

January 2025

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 @15:05 in the Textiles department
Practice expedition	6th & 7th June. Starting at Kelvedon Library & Finishing at Paper Mill Lock
Assessed expedition	4th & 5th July. Starting at Pleshey Village Hall & Finishing at the Cricketers pub in Ingatestone.

Students will need to be dropped off at the starting points for both expeditions and picked up from the finishing points of both expeditions.

Attached is an enrolment form to be completed before pupils can be registered. This needs to be done by Friday 24th January to confirm places.

There will be an evening to introduce the Duke of Edinburgh Award and give expedition information to parents and candidates on the Thursday 30th January, 5:30-6:00pm in the Media Block

Payment sum of £95 needs to be paid by Monday 3rd February.

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 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 S Bacon (sbacon@rayleighschoolstrust.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)