



SARUM
ACADEMY

JON / SNR

28 September 2018

Dear Parents & Pupils

Re: Duke of Edinburgh's Award at Sarum Academy for 2018/2019

It was good to meet so many of you at the recent Parents Evening. As promised I am writing to confirm key dates for the year ahead and plan as to how the award will run this year.

Training, Information and Expedition Dates

I need to see all participants for the next four Tuesdays from 3pm – 4pm starting next week, 18th September to help pupils identify what they will be doing for each of their sections. All participants starting a new level should attend. It is essential that your son/daughter attends all of these as well as all the expedition training dates below. This year we will be changing things slightly in that initial training will take place on two days on separate weekends rather than Tuesday afternoons here at the Academy. We may need to meet once or twice on a Tuesday or Thursday however to monitor progress of sections but I will contact you in advance to let you know when this will be

- Training Day 1 - Sunday 11th November 2018 (new participants only)
- Training Day 2 - Saturday 2nd March 2019 (new participants, morning & all participants, afternoon)
- Silver / Gold Practice – 12/13/14th April 2019, Brecon Beacons
- Bronze Practice – Thursday 25th to Friday 26th April 2019, Cranborne Chase
- Bronze Assessed – Saturday 15th to Sunday 16th June 2019, North Wessex Downs
- Silver Assessed – Wednesday 19th June to Friday 21st June 2019 – Exmoor
- Gold Assessed – Sunday 30th June – Wednesday 3rd July 2019 – Dartmoor

I would be most grateful if you could add these to your diaries to ensure participants are free on these dates.

Costs

The major costs associated with the scheme are for enrolment and the expedition itself. The Academy has worked tirelessly to keep costs low, a proportion goes directly to the D of E, This includes registration with eDofE, welcome pack, completion certificate, badge (on completion) and a discount card at a number of outdoor retailers. The costs for all levels includes all campsite fees, maps, cooking fuel, transport costs and the loan of most equipment, staff give up their time for free as do those parents that help. Total costs for 2018/19 are going to be £80.00 for Bronze, £185.00 for Silver and £225.00 for Gold. £20.00 of this cost however is a kit deposit and is returned to you at the end of the year when all equipment that has been loaned is returned safely to us. I am also pleased to advise that we will be able to loan equipment such as rucksacks, tents, sleeping mats, stoves, compasses etc meaning there is very little you will need to purchase in the way of kit. If you would like to participate and have concerns about being able to afford the award, please do reach out to me.

Next Steps

If you haven't already, I would be grateful if you could complete the attached enrolment form and return to Pupil Services as soon as possible along with the initial payment of £30.00. To make it easier for parents to pay, we are asking all parents to preferably use our online method, ParentPay, to pay for the enrolment via credit/debit card, it also gives you the facility to pay for food & other items for your son or daughter at the Academy as well. If you do not have access to the website already, please mail parentpay@sarumacademy.org to obtain your username and password. Alternatively, please bring money in to pupil services. If paying by cheque, please make cheques payable to Sarum Academy.

If you, your son or daughter have any questions at all about the award, please do not hesitate to contact me via email or phone.

Yours sincerely



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