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Year 10 Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Your son has expressed an interest in the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme. This highly-regarded Award recognises personal development through regular participation in a programme of activities in four 'Sections':

- **Volunteering (Service):** undertaking service to individuals or the community
- **Physical:** improving in an area of sport or fitness activities
- **Skills:** developing practical and social skills and personal interests
- **Expedition:** planning, training for and completion of an adventurous journey in the UK.

Participants must commit an average of an hour per week for each of the volunteering, physical and skills sections, two of which must be carried out over a period of 3 months and the remaining section over 6 months. They record their progress online through the 'eDofE' system. While it is an intention of the Award to encourage participants to push themselves and try new things, students can count activities they already do, and records can be back-dated a few weeks from the date of registration. Ideas and guidance on these activities – as well as more information about the Award in general – will be given in training sessions and much can be found at www.dofe.org/do/

The students will be given advice and guidance but will be responsible for arranging and recording their own activities in the first three Sections, while the Expedition Section is organised through school. Participants must train in the necessary skills under closer supervision before being allowed to carry out their Assessed Expedition more independently. This will involve walking and navigating in a group, camping overnight and carrying all their own equipment – including meals and cooking equipment – to safely complete a planned journey of about 25km over two days. The date for the assessed expedition:

Assessed Expedition: Friday 24th March to Saturday 25th March

The assessed expedition will take place in countryside that may be familiar to them and detailed plans and costing of this will be released closer to the trip time.

The school has and maintains a stock of good quality rucksacks, roll mats, tents and approved stoves which we loan to the boys, in order to minimise the cost of participation and ensure the boys are properly equipped. The only things you are likely to need to purchase is sturdy walking boots and waterproofs. More advice will be given to the boys during the training sessions that will take place before the trips, so **I would suggest you hold off on buying new items** until then (the boys can also claim a discount in many shops once registered!).



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The DofE charge £24 to register a participant on the Bronze Award and Hertfordshire make a charge of £16 per student for admin and other costs such as equipment replacement, so the cost at this stage is £40. Should the cost of enrolment, equipment or the trips be a barrier to your son's participation, please do get in touch with me to see what can be arranged, as funds are available to ensure this opportunity is available to all.

Please note that, while we aim to enable all those who wish to take part in the Award to do so, if demand for places exceeds the capacity we have for the existing trips, **we may need to limit the number of places we offer on the Scheme through some fair process.** As such, if your son has the opportunity to participate in DofE with another provider e.g. Explorers, Cadets then this would allow others to complete it at the school.

Before enrolling your son, please note that while the expedition should be a fantastically enjoyable experience, we take our responsibility for the boys' safety incredibly seriously. While every effort is made to control risk on these trips – including training the boys in road safety, first aid, camp craft, and fire safety – outdoor activities do present risks and dangers. As such, the boys will be expected to conduct themselves with the utmost respect for the hazards involved, and to follow staff instructions and safety training at all times. Should any boy's behaviour fall below the standard expected in a way which presents a danger to himself or others, he will immediately be withdrawn from that expedition and any future trips, with the expectation that his parents or guardians will arrange his travel home at their expense.

If you would like to enrol your son on the Bronze DofE, please complete the enrolment form attached to this letter and pay the £40 enrolment fee via ParentPay by Wednesday 5th October.

There will be a small series of after-school or lunchtime information and training sessions that boys will need to attend (they will be asked to commit to one of several different time slots, so should be able to fit these sessions around other commitments). The boys will receive a Welcome Pack after registration, containing information and also some paperwork with instructions and report forms for Assessors (the boys need to ask a non-relative to act as Assessor for each of the three other Sections) – spares of these are also available on the school website DofE page.

Details of the individual trip, along with consent forms, and requests for contact details and any updated medical information, will be sent out nearer the time. Should you have any queries, please check out the FAQ and other info on the Duke of Edinburgh page of the School website (under Extra-Curricular) and then do not hesitate to contact me at school via email at darren.neesam@tbshs.org if your questions have not been answered. While we are happy to answer your queries, please keep in mind that the Award is meant to encourage responsibility, and the boys will get more out of the process if they take the initiative and communicate with us and their Supervisors/Assessors themselves as far as possible once enrolled.

Yours sincerely,



Mr D Neesam

DofE Coordinator