

May 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

**Your child applied to participate in the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award and has been successful.**

Duke of Edinburgh is an internationally recognised award and highly regarded amongst employers. It provides participants with the challenge of a walking expedition over 2 days.

The pupils will learn and enhance their level of map skills, including using compasses, pacing, bearings, OS maps and scale. They will create their own routes and therefore be confident in group work independent from the DofE leader. Over the expedition they will develop teamwork, co-operation, resilience, determination, perseverance and tolerance, as they are tested to new levels.

Alongside preparing for the expedition all participants will be devoting an hour a week to each of the following sections: volunteering, skill and physical. Participants can volunteer at an organisation e.g. charity shop; learn a new skill e.g. guitar; and develop a physical activity e.g. football, netball etc. Whilst developing their chosen areas, they will need to collect evidence of this for up to 6 months.

Please ensure the following dates are possible before enrolling and payment is made:

Training	Every Friday @ 3.15pm
Practice expedition	12-13 <sup>th</sup> July 2024
Assessed expedition	6-7 <sup>th</sup> September 2024 or 13-14 <sup>th</sup> September 2024 (Please keep both dates free)

Attached is an enrolment form to be completed before pupils can be registered. This needs to be done by Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2024 to confirm places and handed to Mr Edwards.

There will be an evening to introduce the Duke of Edinburgh Award and give expedition information to parents and candidates on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2024 at 6.00pm in the Main Hall.

Payment sum of £200 needs to be paid by Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2024.

This trip will be covered by school insurance and accompanied by members of staff. This trip requires us to pre-purchase specific items required for the activity to obtain the best price. Therefore, we will be unable to offer a refund unless there are exceptional circumstances in the event of your child being unable to attend the trip.

**Scopay is now the preferred method of payment for all trips, visits and school activities. If you visit [www.scopay.com](http://www.scopay.com) you will see payment details. If you have mislaid your Scopay login details please call Pupil Services. Should you still wish to pay by cash or cheque please hand into Pupil Services (cheques should be made payable to *Rayleigh Schools Trust*). If you have any Scopay queries regarding this trip, please contact Mrs A Twomey ([atwomey@sweynepark.com](mailto:atwomey@sweynepark.com)).**

Any pupils who require medication must ensure that they bring this with them.

If there are any financial difficulties, please contact the Headteacher, Mrs Dines, in the strictest confidence. If you have any queries concerning the trip, please contact me at the school.

Yours sincerely

Mr Woods  
(DofE Co-ordinator)