

Bullers Wood School for Girls & Sixth Form

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Headteacher: Mr Simon Hardwick



14th October, 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

We are very pleased to announce that all students have been successfully added to the eDofE platform. They should receive their log in details via their email and their enrolment packet should come in the post shortly.

Important dates:

Monday November 1st at 3.10pm: All Bronze students to meet in the gym. We will explain how to log their hours for the three sections and give an overview of the training.

Monday 29th or Tuesday 30th November at 3.10pm: The weekly training will start. All students will be asked if they have any preference of their training sessions. I will notify them by 8th November of which group they have been placed into. There will be no training the first week in January. Training will be completed before we go on our practice walk.

Students will complete a minimum of 10 training session and hopefully no more than 12. The sessions will last at least 45mins and a maximum of an hour and 15 minutes. They will be taught how to cook, pitch a tent, map reading, first aid, health and safety, country code and other DofE topics. If a student misses a session they will be set work to complete. If anyone misses a second session they may be prevented from taking part in the final expedition. It is a DofE requirement that we must cover all topics before we undertake the walking expedition.

Students will choose their own walking groups. We prefer them to be in the same training groups as well. A walking group consists of a minimum of 5 and a maximum of 7 students. Groups will be decided by Christmas.

Saturday 19th March 2022: Practice day walk. Keston Fish Ponds car park BR2 6AT. 8am to 5pm (Please be prepared that your child might finish by 2pm if they are very successful).

Friday 6th to Sunday 8th May 2022: Qualifying expedition. It is a two-day expedition but since the group is so large some groups will start on the Friday and finish on the Saturday and the other groups will start on Saturday and finish on Sunday. We will inform you of the exact two days after we have completed the day practice walk in March. Please keep all three days free.

The expedition will be in the Cudham/Biggin Hill area and students must make their own way to the start. The day will start from 8am and they should finish their second day from 2pm. Some groups may finish as late as 5pm. We are planning at this stage to camp but if this changes we will notify you as soon as possible.

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Finally, all students can begin to complete their online logbooks. They can backdate their hours to September and I highly recommend watching this DofE Youtube video. <https://youtu.be/2iNfHskqZ-E>. We will explain in more detail how to complete this at our training sessions. All students must enter their three sections plans by the end of November. The three sections are volunteering, physical and skill. Students should complete one section by January, the second one by March and the final section by May. For two sections students need to take part for at least an hour a week for three months and for one section it is for six months. We recommend students do their favourite section for the six months. You can change your section plans at any stage and we expect photos to be uploaded to their account at least twice a month. Once a student completes a section they need an adult who is not a parent to complete an assessor report. We will explain more to the students at our training sessions.

I hope all this information ensures we have a very successful year. Please make sure your child stays on top of completing their weekly hours and logging the information onto their account. If you have any questions please email me directly at acoop@bwsgirls.org

Yours sincerely



Ms Coop

Duke of Edinburgh's Award Co-ordinator

Miss R Giacobazzi

Duke of Edinburgh's Award Co-ordinator