

TON/TDY

March 2018

Dear Parent/Guardian

Re: Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme – Bronze Award

I am writing to you regarding the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme which your child has now signed up to.

E DofE

I am pleased to inform you that most students have logged onto the E DofE system and have now registered their Volunteering, Skills and Physical sections. As you should be aware these sections require the students to participate in them for a period of 1 hour per week, two sections for 3 months and the third for 6 months. If for whatever reason they cannot attend or it is cancelled due to school closure for example, then they will just need to extend the time period (i.e. 3 months and 2 weeks).

I know some students have found issues with their log-in details and I am working with Head Office to rectify this. There are also some students who haven't yet logged on or sorted out their sections. Please can you help me by reminding them to do this, as DofE isn't just about the expeditions. If they are having difficulties I am available every Tuesday Lunch in F8 as this is my allocated time for DofE.

Payment plan

Can I please remind you that the second payment should now have been paid? There are still many outstanding balances so, if you are still to pay, can you please arrange payment as soon as possible. With 200 students participating, chasing overdue payments can prove to be somewhat time consuming.

Apart from the enrolment fees of the Award, the other costs are for BXM who are the company who are supervising and running the expeditions. As a school, we have already given them the total numbers of participants and paid their fees upfront, therefore, if your child withdraws from the Award there will still be a fee to pay. We have created a payment plan to make the process more manageable as follows: -

£40:00 26 January 2018

£40:00 30 March 2018

£40:00 31 May 2018

Kit Requirements

Kit was explained during the training session at the school. During the next few weeks I will be running through this again with the boys in their groups. I have attached a kit list to this information letter which I hope you will find useful. Please remember tents and stoves are supplied by BXM. The big items which you will need to purchase are; **Rucksacks** – 55-65 litres, **Walking Boots** and an **Outdoor Sleeping Bag**.

Can I ask that the students make sure they have walked their boots in and they are comfortable? The last thing they need are large blisters on their feet, making the expedition more difficult. I must point out that if students turn up in trainers, they will not be allowed to do the expedition. Please also remember the expedition is only two days so they need to pack light. Don't forget students have a discount card in their packs and if they take their packs to an outdoor shop they can usually receive a discount.

Food

This will need to be planned in their expedition groups and in the next few weeks they should be coming up with their menus. Again, the first practice weekend will give them more of an idea – but again it's all about packing (light) – no glass jars and only one tin if you have to. Again I have attached an ideas sheet.

Meetings

These will be happening in the next few weeks and students need to listen out for registration announcements. I will also post on the E DofE system. Please make sure that the email address on the E DofE system is one that your child uses and regularly checks.

I hope you have found this information letter useful. If you require further information regarding any of the above, please contact me at school and I will endeavour to get back to you as soon as possible.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T O'Neill'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, circular initial 'T'.

Mrs T O'Neill
Duke of Edinburgh Coordinator