



November 2019

Dear Parents / Carers

We are very pleased to let you know that all Year 9 pupils at Titus Salt School are to be given the opportunity to be enrolled in the Duke of Edinburgh Award at Bronze Level. This will give pupils the chance to challenge themselves by doing something completely new as well as be given credit for and improve on things they're already doing; they will be taken out of their comfort zones and have amazing new experiences. The pupils will build confidence, resilience, skills and friendship groups and have a brilliant time doing it.

There are three key sections to the Duke of Edinburgh Award: Volunteering, Skills and Physical Activity followed by the Expedition. The sections will be done between now and the end of the Year 9. Any pupil who can prove that they are working towards these sections will then be given the opportunity to train for and attempt the expedition.

For the sections the pupils need to do approximately one hour a week of these activities over a 3 month period for two sections and 6 months for one section. They can pick an activity that is new to them or continue with something that they have been doing for a while. The activities can be ones provided by the school, done independently or with other organisations. All the pupils must have is an adult, who is not a family member, who can act as an assessor to set them goals and sign to say that they have achieved them at the end of the period.

Briefly a **physical activity** is any sport, dance or fitness activity. The **skill** is an activity that will allow participants to prove they have broadened their understanding and increased their expertise in their chosen skill. **Volunteering** is about choosing to give time to help people, the community or society, the environment or animals. The expedition will consist of a 2 day, 1 night unsupported journey in unfamiliar countryside. The pupils will, of course, be trained in all the skills they will need to complete this. Expedition training will take place after school on a Thursday in the spring term. The expeditions are done in groups of between 4 and 7 that pupils will choose themselves. They will also have to decide whether they will be on the A or the B expeditions.

The dates of which are shown in the table below.

Expedition	Practice	Assessment
A	Friday 15 – Saturday 16 May	Thursday 2 – Friday 3 July
B	Friday 5 – Saturday 6 June	Monday 6 – Tuesday 7 July

The cost of enrolling in the scheme is £22 but the school is covering £5 of this so we are only asking for a payment of **£17** to be payable on registration. We keep expedition costs to a minimum but there will be a small charge of approximately £30 to cover the expeditions. This will be payable in the summer term. Pupils who receive free school meals are exempt from these charges.

If your son / daughter decides that they would like to be involved in the award they need to complete the application form they will be given by their PE teacher (see copy attached) and return it to them by Friday 15 November. Pupils will then be offered a place and you will receive a request for payments via ParentMail. The activities that the pupils would like to do should be detailed on the application form so that we can ensure it does fulfil the criteria of the award before they undertake them.

There will be a parent information evening at school on Tuesday 19 November at 18:30 in BS03 which you are welcome to attend where I will go through how the award works and how we deliver it at Titus Salt School. I will be able to accept application forms late on that evening.

If you intend to come to the information evening please email me to allow us to gauge numbers ([tru@titussaltschool.co.uk](mailto:tru@titussaltschool.co.uk)).

Yours sincerely

Greg Trusselle

Outdoor Education and Duke of Edinburgh Leader