



Building · Inspiring · Caring

CIRCULAR 2022-23 TL009

To: Parents/Guardians of Duke of Edinburgh Bronze students
Cc: Bursar

September

Duke of Edinburgh Bronze

Allow me first to extend my thanks to all of the pupils who have participated in our pilot Duke of Edinburgh venture. Although we ourselves at Blackwater Integrated College are not a DoE centre we were kindly approached by SERC to pilot the award this year through their coordination and guidance. We as a school have been learning on the job and have been fully reliant on the leadership of the SERC DoE coordinators to guide and organise the process. Although at times it has been difficult and frustrating for our participants they have shown incredible resilience and motivation to succeed no matter what has been thrown at them which I must commend highly. It has also been my pleasure to get to know them better and spend time with each of them during this process. I couldn't be more proud of their efforts and growth.

All 7 pupils who have kept pace and completed all the necessary tasks up to this point were to head off on their final bronze award expedition this Thursday and Friday 8th and 9th September to bring our pilot scheme to a close and finish their bronze award.

After a conversation with SERC DoE coordinator on Monday 5th September it was suggested to me by SERC that they would like to encourage our pupils that this is not time wasted rather time and effort banked. SERC have offered all of our bronze participants the opportunity to move on and take up the next level silver award over the coming months with a combined Bronze/Silver expedition in April 2023 close to or during the Easter holidays for an overnight. This single expedition would cover the requirements for both bronze and silver awards and would therefore mean each pupil would leave Blackwater with a bronze and silver Duke of Edinburgh award with only gold remaining to achieve wherever their next chapter may be.

In future we may consider applying to become an approved centre for Duke of Edinburgh to improve the experience for pupils and offer a more bespoke programme better suited to our pupils.

The bronze/silver hybrid programme will start on the week we return to school after half term and will not impact on GCSEs.

I hope our agreed path forward this year with SERC given the disappointment of cancelled expeditions is one that both you and your child can continue to be involved with. If there are any questions please get in touch with gboyd268@c2ken.net and I will be happy to answer any questions.

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