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Dear Parents,

Duke of Edinburgh's Award – Bronze

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 complete the Bronze Award over the next year or beyond. After that, we hope he/she might wish to go on to attempt Gold which is available at Shrewsbury when pupils reach sixteen years old. For pupils who do not sign up for Bronze it is still possible to complete Gold by 'direct entry' later on in school or university.

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

When names are finalised 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 (Monday 12th June to Saturday 17th June 2017)

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 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 community project work and attend bushcraft and team competition days but with the outdoors as the theme for the week. Note also that the Battlefield trip (organized by the history faculty) will be taking place from 15th to 17th June and those doing that can still undertake their Bronze expeditions during the earlier part of the week.

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

Those pupils will still attend Outdoor Week (as well as the history trip if they wish) – and we have created a programme that we believe is of high value. The pupils will undertake community project work and team competition days, but still with the outdoor theme.

Practice Weekends

Those who opt for DofE will be doing one of two Practice Expedition Weekends in the summer term, dates of which will be confirmed on the website shortly.

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! Some suggested purchases are below.

With best wishes,

Nick David
1st December 2016

CLOTHING ITEMS SUITABLE FOR EXPEDITIONS

(ideally pupils have 2 piece waterproof and boots)

Waterproof Jacket:

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

Waterproof trousers:

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

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 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. All third formers, whether doing the award or not, will take part in Outdoor Week - a multi activity week with DofE expeditions undertaken with the beautiful Shropshire Hills as the venue.

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.