

Dear Parents and Students, 6th September 2016

ISB is pleased to announce that the Duke of Edinburgh’s (DofE) International Award Program will again offer the Bronze Level this year. In order to develop a complete program that meets the highest international standards for Adventurous Journey programming, ISB is partnering with The Hutong – a progressive Outdoor program based in Beijing. Students who choose to participate in this program are making a commitment to participate in the ELO flex sessions and continue through to the end of the school year. The expectations for the Bronze Award are that there is a 3-month/1-hour per week commitment to – community service, skill development, and physical recreation. The adventurous journey is (2D/1N for the “practice” journey and 2D/1N for the “qualifying” journey) to be undertaken at the end of the year during the ELO experience. **The Bronze Award experience will be funded by ISB.**

**What is the Award?**

The DofE’s Award empowers young people, ages 14 to 24, to make a difference in their own lives and the lives of others, by exploring their potential, taking on new challenges, giving back to their community, and achieving success. It provides the opportunity to set goals and achieve results in fun and challenging ways. The Award is accessible to all youth, regardless of socioeconomic status, ability, ethnicity, or gender. Please visit the DofE website to learn more. (<http://www.intaward.org>)

**What will it mean for my child?**

We are planning to select a gender-balanced group of approximately 30 students. The students will be assigned to an ELO Bronze group during the year. Students will work with their DofE Award Leader to set their goals, monitor their progress, record their advancement and take a larger role in planning certain elements of the Adventurous Journey. All participants will find that many parts of the Award complement what they may already be doing with at ISB. Students who are already active in service, sport, or in learning new skills will find it easier to achieve the requirements of the program, though any dedicated student can be successful.

## What will my teen get from the Award?

* Increased self-confidence and motivation
* The ability to set and achieve goals
* Meaningful and personal experiences in learning, exercise, service and adventure
* Competence and independence in journeying in the wilderness

If you have questions about the award or about the Bronze Award program at ISB this year, please contact Sarah Lucas or Owen Fiddler, our Bronze Award Coordinators, by email at slucas@isb.bj.edu.cn or ofiddler@isb.bj.edu.cn or by phone at school on 8149-2345.

This program can make a big impact on the students of ISB and we look forward to seeing it grow.

Sincerely,

Mr. David Munro

**Student Application for the offering of the DofE Award at ISB**

Please complete, and return to the DofE basket in the HS office by 4pm on Friday, 16th of September in order to be considered for participation in the DofE at ISB.

If more than the maximum # of students apply, the following criteria may be used to select the groups:

1. Gender balance
2. Teacher comments from current school report regarding both
	1. Motivation
	2. Ability to work cooperatively
3. Students already actively participating in one or more of the categories
4. Readiness for the high adventure requirement.

**Name: Grade: Are you 14+ years old?**

**My parent has read the introduction letter and approves of my participation. Yes or No**

Please list the activities you are or may be participating in this school year. Please provide specifics about your

1) school service clubs and/or other community service activities:

2) school sports and/or other physical recreation activities:

3) school performing and/or visual arts and/or any other activities where you could be learning or further developing a skill or a talent:

Please describe your readiness for (including details of your have previous experience) and/or your willingness to prepare physically in order to complete the 5-day backpacking adventure.

Please describe why you want to be a part of the DofE. (Please limit your answer to 100 words or less)

**Parent Signature**:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Student email address:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_