September 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

Duke of Edinburgh Award – Bronze Award (Year 9 2026-27)

At St John's we are delighted to offer Year 9 students the opportunity to participate in the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award. The award is split into four sections which are volunteering, physical, skill and expedition. The first three sections are undertaken independently, supported by parents at home. The expedition is completed as part of a small team through two weekends of walking and camping. The expedition section is split into two parts the practice: where students walk with an instructor and are taught the basics of map reading, navigation and camp craft. This is then followed by an assessed expedition where students are remotely supervised by their instructor putting into practice the skills they have learnt on their practice weekend.

The practice expedition and assessed expedition, which are both compulsory parts of the programme, are due to take place on the dates below:

- Practice Expedition - Saturday 17th April to Sunday 18th April 2027
- Assessed Expedition - Saturday 1st May to 2nd May 2027

Transport to and from the expedition areas unfortunately cannot be provided by St John's or BXM Expeditions. We would encourage everyone to lift share as some of the drop off and pick up locations have very limited parking; the exact details of where and when to drop off/collect will be confirmed nearer the time.

The total cost to participate in the Bronze Award at St John's is £255.00, which will be required to be paid as follows.

- Non-Refundable Deposit Payment: £127.50 Due by Friday 23rd October 2026
- Final Balance Payment: £127.50 Due by Friday 18th December 2026

Please note that the initial deposit is non-refundable and failure to complete payments on time will result in the student not being able to attend the expeditions and therefore unable to complete the award.

In case of financial hardship, support is available from the St John's Opportunity Fund for Year 9 students and a letter to the principal will be dealt with confidentially and sympathetically.

Please use the QR code below to generate an application form and then please visit ParentPay to pay your son/daughter's £100.00 initial DofE award deposit.

The final date for enrolment is Friday 23rd October 2026. Please note that we will be unable to accept applications after this date. Payment should ideally be made online through ParentPay; however, payment can be made by cheque. For security purposes we request that you do not make payments in cash. The Academy cannot be held responsible for the non-receipt of cash payments from students.

By signing your son/daughter up to the Bronze DofE Award you are acknowledging full responsibility for making payment instalments on time and in full. Please note that once sign-up has been completed, payments will be **non-refundable** unless the expedition is cancelled by BXM. Should the student be withdrawn by parental request, unless for a substantiated medical reason, this will be taken as unwillingness to complete the award and therefore parents will be liable for all costs incurred. All such withdrawals should be discussed, in the first instance with Mr L Broadhurst via DofECoordinator@stjohns.excalibur.org.uk

It is imperative that the students who take part in the DofE awards are responsible and can follow instructions. We cannot therefore allow students who have had any suspensions this academic year or a substantial amount of negative behaviour points to participate. We reserve the right to withdraw your child from the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme at any time due to poor behaviour or attendance in school. In this case no refund will be issued.

All DofE award updates are sent out to parents and added to the DofE page on the school website: https://www.stjohns.excalibur.org.uk/life-at-st-johns/duke-of-edinburgh

Please note that there will be a Parents' Information evening held in November 2026 via Microsoft Teams. Date and time of this event will be communicated closer to the time.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Yours faithfully,

Mr L Broadhurst (DofE Coordinator)

DofECoordinator@stjohns.excalibur.org.uk