

4th July 2018

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Bronze Duke of Edinburgh 2018/2019

Following on from a recent assembly on the benefits of the Duke of Edinburgh scheme a number of Year 9 students have expressed an interest in starting their Bronze award in September. There will be a meeting on Wednesday 11th July from 16.00-16.30 in Pascal Hall. The meeting is aimed at students, however, parents are also welcome to attend if you would like more information.

The Bronze award includes 4 sections that need to be completed; these are volunteering, skills, physical and the expedition. The volunteering, skills and physical sections require you to commit to 1 hour per week over a period of 3 months, one of these sections must then be completed for an additional 3 months. Whilst the activities that can be completed under these categories are very varied students must look at what is realistic in terms of cost as this must be covered in addition to the sign up and expedition costs. There are a number of sports clubs and additional activities that can be completed in school that can count towards these sections that are free of charge.

The expedition part of the award will involve a training day and two weekends away (Saturday/Sunday). Training is focused on camp craft skills, map reading and first aid. The two weekends away are for the practice expedition and final qualifying expeditions. The provisional dates for this training and weekends are detailed below.

As we are using an external company to run the expedition phase of the Duke of Edinburgh there is a cost involved to cover this section of the award of £205. This includes the sign up cost charged to us by the county, campsite fees, staffing and training materials. Additional costs that need to be considered are that students will need to be transported to the start/end point of their training and expedition weekends, and will need to purchase suitable walking/camping equipment. We do have a stock pile of equipment in school that will be available including tents and stoves (provided free of charge) but these are given out on a request basis. Food for the expeditions will need to be provided and carried by students.

Provisional dates for the three expedition weekends are:

Training (this will be in school)

Dates: Saturday 23rd March 2019

Venue: School (Aristotle/School field)

Practice Expedition

Dates: Saturday 4th- Sunday 5th May 2019 (this is the bank holiday weekend)

Location: Greenpark activity centre, Aston Clinton with camping at Town Farm in Ivinghoe

Qualifying Expedition

Dates: Saturday 8th - Sunday 9th June 2019

Location: Greenpark activity centre, Aston Clinton with camping at Braids Wood in Chesham

Payments will need to be made online using the School Gateway website (see details attached), with the first payment due by Friday 14th September.

The payment schedule would be as follows:

- £55 initial deposit payment (due by Friday 14th September)
- £75 due by Friday 26th October 2018
- £75 due by Friday 30th November 2018

If you are registered or have previously been registered for free school meals please contact Mrs Blackburn, on 01727 731322 as there is funding available of £50 for those students.

Although I do want the award to be available to all students, if the number of students exceeds the number we are able to take on the expeditions, students will be put forward for the expedition on a first come first served basis. **In addition to the online payment, the attached Student Enrolment Form must also be completed and returned to the Main Office before Friday 14th September (email, scan or paper copy to s.blackburn@marlborough.sch.uk).**

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions regarding the award itself or concerns about the cost.

Kind Regards,

Miss S Wainwright
Duke of Edinburgh Co-ordinator

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How to pay online:

Log on to: www.schoolgateway.com

Select: Make a Payment

Select: Bronze Duke of Edinburgh 2019

If you would like information on how to access the School Gateway system then please contact the School Office on 01727 856874.