



Dear Parent/Guardian

Your son/ward has expressed an interest in participating in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award at Bronze level, starting from September 2018. The purpose of this letter is to explain the commitment that he will be taking on. It is also worth visiting the Duke of Edinburgh's Award website www.dofe.org where you will find a wealth of information including suggestions for activities for each section.

Sections of the Award

To achieve their Bronze Award, all candidates must complete four sections:

1) **Skill**

For example playing a musical instrument, learning a craft, cookery, website design.

2) **Volunteering.**

This can encompass activities such as environmental committee, helping younger children in games sessions, walking dogs in a rescue centre or any charity work.

3) **Physical Recreation**

This must be above and beyond their regular Tuesday/Thursday games sessions but can include extra training sessions for first teams, for example. Alternatively, it could be an entirely separate sport.

All of the above must be sustained for a minimum of 3 months, with one section for 6 months, with a regular commitment averaging one hour per week.

It will be each boy's own responsibility to find and complete suitable activities for the above sections but the school will provide some guidance about suitable activities that can be completed within school. There are many opportunities in school but boys are free to find opportunities in their local community. Each section can be started and finished at any time during the Remove year. Candidates who wish to proceed to the Silver Award in the Fifth Form will be required to have completed Bronze by the beginning of September 2019.

4) **Expedition.** Candidates are trained for and assessed on their ability to plan and undertake an independent two day, one night expedition in a group of four to seven students. Boys choose

their own groups and they need to have decided on this by October half term. We advise groups of no less than five, in case one student has to drop out.

There will be a compulsory practice expedition (2 days, 1 night camping) that will take place at the end of the Easter Holidays, over the Easter bank holiday weekend. The groups will either go on **Friday 19th- Saturday 20th April 2019 or Monday 22th – Tuesday 23rd April 2019.**

Please note that all Practice Expedition groups involving boarders based abroad will be on the second practice expedition. As term starts on Wednesday 24th April, this will enable boarders to go straight from the expedition to their boarding houses on Tuesday 23rd. We will provide a safe place in school for boarders to leave their belongings during the expedition. **Please bear these expedition dates in mind when booking flights back to school for the Summer Term.**

The Assessed Expedition will take place in the second half of the Summer term and the groups will either go on **Sunday 16th- Monday 17th June 2019 or Sunday 23th- Monday 24th June 2019.**

We will be holding one training session in the Autumn Term for boys to sign up to the eDofE system, followed by drop in sessions as required. **It is essential that all boys attend a training day on Sunday 3rd of February** to train boys in First Aid, navigation, putting up tents, using Trangia stoves. This will be the main training for his expedition. A schedule will be sent out at the start of the next academic year, confirming the sessions to be attended.

Costs Involved

Candidates will be enrolled on www.eDofE.org. This gives them their own eDofE account which replaces the old record books. Candidates update their progress through each section of the award and can upload photographs, documents etc as they go along.

The cost of the registration and the expeditions (both practice and assessed) will be £50. This can either be paid by cheque or be Blue Billed. This will be payable in September either by cheque or can be Blue Billed.

It will be necessary, however, to buy some specialist items of kit for the expeditions. A Kit list will be emailed to you in the Autumn Term. It is essential that boys have their own walking boots, waterproof jackets, sleeping bags and sleeping mats and it is highly desirable for boys to have their own tents. I can lend boys other pieces of kit including rucksacks if they do not have these already. We will provide Trangia stoves to all groups during the Practice and Assessed Expeditions.

Time Commitment

The boys must attend the training day (3rd of February) so that they are fully prepared for the expeditions. In the Spring Term and the Summer Term we will be running Route Planning sessions at lunchtime during which the boys will devise routes for their practice and assessed expeditions. We will run two lunchtime sessions and the boys will be expected to attend one of these, preferably in their expedition groups. These are likely to take place on Thursday and Friday lunchtimes.

If you are happy for your son/ward to participate in the programme as outlined above, please fill in the application and payment forms and return it to me via the Bellroom by the end of term.

If you have any questions about the above, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone or email.

Yours faithfully

Mr Phillip Whatling

i/c of Bronze DofE Expeditions

pwhatling@bedfordschool.org.uk

Please return this sheet to Mr Whatling in L3 or via the Bell Room

To be completed by parent/guardian:

Name of student

Is your son a foreign-based boarder? YES/NO (delete as applicable)

If YES, please note that your son's Practice Expedition will take place on **Monday 22nd-Tuesday 23rd April**. This is during the Easter holidays so your son will need to arrive back to Bedford early for 9am on Monday morning. Please can you ensure that flights are arranged accordingly?

I have read the attached letter and I am happy for my son to enrol in The Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

Signed..... Date.....

Parent's Email address.....

Payment Options (please circle your preferred option):

I enclose a cheque for the £50 (Cheques made payable to *The Harpur Trust*)

OR

I wish to be blue-billed for £50 for Bronze Duke of Edinburgh

BEDFORD SCHOOL BOOKING FORM

Name of package tour, visit or trip: Bronze DofE Practice Expedition 19th- 20th April 2019 or 22th –23rd April 2019 and Bronze DofE Assessed Expedition 16th- 17th June 2019 or 23th- Monday 24th 2019.

I/we have read the School’s booklet – *School Visits and Tours Including Package Tours – Part 2 – Information for Parents* (available through Firefly:

<http://elearning.bedfordschool.org.uk/uspersonaldevelopment/clubs-and-societies-1/wider-interests>)

and I/we understand that this, together with the specific information provided by the organiser about the above package, forms the basis of the contract between Bedford School and the parents/guardians of:

Pupil’s Name:

(Please enter the full name of your son)

Nationality: Date of Birth:

Parent’s/Guardian’s Name and Address:

.....

Post Code:

Daytime Telephone Number:

Evening Telephone Number:

Mobile Numbers:

Alternative contact names and telephone numbers:

.....

DECLARATION

I/we and my/our son agree he will abide by the Code of Conduct and we accept the rules, regulations, terms and conditions set out by Bedford School and any external organiser or agency involved for the package/trip.

I/we agree that he may take part in any of the activities which form part of the package/trip and that he will follow the instructions of members of staff or other adult supervisors and instructors.

I/we will inform the organiser as soon as possible of any changes in the medical circumstances of my son/ward between now and the commencement of the journey.

I/we also agree to my son/ward receiving medication, emergency dental, medical or surgical treatment including anaesthetic, operation or blood transfusion as considered necessary by the organiser or senior member of staff present.

Signed: Date:

(Parent/Guardian)

Name:

(In capitals)

When completed please return these forms to Mr Whatling.