



From: Steve Newton, Master i/c Canoeing

27 May 2016

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 there are only 8 places available. Access to this award 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.

**Dates**

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

**Planning Day & Kit Check**  
**Saturday 10 September 2016 – 9am to 11am**

**Bronze Practice Expedition**  
River Thames, Oxfordshire  
**Saturday 17 September 2016 (9am) to Sunday 18 September 2016 (5pm)**

**Bronze Assessment Expedition**  
River Medway, Kent  
**Sunday 4 June 2017 (7am) to Monday 5 June 2017 (6pm)**

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 you 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.

<b>Joining fee</b>	<b>£55.00</b>
<b>Practice Expedition</b>	<b>£70.00 (approx.)</b>
<b>Assessment Expedition</b>	<b>£95.00 (approx.)</b>

(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, Cagoule 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 Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

Boys will be informed before the Summer break if they have been successful in gaining a place or not to allow time for preparation as we start practicing very early in September.

Yours sincerely

Steve Newton - Master i/c Canoe Club & DofE Canoeing  
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