



# ABINGDON

22 May 2015

Dear Parent/Guardian,

*Duke of Edinburgh Award Silver and Gold Sailing 2015-2016  
Open to current Fourth and Fifth Years*

## **Introduction**

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award offers a personal challenge through its balanced programme of activities. Boys are encouraged to serve others, acquire new skills and experience adventure. It is non-competitive, being based on individual improvement and achievement, reflecting personal choice, initiative and perseverance and in, some cases, leadership.

At Abingdon School the expedition section of the award can be undertaken on foot, by canoe or under sail at Silver and Gold level (separate letters will be received from Mr Dempsey and Mr Newton about walking and canoeing respectively).

Sailing expeditions are undertaken in a 36-40ft yacht from Plymouth for the practice and Southampton for the qualifying expedition. During the preliminary sessions and practice expedition the skills required for the assessment will be learned including pilotage, coastal passage planning, boat handling, skippering techniques and emergency situations. Students have the option for also signing up to complete their Day Skipper award (1 week course) giving them the requisite NGB qualification to charter yachts around the world.

## **Key points and dates:**

- Students must sign up to at least one other half sailing session in the Michaelmas term in order to develop their boat handling skills. These take place from 4pm-7pm on a Monday and Friday and 2.30pm-6pm on a Wednesday.
- In order to learn the appropriate theory required to safely charter a boat and plan the expeditions there will be a compulsory Other Half theory session for all participants from 4pm-5pm on a Tuesday during the Michaelmas term. This means that unfortunately students in the CCF are unable to partake in DofE sailing.
- Practice Expedition dates: 16-20 October 2015.
- Qualifying expedition dates: 24-28 March 2016.

## **Priority**

Due to the nature of the expedition there are limited places that will be allocated in the following order of priority:

- Students who have previously demonstrated some level of interest in sailing.
- Students who have completed their Award at the level below (Bronze or Silver).
- First come first served basis.

## **Costs**

Due to the nature of yachting and the requirements for boat charter DofE sailing is a more expensive option than walking or canoeing. The costs are as follows:

Enrolment fee £55.00 This includes initial registration with eDofE, a welcome pack, completion certificate, badge (on completion), and a contribution to safety equipment, the DofE centre license, expedition equipment maintenance and replacement.

The total fee for the practice and qualifying expedition (8 days yachting) is £585 per student. This includes boat charter, food, travel and instruction.

If your son is also interested in completing his Day skipper the all inclusive cost of this course with travel and food is anticipated to be £680. This is more expensive due to the necessity of having an external assessor aboard for the duration of the trip.

## **Kit list**

For all yachting expeditions the student should provide the following kit.

- Waterproof coat
- Waterproof trousers
- Wellies/sailing boots
- Sleeping bag
- Pillow

To secure a place for your son to participate in the Silver or Gold DofE sailing please return the attached DofE application form and the consent form the which includes permission for the full cost (£55 enrolment and £585 expedition fee) to be levied on the school bill at the end of term.

The school will pay the deposit to cover damage to the boats, but in the unlikely event that there were to be a surcharge, we would have to share that cost across the participants on the trip.

I hope this outlines the visit and our expectations. Please feel free to contact me if you have any concerns or questions about the visit.

Yours sincerely

Ben Simmons - Master in Charge of Sailing  
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