



ST MARY'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Windhill, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire CM23 2NQ
T: 01279 654901 | E: info@stmarys.net | W: stmarys.net
Executive Headteacher: Mr P Neves, BSc (Hons), MA, NPQEL
Deputy Headteachers: Miss D McHugh, BSc (Hons) CCRS & Mr T Johnston, BA (Hons) NPQH



Part of the St Francis of Assisi Catholic Academy Trust

18th November 2022

Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award 2022-2023

Dear Parents,

The school will once again be running the **Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award**. This opportunity will be for the current Year 12's as they missed out in Year 10 and it will add an excellent enrichment opportunity to their curriculum. The school had 55 Year 12's complete the Bronze Award in 2021-2022 and early indications are very positive from the current Year 12 cohort following an Assembly presentation just before the October half term.

All Year 12's have been sent application form by e-mail and they have until 6.00pm on Thursday 24th November 2022 to submit their application on the 2022 DofE Y12 Bronze TEAMS Group which has been set up.

The joining code is: q3ukc2u. It will not be 'first come first served'!

A further Parent information letter will be sent out by Thursday 1st December to all successful applicants and parents.

The **official DofE website** is an excellent resource for both students and parents to pick up ideas for the first 3 components. The four components of the award for Bronze are:

- 1. Volunteering:** Bronze (3 or 6 months)
- 2. Physical:** Bronze (3 or 6 months)
- 3. Skills:** Bronze (3 or 6 months)
(One section above for 6 months and the **other two** section for 3 months)
- 4. Expedition:** Plan, train for and complete **one Bronze:** 3 day, 2 night **Expedition**

The total expected cost for participants will be approximately £180 dependant on final numbers.

This includes an enrolment fee for the DofE Bronze and Silver of £23 which is paid directly to the DofE organisation, £8 which is paid directly to Hertfordshire County Council as an administration fee (their support so far has been excellent) £20 per student for campsite fees, £50 per student for additional external training and expedition staff/assessors fees, £3 student insurance, £30 for use of equipment such as tents, rucksacks, first aid kits, Trangia cooking stoves and fuel, maps, map cases and compasses etc, fuel for the mini-buses and photo copying of maps and other training resources. A fish and chip supper (alternatives available) is also provided on the Thursday night!

All of the cost is allocated to the students' DofE experience.

There is no need for our students to incur additional significant costs to undertake activities in their Skill, Physical and volunteering sections and only a sleeping bag, sleeping mat and a good pair of walking shoes/boots and walking socks need to be purchased.



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Full details will be given to participants and parents following their successful application and registration. Students will **develop a range of skills** including their self-confidence, initiative, a sense of responsibility, a greater awareness of their strengths, the ability to plan and use time effectively, the ability to learn from and give back to others in the community, problem solving, presentation and communication skills, leadership and team working skills.

To help the students achieve their Award they are encouraged to use activities which they enjoy and find a challenge. These may include activities in which they are already taking part or as an opportunity to develop new skills and hobbies. A DofE programme demands persistence and commitment and cannot be completed with a short burst of enthusiasm.

Students will need to attend all timetabled school sessions, to ensure they update and complete their on-line DofE Account and are thoroughly prepared for the expeditions.

We hope that our students will find participation enjoyable, fulfilling and rewarding. Further details are included on the following pages.

Mr P Dolman.

School DofE Co-ordinator

E Mail: p.dolman@stmarys.net