



Principal: Mr R. J. King, MEd

Dear Families,

The Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award

You are receiving this letter as your child has expressed an interest in taking part in the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award at St Bede's. In year 9 students have the opportunity to undertake this award as an extracurricular activity. Last year we had about 90 year 9 students take part. This letter outlines how to sign up to participate.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award (DofE) is non-competitive and open to all young people – it is about setting personal challenges and pushing personal boundaries. More information can be found at www.dofe.org/do.

Students will need to undertake a Skill, Physical Activity, Volunteering and Expedition as part of the Award. The timescales for these activities are outlined below. These do not need to be new to the student and can be something that they are already doing and plan to continue to do (e.g. music lessons or sport clubs). They can all be undertaken simultaneously and will need to fit around their College studies. Students will not be allowed to participate in the expeditions until 2 of these sections are complete.

- Volunteering, physical and skill sections: 3 months
- Students choose one of the above sections to complete for a further 3 months
- Expedition section: 2 days/1 nights (+ training day hike)

For the students to participate in the award they need to be able to attend **6 after school** training sessions. This will take place approximately once a month. I will let you know the exact dates shortly once I have a clearer idea of the final numbers. There will also be a training day hike in term 4 and the final expedition which will take place during enrichment week (July 2024). If necessary additional lunchtime training will be provided to further support participants.

Behaviour:

The different sections of the Award often require that students interact with members of the public and during the expedition, the team of students will be walking independently between staffed checkpoints. There is therefore an extremely high expectation on how the students behave. This will mean that any students who have not maintained a high standard of behaviour throughout the year will not be able to take part in the expedition.

Finances:

The cost of participating in the award comes to £95. This includes registration for the DofE Award (£25.50); a day hike and the 2-day assessed expedition along with a DofE assessor. As a college, we will provide group kit for the students such as tents, stoves, compasses, maps and first aid kits. We have tried to keep the cost to as little as possible whilst still providing a high-quality experience to the students. For the students to take part in the expedition we will need to have received the full payment.

Once all application forms have been collated, I will contact all participating students' families with details of how and when to pay. There will be the option to pay in three instalments including an initial non-refundable deposit of £30. There is financial support available that we can apply for and the questions on the registration form will help identify relevant students.

If your child would like to sign up for the award I need 2 forms. The deadline for both forms is Friday 13th October.

1. **The first is an online Google Form which can be found [here](#). This needs to be completed by you, the adult.**
2. **The second is a draft program planner that is attached and was handed out at the student interest meeting on Thursday 5th October at lunchtime and must be returned to me or to the office.**



Filling in the draft programme planner:

This is a first draft so it can be changed, and I do not expect all details (such as assessor information) to be known right away. I am looking to see that each student has an idea of what they would like to do for all three sections. To help students fill out the programme planner there are downloadable lists of section ideas on our website (homepage - college life - Duke of Edinburgh).

The Duke of Edinburgh Award is a wonderful experience for our young people to take part in and provides opportunities to try out new things and overcome challenges. I look forward to welcoming them to the Bronze Award.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M Silver". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M'.

Mr M Silver (silverm@stbcc.org)
Duke of Edinburgh Award Manager