



Lt Col Nick David  
Director of Activities  
DofE Manager



Shrewsbury School

Shrewsbury School  
The Schools  
Shrewsbury  
SY3 7BA  
[www.shrewsbury.org.uk](http://www.shrewsbury.org.uk)

Telephone: 01743 280855 (Office)  
01743 280500 (Switchboard)  
E-mail: [npd@shrewsbury.org.uk](mailto:npd@shrewsbury.org.uk)

Dear Parents,

## Duke of Edinburgh's Award – Bronze

I write with some information about our Bronze programme – and would ask you to note some dates that relate to the expedition programme. We have an especially large year group in 2015, with much demand on our clothing stores. As such we are advising parents to purchase some expedition clothing. Early on next term your child should be in possession of a DofE discount card Cotswold Camping, which helps to the tune of 15%. For more on kit see **clothing and equipment** below.

As you may well know, we have now launched 'Bronze D of E' to the third form at Shrewsbury and I expect many of them to sign up to the award, which, in effect, gives your child the opportunity to take part and complete the Bronze Award over the next year or beyond. After that, we hope he/she might wish to go on to attempt Silver and Gold levels, both of which are available at Shrewsbury. For pupils who do not sign up then it is still possible to start by 'direct entry' at those higher levels later on.

If you are not familiar with DofE then some brief details are attached to this letter.

When names are finalized next term we publish all documents, group lists and kit/clothing lists on our website under: <http://www.shrewsbury.org.uk/page/bronze>

### **Outdoor Week (Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June to Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2015)**

In the summer term we run 'Outdoor Week' as the natural culmination of the Bronze programme. Outdoor Week takes the entire year group out of normal academic lessons and involves them in a varied and educational outdoor programme. For three days pupils will live under canvas in a 'base camp' in the Shropshire Hills during which they do the qualifying Bronze Expedition. For the other 3 days pupils undertake conservation work and attend bushcraft and team competition days but with the outdoors as the theme for the week. Note also that the Somme trip (organized by the history faculty) will be taking place from 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> June.) This group will undertake their expeditions during the earlier part of the week.

Dayboy parents in particular should note the Outdoor Week programme begins on a Sunday morning.

### **What if my son/daughter does not opt for Bronze?**

Those pupils will still attend Outdoor Week – and we have created a programme that we believe is of equal value. The pupils concerned will undertake a shortened expedition and an outdoor education programme based on self reliance, teamwork, leadership with some fun thrown in.

### **Practice Weekends**

Those who opt for DofE will be doing one of two Practice Expedition Weekends in the summer term.

Dayboy parents in particular should note which of the two he/she is doing – as he will be **away Saturday night and all of Sunday.** The two weekends are:

Group A – after games Sat 9<sup>th</sup> to pm Sun 10<sup>th</sup> May

Group B - after games Sat 16<sup>th</sup> to pm Sun 17<sup>th</sup> May

*(the particular weekend that your child attends will be determined by history trip/sports fixtures and will be published on the website nearer the time.)*

### **Charges**

We do charge a nominal sum of £50 to cover the extra costs of Outdoor Week – however, you should also be aware that we also charge £120 for those attempting Bronze to subsidise practice and qualifying expedition costs. These charges will appear on your lent term bill.

### **Clothing and Equipment**

We will supply all tentage, stoves, first aid, safety equipment but only have a limited stock of clothing items for loan. It is very helpful if pupils can provide their own gear (ie walking boots and two piece waterproofs) as this significantly reduces pressure on our stores.

The Expedition Packing list on our website at <http://www.shrewsbury.org.uk/page/expedition-kit-lists-and-conditions> and may help with birthday gift ideas between now and June!

Please note that for DofE participants there is a standard 15% DofE discount available at Cotswold Camping stores, of which there is one in Shrewsbury. However just mentioning DofE at some retailers sometimes leads to a discount!

With best wishes,

Nick David

2<sup>nd</sup> December 2014

### **CLOTHING ITEMS SUITABLE FOR EXPEDITIONS** *(ideally pupils have 2 piece waterproof and boots)*

Waterproof Jacket:

<http://www.sportsdirect.com/karrimor-orkney-jacket-ladies--446103?colcode=44610390> (or mens version)

<http://www.gooutdoors.co.uk/calderdale-jacket-p176285>

<http://www.gooutdoors.co.uk/craghoppers-reaction-lite-mens-waterproof-jacket-p289548>

Waterproof trousers:

<http://www.sportsdirect.com/karrimor-sierra-pants-infants-448066?colcode=44806603>

<http://www.sportsdirect.com/gelert-horizon-waterproof-trousers-junior-448035?colcode=44803503>

Boots - Go Outdoors has a huge range.

Torch:

<http://www.gooutdoors.co.uk/hi-gear-8-plus-2-led-mini-equipment-headlight-p143637>

## **THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD – BRONZE**

### **What is D of E?**

D of E is widely recognised as the premier personal development award by employers, universities and the general public.

To gain the award participants must:

- a) show progress in a nominated **sport** (any school sport will do)
- b) show progress in a nominated **skill** (eg debating, music, theatre, bee-keeping etc)
- c) plan and undertake a two day (overnight) **expedition** (on foot)
- d) complete a period of '**volunteering**' in the community (organise a charity event, do something for your house; community recycling etc)

A principle feature is self motivation – D of E is not an 'activity' in itself but it serves to accredit worthy undertakings (such as the 4 elements listed above) – and in this way it should provide an incentive for pupils to pursue many things that are already on offer at Shrewsbury. By no means all will gain the Award – those that do will have to show commitment and self reliance, but importantly, all are given the opportunity.

### **When are the expeditions?**

All pupils must undertake separate practice and qualifying expeditions. The latter takes place during Outdoor Week (Sunday 7th to Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2015.) All third formers, whether doing the award or not, will take part in Outdoor Week - a multi activity week– with expeditions undertaken with the beautiful Shropshire Hills as the venue.

All pupils will attend a practice/training weekend on the dates listed above.

### **How can parents help?**

Please try to have a chat with your child about D of E and what they plan to do. The principle of DofE is that we do not 'push' participants – only those with self motivation will complete it and thus it is up to them to keep it going and show initiative and forethought.

Tutors will assist and guide him through the award – but any support from you is most welcome.

Nick David  
December 2014