



# ABINGDON

6 May 2016

Dear Parent/Guardian,

*Duke of Edinburgh Award Bronze Sailing 2016-2017  
Open to current third year*

## **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 Bronze, Silver and Gold level. Canoeing and walking letters will be received from Mr Dempsey at the end of June.

Sailing expeditions are undertaken in a 36-40ft yacht with common expedition locations being Plymouth and the Solent. 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.

## **Key points and dates:**

- Students must sign up to at least one other half sailing session in the Michaelmas term 2016 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 an Other Half theory session for all participants from 4pm-5pm on a Tuesday during the Michaelmas term.
- Practice Expedition dates: 2-6 March 2017.
- Qualifying expedition dates: 2-6 June 2017.

## **Progression**

At Abingdon we use the yachting DofE expeditions as training in order to prepare students to undertake RYA yachting qualifications. If they choose to go on and complete their Silver award in the fifth year they will then have the chance to take the Day Skipper course if desired which is a requirement to independently charter yachts around the world. In the past students have also gone on to take Yachtmaster qualifications in the Sixth Form.

## **Costs**

The costs of sailing at Bronze level are significantly more than for walking or canoeing. The fee includes 10 days aboard a sailing yacht in two separate locations building skippering experience.

The costs are as follows:

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

The total fee for the practice and qualifying expedition is £600 per student. This includes boat charter, food, travel and instruction.

### **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 Bronze DofE sailing please return the consent form and a deposit cheque for £100. The remaining cost will then be levied on the Michaelmas term school bill.

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.

Please note that by completing the consent form you are committing to the total cost of this trip. The non-refundable deposit secures your son's place, but thereafter the School will proceed to make bookings and reservations to procure the best possible deals. The payment arrangements offered are a means of spreading the cost rather than a reflection of when liabilities are incurred.

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

Yours sincerely

Ben Simmons - Master in Charge of Sailing  
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