



Bowerhill, Melksham
Wiltshire SN12 6QZ

Tel: 01225 792700

Fax: 01225 790759

Interim Principal

Aidan Blowers

www.melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk

8th January 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award

Thank you for your interest in the Duke of Edinburgh Award. As part of the expedition section we provide training for students. We will take them on a number of day walks, we will run after school sessions (normally for 1 hour) and they will complete a Practice and Assessed Expedition. The 2 expeditions are compulsory and we expect students to attend at least 80% of the training activities. A proposed schedule is below. In addition there will be a training day which we hope will take place on the February ACORNS day but this has yet to be confirmed.

Training Dates

Item	Detail	Date
Launch	Give an overview of the award to students and parents	9th Jan
Practice Walk 1	Practice Walk Bowood	26th Jan
Section Planners	Hand out section planners in advance of Monday and review of day walk	30th Jan
edofe1	eDofE intro session with Rhyannah	3rd Feb
Maps 1	Symbols, Grid References	13th Feb
edofe 2	review of where they are on their sections	5th March
Maps 2	Compass work; Countryside code, route cards	12th March
Maps 3	Planning for Walk 2	19th March
Practice Walk 2	Practice Walk Cherhill Monument	15th March
Expedition intro	Review of walk. 20 conditions and the assessor role; expedition aim	26th March
edofe 3	review of where they are on their sections	2nd April
Route and Menu Planning	Planning Routes and menus	7th May
Kit & Route Planning	Picking up Kit and finishing any routes	21st May
Practice Expedition	2 day practice expedition Sells Green	22nd & 23rd May



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Route and Menu Planning	Planning Routes and menus	18th June
Kit & Route Planning	Picking up Kit and finishing any routes	25th June
Assessed Expedition	2 day assessed Poulton	26-27 June
edofe final	finishing off sections	2nd July 2020

Costs

Teachers support and run the award on a completely voluntary basis, however there is a cost to completing the award. The total cost is £60 which includes a £22 enrolment fee- which goes straight to the DofE Charity - it includes camping fees, transport and use of school tents, fuel and stoves. I have tried to keep costs as low as possible as I do not want cost to be a barrier. I have also attached a suggested Kit list for students. Please also note that there is additional support for those students on Free School Meals.

This cost is payable upfront and is non-refundable should your child wish to drop out at a later date.

What to do now

To confirm that your son/daughter wishes to sign up for the DofE please complete the attached enrolment form and return this by **Wednesday 22nd January**, you will also need to make the payment of £60 on Parent Pay by **Friday 31st January**. Payment must be made by ParentPay, details of which have been sent to you. If you haven't received your log in and password please contact Mel Matthews in the Finance Office on 01225 792755.

If you have any specific questions or queries about this visit please do contact me by calling Reception and leaving a message or emailing Steerd@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk. A copy of this letter will be posted on our website.

If you have not returned the Annual Parental Consent Form then please do so as without it your child cannot go on this trip. A copy of this can be found on the school website, or contact Mel Matthews in the Finance Office on 01225 792755.

Yours Sincerely

Debbie Steer

HEAD OF OUTDOOR EDUCATION