



29 April 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Duke of Edinburgh's Award - Bronze (Year 9)

As a school, we have been running the *Duke of Edinburgh's Award* scheme for many years, as we believe it allows students to achieve an award that is both nationally and internationally recognised, and where students will gain new skills, confidence and help support their local community. Year 9 students have already participated in a DofE training programme during their weekly Citizenship lessons in school. The Award has 3 levels: Bronze, Silver and Gold, allowing students to develop themselves through non-competitive, voluntary and progressive activities.

The **Bronze** Award (which is suitable for Year 9) has four sections which students undertake for a period of time in order to achieve the full award:

- **Expedition:** planning, training for and completing a self-reliant expedition with an agreed aim
- **Physical:** participating in any sport, dance or fitness act and showing personal improvement
- **Skills:** broadening understanding and increasing expertise in a chosen skill
- **Volunteering:** undertaking service to help people, the community/society, the environment or animals

NB: Whilst Covid-19 limitations continue, it is possible for students to gain a '*Certificate of Achievement*' by completing the Physical, Skills and Volunteering sections only (if they are not able to complete the Expedition section).

At Bronze level, two of the sections are undertaken for three months and one must be undertaken for a six month period. Your son should arrange these activities himself and this should be out of school curriculum time. This involves quite a bit of time and dedication on the individual's part! Details of suitable activities for each of the sections can be found at <https://www.dofe.org/>. The minimum age that the programme may be completed is 14½ years.

The Expedition - for full award completion

The Expedition section is the main area where the school assists with training and support. Your son will be expected to attend after school training sessions (either in school or online) and complete some online learning modules. Attendance will be monitored. The dates for the training sessions and module completion will be published after enrolment.

Having completed the school training program, your son will then need to complete the qualifying two day expedition with an overnight camp, assuming it is safe to do so. In the event that overnight camping is not possible due to Covid-19 restrictions, students will return home at the end of Day 1 to sleep, before returning to a designated point the following morning to continue walking on Day 2.

During these expeditions, the boys will develop their navigation and camp craft skills to a standard where they are self-sufficient. Students will work together in small teams of between 4 to 6 students. Initially, teams will receive some guidance as they walk, with staff leaders close by. We will then move to 'remote supervision' by monitoring teams using a tracker and check points on route. Participants will



not be permitted to use mobile phones for the duration of the venture but will carry one within the team (in a sealed bag) for emergency use only. The independent nature of the experience means that boys will be expected to conduct themselves in a responsible manner, showing excellent behaviour and attitude throughout. Provisional dates for the practice and assessed expeditions will be circulated in due course.

Enrolment

If you would like your son to enrol on **Bronze DofE Achievement Award**, please:

- Complete and return the "Participant Enrolment Form" which can be found here: <https://www.saintolaves.net/138/bronze-award>
- Make a payment of **£23** via sQuid for "eDofE sign up for the Achievement Award" – this payment is non-refundable as we pass this cost directly to eDofE

If you would like your son to enrol on **Bronze DofE Full Award**, please:

- Complete and return the "Participant Enrolment Form" which can be found here: <https://www.saintolaves.net/138/bronze-award>
- Make a payment of **£23** via sQuid for "eDofE sign up for the Full Award" – this payment is non-refundable as we pass this cost directly to eDofE
- There will be a further instalment due of £47 (date to be confirmed) to cover the cost of the Expedition section, bringing the total cost of the Award to £70*. However, if Covid-19 restrictions are eased and we are permitted to camp overnight, this further instalment will increase to £90 to cover the cost of the camping, bringing the total cost of the Award to £113*

* The payment covers:

- Cost of enrolment with eDofE and a user profile on the eDofE (online) records system
- Expedition costs for the Practice and Qualifying Expeditions
- Loan of school equipment i.e. tents, Trangias, gas, maps, etc.
- School trip insurance and a contribution towards the administration of the Award

Please do not hesitate to contact me on pholla@saintolaves.net if you have any questions.

Yours faithfully

P E Holland
DofE School Manager