

Wellington Road, Taunton, Somerset. TA1 5AU Tel: 01823 274073 Email: office@castle.bep.ac www.castleschool.co.uk

> Mr J Lamb Headteacher

23 October 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

## The Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award 2024 - 25

If you would like your son/daughter to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award please complete and return the attached permission slip and enrolment form with payment of £125 and deposit of £50 (to cover use of school equipment) no later than <u>Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November</u> to student reception. If for any reason you are unable to make this payment, please get in touch using the details below.

The amount of £125 covers the cost of registration for the award including a user account for the E D of E website and costs associated with the training days, practice expedition, assessed expedition, assessor's fees, campsite fees, transport etc. The £50 refundable deposit covers the use of school equipment, including the use of stoves and tents. The deposit will be refunded when all group equipment for the expedition group to which your child is assigned is returned in a clean and dry condition. Neither amount covers the costs of personal equipment for the expedition or costs associated with the skill, volunteering or physical sections of the Award.

Please be aware that your son/daughter must be able to attend all of the training sessions and expedition weekends so that they can safely complete the award. Missing any dates could result in them not being allowed to continue with the expedition, in which instance **no refund** will be given. Likewise, if a participant decides not to continue with the Award they will **not** be eligible for a refund. (If they are absent due to illness or family emergency then I will help them to catch up on what they have missed.) Dates of meetings, training and expeditions are as follows:

Purpose	Date
First meeting	18 <sup>th</sup> November 1530 -1630
eDofE	25 <sup>th</sup> November 1530 -1630
Expedition equipment and eDofE	9 <sup>th</sup> December 1530 -1630
eDofE	13 <sup>th</sup> January 1530 -1630
eDofE	3 <sup>rd</sup> February 1530 -1630
eDofE and Exped group selection	3 <sup>rd</sup> March 1530 -1630
eDofE	24 <sup>th</sup> March 1530 -1630
Expedition training and planning	10 <sup>th</sup> and 11 <sup>th</sup> April - all day, times tbc
Day walk and orienteering	17 <sup>th</sup> May – times tbc
Expedition reminder	19 <sup>th</sup> May 1530 -1630
Kit checks	Various days / times during w/c 2nd June
Practice exped	14 <sup>th</sup> and 15 <sup>th</sup> June, 0700 Saturday – 1700 Sunday
Kit checks	Various days / times during w/c 1 <sup>st</sup> July
Assessed exped	5 <sup>th</sup> and 6 <sup>th</sup> July, 0700 Saturday – 1700 Sunday

"Blackdown Education Partnership". A company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales, number 07338835 An exempt charity.



Please note that whilst we have made every effort to avoid weekends before year 10 exams, the final exams calendar is not yet confirmed and therefore it may be that students will be on expedition the weekend before an exam.

## **Further Information**

Further information regarding the expeditions along with a request for medical information will follow in due course.

For additional information about the D of E Award please visit <u>www.dofe.org</u>

## Volunteering, Physical and Skill Sections

Please be aware that it is the parent's/carer's responsibility to make sure that any activities or placements undertaken for these sections of the Award are suitable and safe.

Yours sincerely

/AK/abl

Brendan Slade Trust Estates and Health and Safety Lead and D of E Award Co-ordinator bslade@bep.ac

**The Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award 2024-25** - Please return completed slips to student reception. I enclose cash for £175 /have paid by credit/debit card\* (in person, over the phone). (\*Please delete as applicable).

I am currently receiving Free School Meals.

Student's name ...... Date .....

Print name.....