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TD/LAB

July 2015

Dear Parent

We are once again running the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award. Your son/daughter has expressed interest in participating. Please find attached an information leaflet about the award together with several forms which need completing.

There is an initial joining fee £30.00. Of this £17.00 goes to the award's county office for online registration and the balance is to cover the college set up administration fees, which includes training materials.

This will be the third year when participants will have to keep all their records 'on line' so they must be aware that they need to regularly visit their on line records and update accordingly. Failure to do so could affect their progress through the award.

The scheme is designed to be as inexpensive as possible and many activities and interests can be followed without cost. For expeditions, expensive equipment is provided (ie. tents and cooking equipment) but there is an assumption that those taking part would possess (or be able to borrow) a sleeping bag, waterproof jacket and trousers, rucksack, walking boots etc. A full kit list will be issued as part of the training programme, and can be viewed on the award's website. There will be charges involved for the expeditions to cover camp fees, maps, certain equipment hire, staffing, marshalling and assessing costs and also for an evening course on CPR run by the St John's Ambulance or other recognised deliverer. Further, in the unlikely event to any team losing or on purpose damaging any of the equipment we will expect it to be replaced by them.

The St John's fee has been £10, so hopefully will be £10 again this year. Their course results in a certificate of attendance and competence in certain life saving skills. The expedition fees to a large extent depend on the numbers attending and the costs charged by the campsites, but they should not exceed £30 per expedition namely a total of £60. The total cost therefore is £100.

Attached you should find the following:

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| Form 1 | A consent form issued by the Duke of Edinburgh Award |
| Form 2 | A consent and commitment to expedition dates issued by the College |
| Form 3 | A questionnaire for your son/daughter to fill in |

We only have limited places on offer this year. No applications will be accepted after Monday 20 July. Young people will be notified at the start of the next school year in September as to whether they have a place and when the first session is.

All applications must include the three forms listed above plus payment of the £30 joining fee – cheques made payable to “Oathall Community College”. We will be using questionnaires to allocate places if we are oversubscribed. Should your son/daughter not get a place your cheques will be returned to you.

ANY APPLICATION NOT CONTAINING ALL THE ABOVE WILL BE REJECTED.

On form 3 I need your son/daughter’s email address written neatly as we will be using this as the main way of communication.

Please note if your son/daughter is not able to commit to both the January training day and expedition dates and practise walk date they will not be offered a place on the award as we do not have the facilities to lead extra expeditions. **I CANNOT BE FLEXIBLE ON THIS EVEN IF SOMETHING CROPS UP BETWEEN NOW AND THEN.**

I shall be having a parents’ only information evening on 11 September at 7pm. Please make every effort to attend. It will be held in the Assembly Hall unless otherwise advised. By then students will know if they have been successful in obtaining a place on the Award.

I look forward to supporting your son/daughter through the scheme.

Yours sincerely

Trevor Dore
AWARD CENTRE CO-ORDINATOR