

08 December 2023

Dear Parent and/or carer,

Your son/ daughter has expressed an interest in completing the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award at JCSC. We are delighted to be able to offer this exciting opportunity to year nine students.

### **What is The Duke of Edinburgh Award?**

It is recognition of a young person's successful journey of self-discovery and development, acclaimed by employers and universities alike for demonstrating the qualities developed within young people who achieve it. It is a balanced programme that develops the whole person - mind, body and soul, in an environment of social interaction and team working. There are three progressive levels of DofE programmes which, when successfully completed, lead to a Bronze, Silver or Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award. The Bronze Award takes approximately 8-12 months to complete.

Completion of the Bronze Award will involve your son/daughter successfully completing 4 different sections enabling them to show commitment and further develop their skills. The four sections include a physical activity, a skill, volunteering and completing a 2 day expedition (including one night camp). It may be that they are already taking part in an activity that falls into one of the sections, in which case they will now be able to gain recognition for this. Equally, we will be encouraging pupils to undertake new experiences.

All training sessions for the award will commence fully later this term, after the half-term holiday, running from 3:30pm – 4:30pm on a Tuesday . Your child will receive a full training calendar once they have enrolled. Bus passes are available to purchase for students, if required.

### **How much does it cost?**

Currently it is estimated that the total cost will be £115 to complete the DofE Bronze Award .This is only an estimate at the moment due to the ongoing financial crisis and restrictions on places currently available to camping groups. We have recently had to change a number of regularly used sites due to closures, this puts added costs onto the expeditions but I am hopeful that we will not need to change the amount significantly. This is required in 4 instalments across the year (see overleaf), paid via the My Child at School App. We have decided this year to split the costs across the year to make the payments more accessible. We pride ourselves on being the one of cheapest centre offering DofE in the region; however, we do require the payments to cover outgoing costs for your child to complete the award. The £115 cost covers:

- Online access to eDofE, insurance and certification costs (£30)
- All internal training run by JCSC qualified staff (£0).
- Practice Expedition & qualifying expedition, including campsite fees, transport to and from JCSC & assessor fees (£80)

There is funding available for students that receive Free School Meals to cover the cost of the award. Please see overleaf for more information.

Your child will need to provide walking boots/shoes for the expeditions. A kit list is attached showing what we are able to provide to your son/daughter free of charge and what they will be required to supply themselves. They do not require any of the kit until the Easter term.

In order to enrol your child onto The Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme, please could you complete and return the enrolment form/reply slip (attached) and make the first £30 instalment via School app by Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2023.

In the meantime, if you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

Mr. L Gwillim

DofE Centre Manager

lgwillim01@jcsc.co.uk

#### **Payments:**

In addition to the initial £30 payment, the follow instalments are required by the following dates:

- Instalment 2: FRIDAY 27<sup>th</sup> January 2024 (£30)
- Instalment 3: FRIDAY 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024 (£30)
- Instalment 4: FRIDAY 19<sup>th</sup> April 2024 (£25)

If your child borrows any equipment from the kit store for their expeditions, they will be required to pay a £25 REFUNDABLE cash deposit. This to cover the cost any damage caused to the equipment used.

#### ***What if my child receives Free School Meals?***

If your child is eligible for Free School Meals, then we can apply for funding to cover the cost of the award. Please tick the appropriate box on the reply slip if you would like to be considered for this funding. Each funding application is considered on an individual basis and we will contact you individually to inform you whether the application was successful.

#### ***What if my child decides to drop out of the award?***

**If your child decides to withdraw from the award at any time throughout the year, you will not be required to pay the remaining instalments. However, we are not able to refund any payments made after the instalment deadlines.**

#### **Expeditions:**

Your child will be required to attend both the Practice Expedition and the Qualifying Expedition in order to complete this section of the award.

**Bronze Practice Expedition:** April 2024, TBC , Northumberland

**Bronze Qualifying Expedition:** Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June – Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2024.

## Kit

In order to keep the cost of the award as cheap as possible, we are able to provide students with the majority of kit needed to complete the expedition section of the award. The table below outlines the kit that is needed, what the students are required to supply themselves and what we can offer. In order to maintain the kit, we do require a £25 deposit for the kit, which is refundable on the basis that all the kit is returned and not damaged (this does not include general wear and tear).

Kit <b>WE</b> can provide	Kit <b>PARTICIPANTS</b> need to provide
Waterproof Jackets	Walking boots (broken in)
Waterproof Trousers	2 pairs of walking socks
Rucksacks	Base layers
Tents	Gloves
Sleeping Bags	Hat
Sleeping Mats	Base layers
Sleeping Bag Liners	Walking Trousers or tracksuit bottoms (not cotton)
First Aid Kits	2-3 T-shirts (not cotton) or quick-dry tops
Group Shelters	Fleece or Mid-layer
Survival Bags	Underwear
Compasses	Nightwear
Maps	Wash kit
Whistles	2 x 1L Water bottle
Head torches	Sun cream
Dry bags	
Spork and bowl	