

# COLYTON GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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Dear Parent/Guardian

## **Bronze D of E Award**

I am writing to update you on arrangements for the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award expeditions which will take place later in the year, and an idea about kit your son/daughter needs to acquire. Hopefully I have timed this so that you can take advantage of the January sales!

Students have arranged themselves into expedition teams (included in the copy of this letter e-mailed out to parents/guardians). As there are almost 80 students, this has had to be done across two groups for both the training and qualifying expeditions. However, all groups will work together on the pre-expedition session. Unlike previous years where these have been done after school, students have been given permission to miss a day's lessons. They should come to school in sensible casual clothing, register as normal in their tutor bases then come to the Sindalls Building. Our partners at Dynamic Adventures will be leading the sessions in map-reading, tent building, meal planning and all the other skills needed for a successful expedition. This session will take place on **Wednesday 14 March**, and only during school hours. I suggest that your son/daughter brings a notebook and pencil case as they will need to keep a record of the advice they are given. Further information will be sent out closer to the date.

### **Other important dates are:**

#### **Group 1 (group names notified via email)**

Practice expedition: 5 – 6 May 2018

Qualifying expedition: 23 – 24 June 2018

#### **Group 2 (group names notified via email)**

Practice expedition: 19 – 20 May 2018

Qualifying expedition: 16 – 17 June 2018

To qualify for the Award, students must complete all three sections of the expedition: Training, Practice and Qualifying. If any of the dates causes a problem, I would appreciate knowing as soon as possible as Dynamic Adventures need to provide the appropriate numbers of staff to run these sessions. Students should start to work on their fitness as necessary to prepare for the demands of the expedition.

Students have made progress in completing the other sections of the award - physical, skills and volunteering. As I write, one student has actually completed their skills section, a fantastic achievement. Can I please ask that you encourage your son/daughter to log onto the eDofE website and to update their programme planner as soon as possible? They should also upload their evidence from each assessor as soon as they have it to save a panic in September. The idea is to complete the bulk of the work over the next two terms so that they are eligible to go forward to Silver in September if they choose to do so.

Thank you to those of you who have already paid in full. Unfortunately, since my initial letter in September, Devon County withdrew their subsidy of the award, meaning that instead of paying £7 to enrol, the cost is now £20. We have paid the enrolment fee from the initial deposits, but this means that there is not enough to pay for the training, practice and qualifying expeditions. I have adjusted the amount on [ParentPay](#) and would be grateful if you could pay a further instalment of £50 by 28 February, £50 by 31 March and the balance by 30 April 2018. If there is any problem about this, please do let me know. I am very sorry to land this on you at a difficult time of year, but I do not have any choice in the matter. I will be exploring other sources of funding to see if I can find any way of helping and will advise accordingly if this is the case.

Kit lists are on the school website. I suggest that students should look into getting walking boots fairly soon so that they can break them in over the coming weeks. If they are able to borrow equipment, that is fine, but we do not have items in school for them to use.

I hope that this clarifies matters and that your son/daughter is enjoying the challenge this Award represents. Please do contact me if there is anything that requires clarification.

Yours faithfully

Mrs M Lester

Bronze D of E Co-ordinator