



2016 Duke of Edinburgh Award Expedition Programme. 16.12.2015

Trinity Academy and The Bangholm Centre

Dear Parents and Participants,

Please find below details of our expedition programme being brought to you as a result of a collaboration between the School and Bangholm Outdoor Centre which is conveniently located alongside our school playing fields. This exciting collaboration, now in its second year of delivery, will now allow more Trinity participants to complete their expedition section for their chosen level of the D of E Award by using the wealth of experience found amongst the staff employed by the school and by the Bangholm Centre. The School will be responsible for allocating participants to both school and Bangholm based expeditions and the collecting of payments as outlined below. Once places have been allocated and accepted by participants (along with payment of the final balance to the school) all questions relating to the delivery of a chosen expedition should be directed to the organization delivering the relevant expedition.

The Bangholm Centre

The Centre is owned by City of Edinburgh Council and therefore satisfies all Health and Safety requirements necessary for the delivery of D of E expeditions. It is home to **CEC's Outdoor Education Development Officer** (who is the technical advisor to CEC for all hillwalking, cycling and canoeing activities throughout the Council) and the **Duke of Edinburgh Award Manager for CEC**. Having this wealth of experience on our doorstep means that we are able to continue to deliver appropriate, safe and challenging expeditions which satisfy all the conditions of the D of E scheme.

The Centre will be running expeditions in the school **summer holidays** which will complement those offered by the school. Expeditions offered by the Centre for 2016 will be Bronze walking, Bronze biking and Silver walking.

The Centre expeditions will be delivered in the form of a "training and practice expedition week" of 5 days (6 for biking) followed by a qualifying expedition 2/3 weeks later. A Bronze walking or biking "training and practice week" will consist of 3 days at the start of the week which will include the equivalent of 2 days of Centre based training in campcraft and packing, navigation, route planning, first aid, risk assessment, country codes, emergency procedures, kit issue and bike maintenance (for biking groups only!) and a day walk (2 day rides for biking). During the final 2 days of the week, the practice expedition will take place. As a rough guide, days 1 – 3 (and 4 for biking) will be approximately 8 hours long each with the final 2 whole days and night being given over for the practice expedition. At Silver level, the 2 first days will be used for route planning and any required additional skills training/revision required building on skills learnt at Bronze level last year.

During the "training and practice week" participants should expect to spend time in the evenings after training at the Centre has finished either completing route

cards, planning a menu, shopping for food and organising and packing personal clothing required for the expeditions etc. It will be a busy but memorable and rewarding week.

The qualifying expedition will take place approximately 2 weeks later over 2 days/1 night at Bronze or 3 days/2 nights at Silver.

The School

The School will continue to deliver expeditions, as in previous years, but it will be a smaller programme than previously due to staffing and budget constraints. The School based expeditions will be delivered **during either the Spring/Summer or Summer/Autumn terms. Training will be delivered after school, usually on a Friday afternoon and occasionally a Wednesday after school, with expeditions taking place over a weekend and/or a Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday.** Expeditions offered for 2016 are Bronze canoeing and Bronze walking.

Costs for all expeditions.

The cost for expeditions at both the School and the Centre will be the same and have been kept as low as possible. Both School and Centre expeditions have the same staffing costs. Those employed through the Centre are paid at freelance rates. Staff at Trinity are either part time teachers delivering D of E expeditions out-with their contracted teaching hours and therefore paid through CEC as freelancers or are full time members of staff for who supply teachers need to be employed to cover absence during expedition delivery. **The cost for participants in 2016 to take part in any of the expeditions offered will be £30 per participant per day.** The number of days (or equivalent hours) of training and expeditioning required for each level of the Award was outlined in my D of E Registration letter of November 2015 and is 7 days for Bronze Walk (£210), 8 days for Bronze Bike (£240) 8 days for Bronze Canoe (£240) and 8 days for Silver Walk (£240). (Bike and canoe expeditions require one more day of skills training and therefore cost an extra £30.) These costs have been held at last year's prices and are significantly cheaper than commercial providers. Please bear in mind that these costs include the loan of all equipment **with the exception of bikes and bike trailers which can be hired for £5 per day for the required 6 days (£30) from Bangholm if required**, transport (including fuel) and campsite costs as appropriate. NB: Food is **not** included.

Securing a place on an expedition and payment.

- 1. Please indicate your preferred expedition dates on the attached Expedition choice sheet.**
- 2. Return the choice sheet to the OE Base in the school basement along with a deposit of £100 (cheques payable to Trinity Academy please) by Tuesday 12th January. Please put envelopes under the door if nobody is in!**
- 3. Places on expeditions will be offered to participants on Wednesday 27th January.**

N.B. There are, unfortunately, still not enough places on expedition for all participants so places will be allocated to expeditions based on whether or not a £100 deposit has been paid and then based on how much of the rest of the Award a participant has done/is doing. Evidence on a participant's online eDofE account will be used to determine this so all participants should keep their online account up to date to allow expedition places to be allocated fairly and transparently. **If a participant is not offered a place on an expedition at the end of January then their £100 initial deposit will be returned.**

4. The final balance for the expedition for those offered a place is due by Tuesday 23rd February (cheques payable to Trinity Academy please).

Apologies that this is early in the year but training for some expeditions starts in the first week of March and expedition staff need to be booked well in advance for the summer/autumn dates. I cannot do this if I do not have sufficient funds available.

NB: Once a place is offered on an expedition and accepted by paying the final balance, the payment is non-refundable unless a suitable replacement participant can be found **before** training starts as costs are calculated on full expedition groups. Once a training programme has actually started it is very unlikely that an experienced replacement will be found as they will have missed the relevant in-house compulsory training that we insist on for Health and Safety reasons.

Financial assistance may be available in appropriate circumstances. Please contact me in confidence in the first instance.

Places on a Qualifying Expedition.

Pupils will only be allowed to participate in a qualifying expedition if they have attended the training sessions, meetings and practice expedition and have, in the opinion of the member of staff responsible, reached the required level of competence. Staff reserve the right to withdraw a participant if they haven't as it may compromise the safety of the group as a whole. It is **the responsibility of participants** to take note of training, meeting and expedition dates and times. No reminders will be given of dates and times unless they are changed by the school or Bangholm Centre. Copies of the sheets handed out to participants by the **school** with dates and times are posted on the expedition notice board in the school basement and on the school website. Bangholm will send out information to participants directly.

If you have any questions about any of the arrangements above please do not hesitate to contact me at school on 0131 478 5050 (Wednesdays preferred) or by email dave.blevins@trinity.edin.sch.uk

If you have any questions about the Award and its sections in general please go to www.theaward.org in the first instance. If you cannot find the answer there please do not hesitate to contact me as above.

NB: I currently work at Trinity Academy all day on a Wednesday, Thursday and Friday morning.