

Bullers Wood School for Girls & Sixth Form

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Headteacher: Mr Simon Hardwick



26th April 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

Re: DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD – Bronze 2023/24

We are delighted to inform you that we are offering the Duke of Edinburgh's (DofE) Bronze Award to Year 9 students to start in July. The students have watched our DofE video and Powerpoint during tutor time. There are four sections to the award they must complete in order to obtain their Bronze Award. Details of these may be found on the website <https://www.dofe.org/do/>.

The cost of participating in the award is **£130.00**. This covers all costs, namely the online record book, registration with the Award Scheme, two expeditions, use of the school's equipment and purchasing of equipment for members of staff to use on the expedition. Our programme is the cheapest in Bromley due to our staff volunteers. The fee for the award covers the cost of providing staff with equipment to use on the expeditions in order to encourage staff to take part. Without staff volunteers our programme would cost over £100 more per student and we could not accept as many participants.

Please **submit your application form by Friday May 12th at 8pm. No applications will be accepted after this date.** We will inform all students by Friday May 19th if they have been successful. The **£50.00 deposit will be due by Wednesday 31st May 2023 and the remaining £80.00 by Friday 29th September 2023.** The deposit is non-refundable should your daughter decide to withdraw voluntarily from the scheme at a later date or be unable to attend an expedition for any reason.

The practice and final expedition dates will be released once they have been approved by the school. We are hoping to know by July. Normally the practice day walk is at the end of March on a Saturday and the two-day final expedition is likely to be in May 2024. **Please visit our Twitter page @BWSGirlsDofE to see how amazing our expeditions look.**

Each student is required to participate in volunteering, a skill and a sport. Details of these may be found on the DofE website <https://www.dofe.org/do/> and there is a great informational video provided by the DofE on https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FqHrGnY_Ktg

As these sections will involve your child voluntarily pursuing activities in external placements, the school cannot accept responsibility for her health and safety during these sessions and you should make the appropriate enquiries to satisfy yourselves in this respect.

The school will lend students equipment for use on the expedition trips, the safe-keeping of which they are responsible for; any loss or damage will need to be paid for by the student's parent/carer. **The students will need the following;** walking boots, two pairs of walking socks, waterproof trousers, waterproof jacket, sleeping bag, roll mat and any other clothing. Most students have found these items from friends and family or on second hand sites such as Ebay or Facebook Marketplace. All students will receive a discount card at several major camping companies. We recommend searching for these items at least three months before the expeditions.

Students will need to take part in ten after school training sessions and these dates will be released in June. Each session will be from 3:10 to 4pm. We have not seen our teaching timetables for next school

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year so we cannot guarantee the exact days of the week. We are predicting it will be Tuesdays and Fridays. We normally start these mid-November. Please do not sign up for this award if they cannot attend one of these days as the training is compulsory.

Please click on the link to the enrolment form and complete by Friday 12th May 2023. Please fill this out in conjunction with them and ensure all the sections are completed. **This application requires you to know exactly what you are doing for each of the three sections. It will take at least an hour to plan and 30 minutes to complete.** You will need to list the following information for your physical, skill and volunteering sections; what are you doing, where, who will assess you (cannot be a family member and must be over 18) and what goals you want to achieve. **This application needs to be completed with the support of an adult as the quality of your application determines your selection.**

<https://forms.office.com/e/YJgF7gkRtF>

If you have any further questions then please do not hesitate to contact me.



Yours faithfully

Ms Coop

Duke of Edinburgh Co-ordinator

PLEASE NOTE CAREFULLY

All medical and emergency telephone numbers which we invite you to update every year will be generated from school records. Please ensure that any changes in the information held are provided as soon as possible to office@bwsgirls.org. **If your child requires any medication for the trip please put this in a transparent bag marked clearly with your child's name plus medication enclosed, the dosage amount and times to be taken. Please hand to a member of staff on the day of the visit.** In the event that emergency medical treatment is required, this will be undertaken unless expressly advised otherwise by Parent/Carer at the time of payment/confirming place on trip/visit.

Please note the school reserves the right to cancel the place of any student whose behaviour prior to the trip does not meet the school expectations, or whose attendance record is unacceptable. In this event Parents/Carers are advised that no refund will be made. This sum is non-refundable in the event of the absence of a student on the day. Parents/Carers are advised that this may incur cancellation charges.

Parental consent for a trip acknowledges the responsibility of the parent to ensure their child has been made aware of the contents of the Bullers Wood MAT Code of Conduct for Students on school trips, available on the school website. If a student's conduct on the trip would have led to a fixed term exclusion from school, parents are expected to collect their daughter/son from the trip destination. Parents would be liable for all associated costs relating to the collection of the student.

Payment signifies the commitment by the payer to the students' participation in the trip/activity and confirms parental consent. The cost of the visit/activity is non-refundable except in the case of serious illness, when a doctor's certificate will be required (or proof of a positive PCR test if the student has Covid). Payments are used to secure firm bookings with the companies whose services are engaged for the visit. Please ensure all payments are made on-line as described by the due date.