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St Michael's
Catholic Academy

Head Teacher: Clare Humble

Deputy Head(s): Marc Scott, Clare Carey
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BHCET CEO: Stuart McGhee

BHCET Chair of Directors: Yvonne Coates

27 March 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award Scheme 2026

Congratulations your child has successfully gained a place on the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award Scheme 2026. As discussed in the presentation evening:

Commitment

To complete the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award Scheme students must be fully committed.

Lunchtime and afterschool meetings, in our computer room which the student teams will be called to attend. These will allow students to update their eDofE accounts and to complete some preparation and training. Meetings are held every other week on Thursdays Week A 3.40 – 4.40pm and must be attended, if your child misses 2 weeks they will be removed from the group. The training element is a statutory requirement of passing the course. It is an essential part of the course as the students are trained how to conduct expeditions and look after themselves and each other in the rural environment. If training has not been received, students do not go as it would compromise health and safety.

Staffing

The Duke of Edinburgh Award at St Michael's is staffed on a voluntarily basis by Mrs Hunter. The trips take many hours of preparation time in terms of sorting kit and recceing walks etc. It is important for students and parents to understand their responsibility for organising their own volunteering, skills and physical sections.

Training

The main training for the expeditions section will take place during lunchtimes, after school and some overnight stays. These training sessions and overnight stays are listed below. Support for the other three sections of the award can be gained by talking to one of the Duke of Edinburgh supervisors at any time.

Important dates

Training Day:	May (exact date to be confirmed). 5-mile circular walk Osmotherly and Cod Beck reservoir
Assessment Expedition:	will be held in July at a date to be confirmed.

Enrolment and costs

Along with this letter, I have sent a link to you which is a registration form for the expeditions, which must be completed.



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A **non-refundable payment of £150.00** should be paid using the Arbor parent app. This payment is to cover your child's registration fees, welcome pack booklet, insurance, training day, 4 days of expedition costs, campsites, personalised hoodie, 4 hour first aid course, equipment repair and replacement due to simple wear and tear and school running costs. Unfortunately, if your child decides to leave the scheme, we are unable to reimburse your payment. If the financial commitment is a concern, please contact me at school to discuss possible options.

Additional costs

You will need to provide walking boots, a waterproof jacket, food and drink, a torch and a sleeping bag (walking boots need to give full ankle support). The academy provides all Trangias (camping stoves), maps, compasses, rucksacks and tents. Your child may borrow these items, as they may only need them for these two events. Many camping shops give discount to students on the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme.

Starting the Volunteering, Skill and Physical Recreation sections

Please note that participants cannot begin to work towards their Skill, Volunteering and Physical recreation sections until after the date of enrolment. Please think carefully about what they want to do for their sections, remembering that instructors and assessors should not be relatives. Please contact me if there are any problems. We urge you to check for all information on the website www.theaward.org.

Parent/Carer support

We may require help from you with your child's individual skills to help with training, walking with and training a walking group, staffing a checkpoint on the practice or assessment weekend or another supporting role. Please contact Mrs Hunter if you are able to help.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs D Hunter
Duke of Edinburgh Lead



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