



ABINGDON

From Master i/c of sailing: Ben Simmons

9 June 2017

Dear Parent/Guardian,

*Duke of Edinburgh Award Bronze Sailing 2017-2018
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.

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, skipping techniques and emergency situations.

Key points and dates:

- Students must sign up to at least one other half sailing session in the Michaelmas term 2017 in order to develop their boat handling skills (or have previously achieved a standard of approximately RYA Stage 2).
- In order to learn the appropriate theory required to safely crew 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. The only exception to students attending these sessions is for those involved in CCF as this takes priority.
- Practice Expedition dates: Sunday 6 – Wednesday 9 May 2018
- Qualifying expedition dates: Saturday 16 – Tuesday 19 June 2018.

Progression

The attached flowchart shows an example of the progression possible for students choosing to take their DofE under sail.

Costs

The costs of sailing at Bronze level are significantly more than for walking or canoeing due to the necessity of boat charter for the expeditions. The fee includes all travel, food, accommodation and instruction whilst on expedition/practice.

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 £485 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 complete the link to the consent form below which gives permission for the full cost of the expedition and DofE sign up to be levied on your Michaelmas term bill.

Consent form link:

<https://goo.gl/forms/xObXG1BDGOkIzbu73>

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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School Mobile Number for Duration of Trip: 07532088861