

Education Department

Director: Mhairi Shaw, DCE

Council Offices, 211 Main Street, Barrhead, East Renfrewshire G78 1SY

Mearns Castle High School

Head Teacher: Dean T Smith MA

Waterfoot Road, Newton Mearns, East Renfrewshire, G77 5GU

Phone: 0141 577 2300 Fax: 0141 577 2314

e-mail: schoolmail@mearnscastle.e-renfrew.sch.uk

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Dear Parent/Carer

The Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award

The Duke of Edinburgh Award is a programme intended for young people to develop their skills, character and sense of adventure. Pupils must be 14 years old to undertake the Bronze Award and the minimum length of time it can be completed in is 6 months. Young people can progress from Bronze to Silver then Gold level. The Award requires the participants to complete activities in 3 sections: Skill, Volunteering and Physical. They must undertake at least 1 hour a week for each of these sections. Participants also complete a Practice and Qualifying Expedition.

Skill Section

An existing hobby/club that your child already participates in may be suitable to meet the requirements for this section. Alternatively, they may choose a new activity (playing an instrument, learning a language, cooking, collecting, poetry, book reviews, photography, learning to knit, darts or snooker). The www.theaward.org website has many examples. Parents will need to be supportive and responsible for pupils as the bulk of activities will take place outside of school hours. This section must be undertaken for 3 months.

Physical Section

An existing hobby/club that your child already participates in may be suitable to meet the requirements for this section. Alternatively, they may choose a new activity (swim, run, cycle, golf or dancing). The www.theaward.org website has many examples. This section must be undertaken for 3 months.

Volunteering Section

Volunteering must be for a non-profit making organisation. For example; helping in a council run nursery, after school club, with a Brownie or Scout group, riding for the disabled, in a charity shop, home for the elderly (not helping with care but chatting, playing games), council run sport clubs or an environmental group. No volunteering should take place where fees are charged. ie a vet practice, private sports club, private kennels, equestrian centre, a private dance school or a restaurant. This section must be undertaken for 3 months.

Pupils must then undertake **one** of either volunteering, physical or skills sections for a further 3 months.

Pupils must complete **two** of the above sections before they can go out on Expedition in May.

Expedition Section

Pupils will be expected to attend lunch time/after school meetings which will cover first aid training, outdoor safety, emergency procedures, meal planning, camp craft, the country code, navigation and route planning.

The Expeditions will take place in May and they are run by a company called Adventure Expeditions. This ensures pupils are given training and they are fully supervised by qualified instructors (www.adventure-expeditions.net/). In groups of 4-7 pupils they will complete a Practice Expedition and a Qualifying (Assessed) Expedition. They will walk between 15-20 miles and camp overnight. As part of the Expedition section, groups must have an aim e.g. land uses, vegetation and wildlife, history, weather or tourism impacts. They present their findings in the form of a video diary, poster or Powerpoint after their Expedition.

eDofE Account

Pupils will be registered and receive a record pack and an online account. It is important they keep their login and password safe. This eDofE account is used to record their skill, physical and volunteering activities. It is important that pupils update their online accounts regularly with evidence to show what they are doing (word evidence, pictures, log sheets, certificates).

In order to achieve the Award they must have at least **4 photographs** and a **weekly activity log** of evidence for each section. When pupils complete a section they must then add an **Assessor's Report** which can be scanned in or completed directly online using their ID number. It is important that the assessor is not a family member. It is essential pupils understand the time, responsibility and commitment that the Award will take. It is very important they meet deadlines and attend all meetings.

Cost

The total cost to complete the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award is **£235**. This cost includes:

- Administration fees for the eDofE account which is an online record that pupils must keep up to date with details of their physical, skill, volunteering and expedition sections of the Award.
- Training sessions, maps and training booklet.
- Two fully supervised Expeditions by the Adventure Expedition Leaders.
- Assessor fees.
- Campsite costs.
- Transport costs – coach to and from the Expedition routes.
- Provision of group equipment, tents, maps, compass, cooking pans, stoves and gas, group shelters, first aid kits.
- Duke of Edinburgh T-Shirt

There are **65 places** available for the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award. Due to the demand and to allocate places fairly, pupils will be asked to complete an application form and post it in the box in E2 by **Friday 4 October 2019**. The best applications will be drawn from a ballot. Pupils will then be informed if they have been successful on the notice board outside E2.

Pupils should not be too disappointed if they do not get a place. There will be opportunities in subsequent years for them to do the Silver Award as a Direct Entrant. The council also run an open award group.

If you have any concerns or questions please do not hesitate to contact Kathryn Ward.

Yours sincerely

Mrs K Ward
Duke of Edinburgh Leader