



Tomlinscote School

Dear Parents and Carers,

25th September 2019

Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award

We are delighted to let you know that we are able to offer the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award to your son/daughter this year at Tomlinscote. This is an excellent opportunity which is offered to students who are 14 years old and above, and which is highly recognised by Colleges, Universities and Employers. DofE promotes individual and group responsibility, team work and life skills, and is therefore a great opportunity for young people to be active in.

To complete the Bronze Award, students must complete 3 months' volunteering, start a new/develop a skill and take part in either an individual or a group physical activity. Your son/daughter will need to complete a further 3 months on one of these three sections. At the beginning of each section your son/daughter will need to set goals and someone who is not a family member will need to assess their progress at the end of the time period. Your son/daughter's GCSE options do not count towards this.

Also, your son/daughter must complete training days, where in groups they will learn first aid, read a map, plan routes and learn about the equipment needed to participate in the practice and final expeditions. This year we are fortunate to have engaged the services of the School of Outdoors who will be providing all our onsite and expedition based training. We feel this is an exciting opportunity for the students to gain a much greater skill level in navigation and camp craft since they will benefit from having instructors assigned to each group.

Attendance at these training days, the practice expedition and final expedition is compulsory. If your son/daughter cannot attend all of these dates, then they will not be able to take part in the final expedition.

- *Training day* - all day on Monday 16th March 2020 (Inset) 10am till 5pm at Tomlinscote School.
- *Training half day* – all afternoon on Friday 1st May 2020 1.20pm till 3.05pm at Tomlinscote School.
- *The Practice Expedition* – Thursday 21st May 2020 9am till 6pm in the Netley Heath/West Horsley area (transfer to and from Tomlinscote school).
- *The Final Expedition* - Friday 5th June 2020 to Saturday 6th June 2020 in the Boxhill area. Students will need to arrive at school for a 7.30am departure on the Friday, parents will need to pick students up from a specified pick up point on the Saturday.
The students will walk approximately 15/30km on each expedition with rucksacks.

If you would like any more information about the Duke of Edinburgh Award, www.dofe.org has useful links and lists of activities your son/daughter could do for the different sections. This is also helpful to see what other young people have achieved and what the next stages are in the Duke of Edinburgh Award. Once you have secured your son or daughter's place on the DofE scheme, they will be required to complete a google form detailing their intentions in respect of developing a skills and volunteering.

The cost of the DofE Award is £150 per student, this includes registration and all school costs, for example travel to the practice and final expeditions, group equipment and resources needed for training and the expeditions. In order to secure your son or daughter's place we require an initial payment of £75 by Monday 14th October. A second payment of £75 would be required by Monday 10th February 2020. Initial deposit and subsequent payment should be made by ParentPay in the usual way, where you will see the item DofE 2020. You can keep track of payments through ParentPay so no payment card is required.

Yours sincerely,

Mr R Major
Principal

Mrs Adelysia Jarman
D of E Lead

Mrs Katherine Metzner
D of E Lead