

Our Ref: JMH



May 2016

Dear Parent/Guardian

### **Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award Registration**

I am writing to you to explain about the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award which is open to pupils in Year 9. Your child will have the opportunity to participate in the award during the coming academic year. Abbotsholme pupils have long been involved in the Award and during your child's school career, he or she will have the opportunity to advance to Silver and Gold Level.

There are four sections to a Bronze Award: Volunteering, Skills, Physical and an Expedition. There are a wide range of activities from which pupils can choose, to satisfy each section, many of which can be undertaken within school. Pupils can put together an individual programme that interests and challenges them and, from this, they gain a sense of responsibility and self-confidence. Further details can be found on the website [www.dofe.org](http://www.dofe.org).

Once your child has enrolled onto the programme, he or she will be given the details of their online account. A username and password will be provided and it will be their responsibility to add details and evidence; after an initial introduction to the eDofE, as it is known, in school.

At Abbotsholme, the Expedition element of the Bronze Award is fulfilled during the summer term of Year 9, ending with a 2 day hike during 'Camps' which counts as the qualifying expedition. Your son/daughter will be participating in this, receiving training through Outdoor Education lessons and during 'Hikes' in October. A 2 day practice expedition will take place in the first half of the Summer Term, in May, then the qualifying expedition will over the course of Year 9 camp in June/July 2017.

As part of the Award's enrolment process, an Entrance Pack is required by all participants of the scheme. Each pupil will receive a Bronze Record Book and an online account. The cost of entering the programme is £30. Whilst there is a charge for registering for the award, I would like to stress that all the expedition training ventures and the qualifying venture at both Bronze and Silver are included within the school fees. At some schools, the charge for such D of E ventures runs into several hundred pounds.

I think that this is a wonderful opportunity for the pupils to gain a nationally recognized award – and to have a lot of fun doing so! In recent years all pupils in Year 9 have been entered for and successfully completed the Bronze Award. Your child will be automatically entered for the Bronze Award in the forthcoming Autumn Term and a charge of £30 will be added to the school bill. If you do not wish your child to be entered for the award, please contact me by email at [joy.holmes@abbotsholme.co.uk](mailto:joy.holmes@abbotsholme.co.uk) by the start of the Autumn Term. Please also contact me if you have any queries about the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme.

Yours sincerely

*Joy Holmes*

Mrs J M Holmes  
D of E Manager