

21st June 2018

Dear Parents and Carers

Duke of Edinburgh Award

As you may be aware, St Mary's has run the Duke of Edinburgh Award at Bronze, Silver and Gold Award Levels for many years. It is a fantastic opportunity for students to develop many of the wider skills and experiences beyond the curriculum. It links closely to the Leadership Organisation Resilience Initiative and Communication (LORIC) skills that we know that are so crucial to a student's wider development and employability. This year there has been a significant change in our staffing with Mr Archer, our Duke of Edinburgh co-ordinator, making the decision to retire at Christmas and this has meant that we have had to make some changes.

Previously students in Year 9 would have had the chance to enrol on and complete the Bronze Award by the end of the year. Understandably a number of parents and students have asked if there is a plan for this to continue. The good news is that there will be an opportunity for our current Year 9 students to do this and that this will ultimately enable them to go on to complete the Silver and Gold Awards in our Sixth Form.

We will be holding a Duke of Edinburgh introduction evening in September 2018 when we will be able to explain in more detail what the Bronze Award entails in terms of personal commitment, skills, service and expeditions. We will write early in the new term to inform people of the date but felt that you will like the reassurance before the summer holidays that this was in hand.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A Boyle". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'A' and 'B'.

Mr A Boyle
Headteacher