



Fort Pitt Grammar School



28 September 2017

Dear Parent / Carer

Duke of Edinburgh's Award

'The Duke of Edinburgh's Award' is offered in our school. We will be offering year nine and ten pupils the opportunity to take part at Bronze level from this autumn. The Award has a high national profile and is well regarded by higher education establishments and employers.

It comprises of three progressive levels

Bronze – Year 9 - approximate age 14 yrs

Silver – Approximate age 15 yrs

Gold – minimum age 16 yrs.

Each level consist of four sections which prove commitment, fitness, tolerance of others and teamwork. You will recognise all of these qualities as those held in high esteem in our society.

Skills – This section requires young people to commit to a hobby or skill for a minimum of **3 months**. Hobbies that are already being followed can count, or there are over 200 suggested skills recommended by the scheme.

Physical Recreation – Young people must undertake a minimum of **3 months** participation at a physical activity. This encompasses most sporting activities from Dancing to Karate.

Volunteering – This requires young people to show a commitment to helping others, usually by providing service to other people in need. This should be carried out regularly for a minimum of **3 months**. Examples are Conservation projects, Fundraising, Helping children and Animal care.

In addition, an extra **3 months'** commitment must be added to any one of these three sections. This allows for as much individual flexibility as possible

Expedition – Under the supervision of qualified leaders, participants are trained in navigation and camping skills. They must then complete a supervised practice journey in unfamiliar surroundings comprising approximately 15 miles walking over two days with an overnight camp. Once sufficiently trained, they will be required to complete a similar planned journey reporting at checkpoints throughout. An Assessor will monitor their progress and assess their performance. Expeditions can only take place in summer months between March and October.

For this, participants will be required to plan routes and meals, cook, and understand the country code and camp craft. A timetabled training for the expedition part of the Award will be provided on Thursdays after school. These sessions are compulsory, and it is important that they are attended. Your daughter will also be asked to participate in a couple of practice walk days in and around the local area to fully prepare them for the expedition section. Some of these walks will take place at weekends; full details will be provided for this nearer the time.

The Bronze Award can take as little as six months to complete, but it usually takes about a year.

I will co-ordinate the Award for the school. Pupils wishing to take part will receive advice and instruction relating to the sections.

Headteacher : Nick Watkiss BMus (Hons), NPQH, FRSA, FCoT, PQSI

Fort Pitt Hill, Chatham, Kent, ME4 6TJ ☎ 01634 842359 📠 01634 817 386
✉ office@fortpitt.medway.sch.uk 🌐 www.fortpitt.medway.sch.uk

The cost for the bronze award in 2017- 2018 is £63 to be paid in advance, this includes:

- £19 enrolment fee (non-refundable in the event of withdrawal from the scheme)
- £40 expeditions (refundable if withdrawn before the expeditions take place)
- £4 administration (no refundable in event of withdrawal from the scheme)
- There is help towards the cost for students under special circumstances. Please contact me before returning the registration form.

If your child is interested in applying for a place, they will need to complete the enrolment form, which should be submitted to the school office by no later than Friday 6 October. Any applications received after this date will not be considered. Please ensure that a cheque for £63 made out to Fort Pitt Grammar School is enclosed with the registration form.

There will be a parents' information evening on Tuesday 3 October at 5:00 p.m., where you will have the opportunity to ask any questions. If you would like further information at this stage please do not hesitate to contact me by email. Alternatively you may wish to visit the Duke of Edinburgh website at www.dofe.org for further information, both for participants and parents.

Yours faithfully



Ms L Achata