirmed and the full cost will then 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 as well as two weekend expeditions as mentioned above. The dates for these are:

20 November	3.30pm - 5pm	Introduction/expectations - First Aid (S003)
27 November	3.30pm - 5pm	Meet with the area co-ordinator/eDofE sign up (South Hall)
4 December	3.30pm - 5pm	Countryside Code and food selection (S003)
12 December	3.30pm - 5pm	Food and cooking (Food Tech)
16 January	3.30pm - 5pm	Equipment/kit lists/rucksack packing (S003)
23 January	3.30pm - 5pm	Camp craft (outdoor learning space)

30 January	3.30pm - 5pm	eDofE sections update (S003)
13 February	3.30pm - 5pm	Basic navigation/route planning (S003)
27 February	3.30pm - 5pm	Route planning, practice expedition (S003)
12 March	3.30pm - 5pm	Pacing and eDofE Sections Update (S003)
19 March	3.30pm - 5pm	Route planning, practice expedition (S003)
25 March	3.30pm - 5pm	Route planning, practice expedition (S003)
7 May	3.30pm - 5pm	Final preparations for practice expedition (S003)
14 May	3.30pm - 4.30pm	Equipment distribution (S003)
16 May (12pm) - 17 May (3pm)		Practice expedition (Danbury Outdoors, Danbury)
19 May	3.30pm - 4.30pm	De-brief and equipment return (S003)
3 June	3.30pm - 5pm	Route planning, assessment expedition (S003)
10 -11 June	3.30pm - 5pm	Route planning, assessment expedition (S003)
13 June (11am) - 14 June (3pm)		Assessment expedition (Skreens Park, Chelmsford)
16 June	3.30pm - 4.30pm	De-brief and equipment return (S003)
25 June		Expedition purpose presentations

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 Danbury Outdoors, Danbury, and the assessment expedition will take place at Skreens Park campsite, Chelmsford. 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