Dear Parent/Carer

Your son/daughter has expressed an interest in joining the Duke of Edinburgh’s Award Scheme at Bronze level.

**WHAT IS THE AWARD FOR?**

The Award Scheme is a national scheme designed to encourage young people to:

* become involved in worthwhile leisure activities
* contribute to the community through voluntary service
* provide a challenge to the individual
* discover the satisfaction of achievement
* develop self-confidence

The Award Scheme should be both enjoyable and challenging, as well as providing them with many qualities which employers are looking for.

**WHAT DO THEY HAVE TO DO?**

The Award Scheme has four sections:

**SKILLS**

They have to choose and follow a hobby for a minimum of three months. During this period they will be assessed on effort, perseverance and progress.

**PHYSICAL RECREATION**

They have to choose an activity and participate in it for a minimum of 12 weeks. They should show an improvement over the period of participation.

**SERVICE**

This section is based on the belief that members of a community have a responsibility to each other and that voluntary help is needed. They have to have practical involvement in voluntary service for at least fifteen hours over a six month period, or complete a course of specialised training and reach a required standard over a period of 8 weeks (e.g. First Aid).

**EXPEDITION**

They have to undertake an expedition over two days which will include walking approximately 15 miles, camping and looking after themselves for the two days. There will be two expeditions – one where they students practice their skills and the other during which they are assessed on their skills.

We are organising the scheme in school with the intention of enabling your son/daughter to complete the Bronze Award in one year, enabling them time to progress to the Silver Award and reducing the pressure during their GCSE exam year.

As you can see, they will have to be very determined if they are to complete the award and they will need your support throughout the scheme especially after their initial enthusiasm wears off.

It should not interfere with their school work - they have to organise their time and if they are using the Award Scheme as an excuse for not completing school work they need to consider suspending the commitment to the Award Scheme until they have their school work sorted out.

Once registration is complete there will be a regular meeting on a Thursday between 2:45 to 3:45pm. There will also be an overnight training session during the spring term. Attendance at these sessions is expected as the students will learn essential skills for their expeditions. The two expeditions will be during May and June in the summer term.

Upon enrolment your son or daughter will receive an information pack with trip details, kit lists, record sheets and other useful information to the award.

There is a cost involved in undertaking the DofE Award at Redbridge Community School. **The cost is £90, for this they will be registered on the Scheme; receive a record book and registration pack, with a discount card and details of other discounts available. This cost also covers the two expeditions, training sessions both in school and in the New Forest, a hooded sweatshirt, fuel and the majority of equipment needed for expeditions.** The only equipment students are required to purchase are their walking boots.

To spread the cost we have set up a payment plan spreading it out across the months. You can of course pay in one lump sum or pay smaller amounts more often. Please make cheques payable to Redbridge Community School.

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| Amount | By When | What is the money being spent on? |
| £20.00 | Monday 23rd November 2015 | **DEPOSIT**. This pays for your enrolment and registration on the award. |
| £20.00 | Friday 29th January 2016 | This pays for the training sessions in school and in the New Forest. |
| £20.00 | Friday 18th March 2016 | This pays for the hoodie and towards the expeditions. |
| £30.00 | Friday 20th May 2016 | **FINAL PAYMENT**. This ensure the students place on the expeditions. |

**If you would like your son or daughter to undertake the award please complete the attached enrolment form and return to the office before Monday 23rd November 2015. Once enrolment is completed the expedition dates will be confirmed.**

If you have any queries please contact me at the school. The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme website is also a useful reference for both yourselves and your son/daughter, especially with regards to suggested activities. The address is [www.dofe.org](http://www.dofe.org) . All this information and more will be available on the school website.

Yours sincerely

**Mrs L Mason**

**Duke of Edinburgh Award Manager**

Dear Mrs Mason

I give permission for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ undertake the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award.

I have completed the attached enrolment form and have enclosed the £20 enrolment fee.

Signed ……………………………………………………………… Date ……………………….……