



24<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

## The Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award

Well done to the good number of students who took part in our first training walk last Saturday. We were delighted to see so much enthusiasm and positive team-work. The training day and the after-school session, planning DofE Activities, has given students a good idea of what to expect from the Bronze Award programme in 2020-21.

Hopefully, many of our students will want to take on the commitment of doing their Bronze Award this year. The next step is to apply for a place on the programme. Details are below.

As a reminder, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award is the world's largest youth achievement award and gives participants the opportunity to develop skills such as independence, teamwork, community spirit and resilience, as well as trying out new activities. These are qualities that future employers and universities look for in a young adult and can be the key to unlock success.

Students must complete a Volunteering, a Physical and a Skill Activity over an hour a week for a three month period (one activity must be for six months). These are organised by the student in their own time. Students must also complete a two day, one night, walking and camping expedition in the countryside, organised by the school. More details, including Covid FAQs and our DofE calendar for 2020-21, can be found on the DofE section of the school's website at [www.sharplesschool.co.uk/duke-of-edinburgh/](http://www.sharplesschool.co.uk/duke-of-edinburgh/).

In order to help fund registration, campsites, transport and equipment the school will be asking for a total payment of £80, payable in two instalments. For pupil premium/free school meals students there is a reduced total payment of £40. These amounts are subsidised by the DofE, which is a charity, and by the school. Again, more details of what is included are on the school's website.

Please also be aware of the following:-

- This is a weekly commitment in students' own time to their three Activities. Students must be sure they want to do this.
- Unless restrictions are lifted next summer, we won't be able to camp overnight on the Expedition. Hopefully they will be lifted, but if not then the expedition would be two separate days with students returning home overnight in between.
- If application numbers are very high then we will look at whether we can offer more places, but probably would have to run separate Year 9 & Year 10 Qualifying Expeditions on

**Headteacher Ms A. Webster:** headteacher@sharplesschool.co.uk

**Admin Office:** office@sharplesschool.co.uk

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different dates. In this case there would be training sessions and training walks beforehand, but not a full two-day Practice Expedition.

- No payment is required yet, but once students have a confirmed place we ask for the first payment of £30 (£15 PP/FSM) in December and the balance in February. If your circumstances require other instalment details then please ask us.
- Payments for the Sharples DofE Bronze Award programme are not re-fundable, so students must be committed to completing their Award.

If you would like your son or daughter to take part in our DofE Bronze Award 2020-21 programme then please complete the Application Form and click to submit it online by the end of Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November. The Application Form is on this link:-

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1eARr-GCY1wKCIPaTykslfzKYAAB-EoOoOXr\\_rvX3bMM/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1eARr-GCY1wKCIPaTykslfzKYAAB-EoOoOXr_rvX3bMM/edit?usp=sharing)

It will be much easier to click on the link on the emailed version of this letter. The letter is also on Show My Homework and on the school's website.

If you have any questions please email me on [i.davies@sharplesschool.co.uk](mailto:i.davies@sharplesschool.co.uk) or call the school's phone number.

Yours faithfully,

*Ivor Davies*

Ivor Davies  
DofE Co-ordinator

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