

YEAR 9

20 February 2024

Dear Parent/Guardian

DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD SCHEME – GENERAL UPDATE AND EXPEDITION INFORMATION

All pupils should now have nearly completed their two 3 month sections and be well on the way to completing their 6 month section. I have asked that all pupils submit three pieces of evidence for each section. Please can you ensure that this is completed by Wednesday, 1 May 2024.

All pupils have worked really hard to get to this stage and I do hope they have found their Duke of Edinburgh experience rewarding. We are now at the stage where we need to think about our final section; the expedition. In order for pupils to be awarded with the complete Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award they need to successfully complete a two day, one night expedition.

Year 9 Bronze Expedition:

The expedition will take place in and around the Rivington area, with pupils camping at Bibby's Farm. Pupils are required to complete six hours of activity each day (dates and activities below). In order for pupils to participate in the expedition an additional £50 is required to be paid via SCOPay before Wednesday, 1 May 2024. If pupils do not attend the expedition or fail to meet the expedition assessment requirements, they will only receive the Duke of Edinburgh participation award for completing of their sections.

Monday, 17 June 2024 3.10pm-4.30pm: Bag packing and preparation. Pupils will need to bring all of their kit (see kit list in the information pack), excluding perishable goods, to school with them in the morning. The after school session will ensure that bags are correctly packed, pupils have all the correct equipment and weight is distributed amongst their group. Bags will be stored overnight in HU2 ready to collect on the morning of the expedition.

Tuesday, 18 June 2024: Pupils need to be in school for 8.40am ready for a prompt start at 9am.

- 4.5 hours walking.
- Arrive at Bibby's Farm (camp set up)
- 1.5 hours kayaking and open canoe (run by an instructor)
- Smores and campfire.

Wednesday, 19 June 2024: Arrive back at school approx. 5pm.

- 6 hours walking

In accordance with DofE requirements, pupil walking teams will be supervised remotely rather than directly. This means that supervising staff will be in the vicinity, will meet pupils at pre-arranged checkpoints

Continued over...



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and will be able to step in to help pupils if required. However, pupil walking teams will have primary responsibility for their own navigation and team decisions. Staff will be directly supervising pupils cooking with the camping stoves.

In order to ensure that all pupils are prepared and have the adequate skills to pass the Award, a practise walk will take place on Wednesday, 8 May during Periods 1-4. Pupils will go out in groups for a 40 minute to one hour walk around Penwortham.

Preparation For The Expedition

In order for pupils to pass the expedition assessment, pupils will be required to attend several after school sessions. These sessions are mandatory as they will acquire the skills and preparatory knowledge needed for the expedition. All pupils have to complete their expedition in teams of four to seven participants and complete the expedition self-sufficiently as a group (this is a requirement set by Duke of Edinburgh, not the school). Sessions for Year 9 pupils will run on a Tuesday night after school from 3:10pm-4:10pm starting on Tuesday, 27 February 2024.

27 February	Establish groups and introduction to assessor's reports
05 March	Countryside code and map symbols
12 March	Grid references and compass skills
19 March	Compass skills and scale
26 March	Route planning
16 April	Route planning
30 April	Route planning and using a trangia
14 May	First aid and emergency procedures (following the St John's Ambulance First Aid Pathway)
21 May	Expedition food and campsite code
4 June	Kit and tents
11 June	Expedition preparation and recap
17 June	Bag packing and preparation (<i>Monday</i>)

Parents Information Evening

I will be holding an information evening in school for parents on Wednesday, 20 March at 4.30pm. This will be an opportunity for me to cover the information within this letter and information pack in more detail and for you to ask questions on any aspect of the Award or the expedition you may have so far.

Medical Form

Please complete the medical information and emergency contacts form via the link below by Wednesday, 1 May 2024. <https://forms.office.com/e/enp1epnQ18>

I look forward to seeing you at the information evening, however please feel free to email me if you have any questions in the meantime.

Yours faithfully



Mrs Cauchi
Humanities Teacher | DofE Lead
m.cauchi@priory.lancs.sch.uk

DATES SUMMARY AND ACTION CHECKLIST

YEAR 9

26 February	Sign and return reply slip confirming that your child will be attending the mandatory weekly expedition preparatory sessions after school.
27 February	Mandatory after school expedition preparatory sessions begin – weekly from 3.10pm to 4.10pm.
18 March	Sign and return the reply slip to agree to the Mobile Phone Usage Policy and indicate if you will be attending the parents information evening (include number of people in your party)
20 March	Parents information evening starts 4.30pm.
1 May	Pupils to submit three pieces of evidence for each section of the award. Make payment of £50 via SCOPay for the expedition. Assessor's reports submitted via https://www.dofe.org/assessor/ Medical information form submitted (see link in letter)
8 May	Practice walk (Periods 1-4)
17 June	Kit to be brought into school and dropped at HU2 in the morning. After school bag packing session 3.10pm-4.30pm.
18 – 19 June	Expedition

REPLY SLIP: DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD AGREEMENT AND CONSENT (YEAR 9)

(Please return to Mrs Cauchi by Monday, 26 February)

Name of pupil Year/Class

My child will be attending the mandatory after school expedition preparatory sessions each Tuesday from 27 February.

Signed (parent/carers) Date

Name (please print)

REPLY SLIP: DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD AGREEMENT AND CONSENT (YEAR 9)

(Please return to Mrs Cauchi by Monday, 18 March)

Name of pupil Year/Class

Parents Information Evening

We will be attending the Information Evening on Wednesday, 20 March. YES / NO

Number in party attending

Mobile Phone Usage Agreement

My child will adhere to the mobile phone policy - They understand and accept that if they are found with their mobile phone during the expedition they will have breached the Duke of Edinburgh requirements and will therefore not receive their Award.

Signed (parent/carers) Date

Name (please print)