

Dear parent/carer

This academic year we are offering pupils from third to sixth year the opportunity to undertake the Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Bronze Award. (In future years, the Bronze Award will only be offered in the first instance to pupils who are in their third year at school.)

The Bronze Award is made up of four sections, **Skill, Physical, Volunteering and Expedition**. The first three sections of this Award can be delivered and supported by staff within the school who have volunteered their time to help guide and mentor pupils through their Bronze Award and this will be at no cost to the pupil. However, due to National and Local Authority Health and Safety protocols, it is necessary to buy in specialised 'Activity Providers' to deliver, carry out and supervise the 'Expedition' section of this Award. Therefore, the cost for anyone wishing to complete the full Bronze Award this year will be approximately £300.

(This price covers registration fees, all training for the 'Expedition' section, transport to and from expedition site, equipment (tent, stoves & food) for both the practise overnight in March or April and the final expedition in June, although we do hope to reduce this cost by borrowing or acquiring our own resources and equipment if possible).

Clearly, this is a substantial cost but one which is unavoidable at this time while staff at the school obtain the required qualifications which will enable us to deliver all aspects of the 'Expedition' section without having to buy in specialist help.

However, to ensure we make the DofE as accessible as possible to our pupils, we are offering them the opportunity to start their Bronze Award with the aim of completing the first three sections. The cost of this will be £30 per pupil.

(Pupils will have until their 22nd Birthday to complete the Bronze Award and can do this at a number of DofE centres which are located close by. Please note, if possible, the school will try and help these pupils (still at school) complete their full Award once we are in a position to deliver all aspects of the Expedition section ourselves but a definitive time frame for this cannot be given at present.)

Along with cost, consideration must also be given to the commitment of a pupils time, particularly for pupils in S4-S6 who will be undertaking SQA examinations this year, as pupils choosing to undertake the Bronze Award will be required to complete each of the four sections in their own time and attend a number of meetings after school with their designated staff mentor.

Please note, the final expedition will take place in June 2016 (18th & 19th), after the SQA examination diet has finished so pupils must be available at this time.

If you would like your child to undertake the full DofE Bronze Award, which includes the Expedition, then a non refundable deposit of £50 will be required, along with the completed tear off section below to confirm your child's place, register them with the DofE Awards scheme and Activity Provider . A payment plan will then be issued to allow the remaining £250 to be paid in instalments with the final payment being made in March 2016.

If you would like your child to start the DofE Bronze Award (**excluding the Expedition**) then a non refundable deposit of £30 will be required, along with the completed tear off section below, to confirm your child's place and register them with the DofE Awards scheme.

More information can be found on both the DofE website (www.dofe.info) and the school's home webpage where you can view a copy of the presentation previously given to pupils on the DofE Awards.

Please tick as appropriate

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I would like my child _____ in class _____

to take part in the **Full Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award** and I enclose a non refundable deposit of £50

Signature of Parent/Carer _____

Date _____

(Deposits should be paid to the school office and if paying by Cheque it should be made payable to St Andrew's & St Bride's HS. A receipt will be issued with all payments)

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I would like my child _____ in class _____

To start the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award (**Excluding Expedition**) and I enclose a non refundable deposit of £30

Signature of Parent/Carer _____

Child _____

