



Shrewsbury School

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Dear Parents,

Duke of Edinburgh's Award – Bronze

As you may well know, we have launched Bronze D of E to the Third Form at Shrewsbury and many of them have signed up, giving them the opportunity to complete the Bronze Award over this academic year and beyond.

During the second half of term they will receive their Record Books in which they can begin to record their progress through the Award. Note that participation is voluntary, and it is still possible for pupils who do not sign up for the Bronze Award to complete Silver or Gold by 'direct entry' later on at school or even at university.

If you are not familiar with DofE, then some brief details are at the end of this letter.

Outdoor Week (Monday 8th June to Saturday 13th June 2020)

In the summer term we run 'Outdoor Week' as the natural culmination of the Bronze and BASE programmes. Outdoor Week takes the entire year group out of normal 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 all will do an expedition on foot. For those attempting Bronze, this expedition, upon successful completion, will count as their 'qualifying expedition.' For the other three days, pupils undertake community project work (such as footpath maintenance) and team competition days, but with the outdoors as the theme for the week. Note that the Battlefield trip (organised by the History Faculty) will be taking place during the same week, but it will still be possible to complete an expedition and attend the tour.

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 charge £120 for those attempting Bronze to subsidise Record Book, assessment and qualifying expedition costs. These charges will appear on your Lent Term bill.

Clothing and Equipment

As all Third Formers will be doing a walking expedition during Outdoor Week, we will be asking parents to consider appropriate clothing and footwear. Pupils will receive expedition and campcraft training via our new BASE activity programme (which takes place on Thursday afternoons) and so will build the necessary skills over the next few months. We will supply all tentage, sleeping bags, rucksacks, stoves, first aid, safety equipment but we only have a limited stock of clothing items for loan. It is very helpful if pupils can provide their own walking clothing, ie walking boots with ankle support (NOT trainers) and two-piece waterproofs, as this reduces pressure on our stores.

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

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

Please note that for DofE participants there is a standard 15% DofE discount available at retailers such as GoOutdoors, Blacks, Millets, Tiso etc. However just mentioning DofE at some retailers often leads to a discount. There is no need to spend lots of money on specialist equipment unless you are the sort of family that does lots of camping!

With best wishes,

Nick David
7th November 2019

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, coding society, 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 principal feature is self-motivation: D of E is not an 'activity' in itself but it serves to accredit worthy undertakings (such as the four 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 gain the Award; those who do will have to show commitment and self-reliance. But importantly, all are given the opportunity.

When are the expeditions?

All Third Formers, whether doing the Award or not, will take part in Outdoor Week expeditions, undertaken with the beautiful Shropshire Hills as the venue.

How can parents help?

Please have a chat with your child and find out if they have decided to pursue Bronze or not, and what their plan entails. The principle of DofE is that we do not 'push' participants – only those with self-motivation will complete, and it is up to them to show the initiative and forethought required for successful completion of the Award.

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