



ABINGDON

From: Steve Newton, Master i/c Canoeing

22 May 2015

Dear Parents

*Duke of Edinburgh Award
Bronze Canoeing Expeditions*

Introduction to Canoeing Expeditions

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme at Abingdon School allows expeditions to be completed by Open Canoe as well as Walking. This unique opportunity allows boys to explore the inland waterways of the UK and also experience some gentle white water.

Availability of Places on Canoeing Expeditions

Places on Canoeing expeditions are very limited and highly sought after so the boys must be willing to show commitment at an early stage.

At the Bronze award there are only 12 places available. Priority will be given to those boys who have either paddled with the school Canoe Club or have previous canoeing experience. After taking all these considerations the availability of places will then be considered on a 'first come first served' principle. Should boys be unsuccessful in applying for the Canoeing expeditions they will be able to join the walking groups.

At Silver and Gold levels there are only 8 places available per award as we run the Silver and Gold trips at the same time. Access to these awards from Bronze level is highly sought after and unfortunately there aren't enough places available for all boys. Priority will be given to those boys who have made a conscious effort to complete their entire DofE Bronze award and have shown a high degree of interest and leadership in Canoeing. By agreeing to register for the Silver expedition boys must continue to the Gold expedition. Due to the safety training required we cannot allow boys to directly enter at Silver or Gold levels as they will have missed out on vital training and experience at the lower awards.

Dates

At Bronze level there are two compulsory expeditions alongside a planning day in school:

Planning Day & Kit Check
Saturday 12 September 2015 – 9am to 11am

Bronze Practice Expedition
River Thames, Oxfordshire
Saturday 19 September 2015 (9am) to Sunday 20 September 2015 (5pm)

Bronze Assessment Expedition
River Medway, Kent
Sunday 5 June 2016 (7am) to Monday 6 June 2016 (6pm)

Abingdon School, Park Road, Abingdon, Oxfordshire, OX14 1DE

Tel: 01235 521563 Fax: 01235 849079

www.abingdon.org.uk

By signing up to the Bronze award the boys **must** take part and complete the training morning and both expedition weekends. Failure to do so will result in them not completing the expedition section and therefore not obtaining the award at that level. It might also put the expedition numbers at risk for the remaining boys. Therefore please consider if your son will be available for both expeditions and the school based training before applying for him to join the award.

Costs

The major costs associated with the scheme are for the joining materials and travel expenses for the expeditions, although every effort is made to keep these to a minimum.

Joining fee	£55.00
Practice Expedition	£70.00 (approx.)
Assessment Expedition	£95.00 (approx.)

(The joining fee is payable on application and both expedition fees will be charged to the school bill at the end of the Michaelmas term)

These are per boy to cover items such as travel, campsite fees, river licences, maps and safety equipment.

All paddling equipment will be provided by the school: Open Canoe, Paddle, Water Proof Kit Barrel, Buoyancy Aid, Helmet, Goggles and all associated safety equipment. The school will also provide a tent and stove/fuel for each expedition.

Boys are expected to provide all other camping equipment (Sleeping Bag, Roll Mat) and personal canoeing equipment (Suitable paddling clothing and water shoes).

Equipment

A guide to equipment and cooking for DofE Canoeing will be provided to all boys accepted on the Canoeing expeditions. This will be discussed further on the school training day however please contact us if you require any advice on purchasing any specialist canoeing equipment.

Joining the Scheme

Application to the DofE Canoeing expeditions is made via the Bronze DofE application form – Canoeists should indicate on this form they wish to apply for Canoeing instead of Walking.

Applications for Canoeing must be submitted to Mr Newton via the MCR by Wednesday 24 June with a supporting letter explaining previous canoeing experience and any qualifications.

Please indicate if boys would like to undertake the expedition by foot should their application be unsuccessful.

Yours sincerely

Steve Newton
Master i/c Canoe Club & DofE Canoeing



Enrolment form for BRONZE AWARD (minimum entry age 14)

Participant's Forenames: _____ Surname: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Tel (landline): _____ Tel (mob): _____ (son)

School email: _____@abingdon.org.uk

Date of Birth: ____ / ____ / ____ Age (in Sep): _____

Tutor: _____ House: _____

Signature of applicant: _____ **Walking or Canoeing:** _____

If the canoeing group is at capacity would you like to complete the expeditions by walking? **Yes / No**

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award includes four activities: Skill, Physical, Volunteering and Expeditions. To be able to join the expeditions with Abingdon School participants need to have started the other activities and have logged this on their eDofE account. In order to enrol participants need to decide what activities they will be doing; there is lots of information about the possible activities on the DofE website. <http://www.dofe.org/en/content/cms/doing-your-dofe/activities-sections/> Please complete this table.

Section	The activity you will do.	The name of the person who will assess you (this must not be family)
Skill	e.g. playing the piano / chess club	
Volunteering	e.g. helping with beavers or lower school football /science club	
Physical	e.g. rugby / tennis	

Consent of parent or guardian (for young people under 18 years of age)

I agree to my son/ward participating in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award within Abingdon School and agree that he will be available for all expeditions (walking / canoeing (*as applicable*)).

Please add £55 to our school bill / I have enclosed as cheque for £55 for the enrolment fee.

Signature of parent/guardian: _____

Name: _____

Date: ____ / ____ / ____

Once form is complete please return it to Mr Newton via the MCR by Wednesday 24 June. Cheques for the £55.00 enrolment fee should be made payable to "Abingdon School".