



ABINGDON

23 June 2017

Dear Parent/Guardian,

*Duke of Edinburgh Award Silver and Gold Sailing 2017-2018
Open to current fourth and fifth 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 Silver and Gold level. Information about walking and canoeing is available separately.

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.

Key points and dates:

- Students must sign up to at least one other half sailing session per week in the Michaelmas term 2017 or have previous sailing experience 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.
- Practice Expedition dates: 13 - 17 October 2017.
- Qualifying expedition dates: 29 March - 2 April 2018.

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 completed their Award at the level below (Bronze).
- Students who have previously demonstrated some level of interest in sailing.
- 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, 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 (8 days yachting) 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 Silver or Gold DofE sailing please complete the attached google consent form at the bottom of this letter which gives permission for the full cost to be levied on the Summer term bill.

Consent form

<https://goo.gl/forms/CkKoccezGzCr4ZAx42>

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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