Backwell School

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Headteacher: Will Penny BSc NPQH

September 2026

Dear Parents/Carers

Bronze Duke of Edinburgh – Year 9

I am really pleased that your son/daughter has expressed an interest in the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme and would like to offer them a place.

The total cost for taking part in the award in 2026-27 is **£310** This includes the enrolment fee paid directly to the Duke of Edinburgh charity and expedition costs covering camping fees, use of tents, maps, stoves, fuel, staffing & assessors. The amount of training that we are able to offer at Bronze level means that students are fully prepared should they wish to go on to Silver and/or Gold as they move up the school.

Other costs to consider are food, personal kit & parents providing transport to meeting/pick up points, which are not included in that total**.**

Due to the large number of students wishing to take part we will be doing the expedition section in two waves. Please keep **ALL** of the dates free for the moment.

Dates:

WAVE 1

Activity	**Date**	**Location and time**
Training weekend Two days navigation training with overnight camp	Thursday 29th to Friday 30th April 2027	Mendips Drop off and pick up times to be confirmed
Route planning day	Saturday 15th May 2027 am	Backwell School
Assessed expedition Two days walking with overnight camp	Thursday 27th to Friday 28th May 2027	Mendips Drop off and pick up times to be confirmed

WAVE 2

Activity	**Date**	**Location and time**
Training weekend Two days navigation training with overnight camp	Thursday 1st to Friday 2nd July 2027	Mendips Drop off and pick up times to be confirmed
Route planning day	Saturday 17th July 2027 am	Backwell School
Assessed expedition Two days walking with overnight camp	Thursday 9th to Friday 10th September 2027	Mendips Drop off and pick up times to be confirmed

All students are required to complete a training weekend and assessed expedition. Both involve two days of walking, carrying full kit and an overnight camp. Students will complete the expedition in mixed gender groups of 7. Groups will be organised in the next few months.

We will prioritise students who have completed at least two of their other sections (skills, physical or volunteering) by the end of February in Wave 1.

To secure your student's place on the award scheme, a payment of **£50** (non-refundable) must be made **by Friday 09 October 2026**.

Payment should be made via 'ParentPay', our online cashless payment system. If you have any queries regarding Parent Pay or if your son/daughters is entitled to Pupil Premium funding, please contact the Finance Team on their direct line, 01275 465941. There may also be help available for non-PP students again please speak to the Finance team.

The remaining payments towards the balance of **£260** are set out as follows:

- Payment 1 £26 Monday 2 November 2026
- Payment 2 £26 Monday 7 December 2026
- Payment 3 £26 Monday 4 January 2027
- Payment 4 £26 Monday 1 February 2027
- Payment 5 £26 Monday 1 March 2027
- Payment 6 £26 Monday 5 April 2027
- Payment 7 £26 Monday 3 May 2027
- Payment 8 £26 Monday 7 June 2027
- Payment 9 £26 Monday 5 July 2027
- Payment 10 £26 Monday 2 August 2027

Please could you also complete the online enrolment form which can be found here:
Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Enrolment Form 2026 7 – Fill in form

Once the deposit and form has been received, your son/daughter will be enrolled in D of E and will receive training on how to use the e D of E system to record activities.

There are four sections to the Bronze D of E award, the expedition is just one of them. Students have already had a think about what they may want to do for these sections. They will need to identify an assessor for each of their activities. This must be an adult and cannot be a relative. A coach or leader of the activity they are doing would be most obvious choice. For anything that they are doing at home e.g cooking or photography etc they could ask their tutor. There are lots of ideas for activities on the D of E website www.dofe.org

There will be an online parent meeting on **Wednesday 21 October** via Microsoft TEAMS. Invites will be sent out the week before.

Please note that only students that have expressed an interest will be set up on Parent Pay at the moment. Please contact me if you would like them to be added.

If you have any questions or concerns, or would like your child to join the scheme if they didn't express an interest, please feel free to contact me at lgriffiths1@backwellschool.net

Kind regards

Mrs Griffiths
D of E Manager