

Dear Parents and Carers,

**Re: Duke of Edinburgh's Award Bronze Programme – Expedition and Unsupervised Activities**

As part of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) Bronze Award, participants will soon be undertaking a range of activities designed to develop their independence, resilience, teamwork, and leadership skills.

One of the key elements of the Bronze Award is the **expedition section**, during which participants will plan, train for, and complete a two-day expedition, this will be split over 2 separate days, and full information will be shared prior to this starting. Throughout the expedition and practise walks young people will navigate their route, carry their own equipment, prepare meals, and work together as a team.

During the fitness section (next half term) staff will be supervising young people. During the expedition itself, trained staff and assessors will monitor the group remotely and be available in the event of an emergency, participants are expected to travel and make decisions independently within their teams. This supervised independence is a fundamental aspect of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award and provides valuable opportunities for personal growth and confidence-building.

In addition to the expedition, some sections of the Bronze Award may involve unsupervised activities. These activities are carefully planned and risk assessed, with clear expectations communicated to all participants. Unsupervised activities are intended to encourage responsibility, initiative, and self-management while allowing young people to demonstrate the skills they have developed throughout the programme.

The safety and wellbeing of all participants remain our highest priority. Prior to any expedition or unsupervised activity, participants will receive appropriate training covering navigation, safety procedures, emergency contacts, behaviour expectations, and risk management. Staff will ensure that all activities comply with Duke of Edinburgh's Award guidance and our organisation's safeguarding procedures.

We recognise that allowing young people to undertake activities independently can feel daunting; however, it is an essential and highly rewarding part of the DofE experience. Many participants report increased confidence, improved problem-solving skills, and a greater sense of responsibility following their involvement in the programme.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding the expedition, supervision arrangements, or any aspect of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, please do not hesitate to contact us. We are happy to discuss the programme in more detail and provide further information.

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to seeing our participants rise to the challenge and gain the many benefits that the Duke of Edinburgh's Award offers.

Kind Regards

*James Brown*

James Brown

**Head Teacher**

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