St Anselm's Catholic School

A Catholic Academy in the Archdiocese of Southwark
Member of the Kent Catholic Schools' Partnership

Headteacher: Mr J Rowarth
BA (Hons) NPQH

"faith seeking understanding"

Dear Parents/Carers,

Duke of Edinburgh's Award – Bronze
St Anselm's Catholic School

You may have recently attended the Parent Information Presentation evening and/or your child may have expressed an interest in joining the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme here at St Anselm's School. We have successfully been running the Scheme for over ten years now and we have a significant number of students completing the Award at all levels (Bronze, Silver and Gold).

Many of you will already have prior knowledge of the Award but so that you are further aware of what it entails, I have pieced this letter together with some general information.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme (DofE) is an internationally recognised award that was set up by HRH Prince Philip and has been running for over 60 years. Prince Edward is now the new Duke of Edinburgh and the patron of the Award. Its purpose is to encourage all young people to get involved in a variety of activities outside of the classroom environment, committing to these activities for a minimum allocated time. It is widely accepted that the Award can help with entry into higher education (UCAS points) and is an excellent talking point at job interviews.

It is organised into three distinct levels: Bronze, Silver and Gold. Each level has four main Sections to complete (the Gold has one additional 'Residential activity'). The four sections are:

Volunteering*: To inspire young people to make a difference within their communities or to an individual's life and develop compassion by giving service to others.

Skill*: To inspire young people to develop practical and social skills and personal interests.

Physical*: To inspire young people to achieve greater physical fitness and a healthy lifestyle through participation and improvement in physical activity.

Expedition**: To inspire young people to develop initiative and a spirit of adventure and discovery, by planning, training for and completing an adventurous journey as part of a team.

*At the Bronze level of the Award, one of these Sections must be for a minimum 6 months duration, the other two for 3 months

**At St Anselm's we have an amazing reputation in the Kent area for the quality of our expeditions and the training program in place. We have an introductory one-night expedition in the local area (after Easter), 4 days in Dorset (May/June/July time) and then the assessment expedition at the end of Term 6 or in Term 1 next year.

It is preferred that new entrants join at the Bronze level. If your child has already completed their Bronze Award via an alternative provider, they can move onto the Silver level of the Scheme *(please let me*

know). In the past ten years here at St Anselm's, we have had a huge number of students of all abilities complete their Bronze Award, a significant number completed their Silver and many of these have now completed their Gold Award (which included a trip to Buckingham Palace to collect their Award).

The students can begin their DofE journey in Year 9 and have until their 25th birthday to complete up to and including the Gold level.

Clearly, I know one of your main questions or concerns will be the costs involved. We try to keep costs at a minimum as we know you may have additional outlay to support your child on their other Section interests and their expedition (we do have expedition equipment here to lend such as rucksacks, stoves, tents, etc). The cost for enrolment onto the Award is £33 (including admin fee) which has to be paid to register onto the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. Individual costs will then be incurred for each expedition as we run them. These costs are always deliberately kept low to enable inclusion of as many students as possible. Other costs will depend on what your child intends to do for the Volunteering, Physical and Skill Sections of the Award. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is available to all young people and finance should not be seen as a barrier. Financial support may often be available if you contact me here at school.

Virtually all students (*and parents*) have agreed that the scheme has been invaluable to their personal development and well-being at school and I see no reason why this should change for your child's participation. Our Headteacher, Mr Rowarth, is also fully supportive of the Award, recognising the benefits it affords each participant.

If you are in agreement and are happy to support your child in this Award, then please complete the enrolment form attached at your earliest convenience.

I look forward to welcoming your young person onto the Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award here at St Anselm's school.

Yours Sincerely

Mr R Lloyd
DofE Manager
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