

Dear Parent/Carer,

Ref. Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme – Bronze Award

We are thrilled to be launching the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme to our current Year 9 cohort. Due to interest from Year 10 students we have decided to include them, this could be their last chance to take part in the scheme. There is a quick return on this, as we need to get them enlisted to start on return to school in January. Your child has shown an interest in applying for the award and we would like to take this opportunity to explain to you a little bit about the award and how your child will benefit from participating.

What is The Duke of Edinburgh Award?

It is recognition of a young person's successful journey of self-discovery and development, acclaimed by employers and universities alike for demonstrating the qualities developed within young people who achieve it. It is a balanced programme that develops the whole person - mind, body and soul, in an environment of social interaction and team working. There are three progressive levels of DofE programmes which, when successfully completed, lead to a Bronze, Silver or Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award. The Bronze Award takes approximately 8 months to complete.

There are four sections to the award: Volunteering, Physical, Skills and Expedition.

The first three sections are carried out independently but with support from the DofE Coordinators. Each student will choose activities personal to them. Two of the three sections need to be completed for a period of 3 months and the third for a 6 month time period. It is advised that the commitment should be for around one hour every week for each. It may be that they are already taking part in an activity that falls into one of the sections, in which case they will now be able to gain recognition for this. Equally, we will be encouraging pupils to undertake new experiences. All participants are registered online to carry out their award on the eDofE website. It is a vital part of the award that your child recognises the need to regularly check and update their sections on this website as this is the main channel of communication between us and the participants. Once completed, all awards are submitted for approval at the county via eDofE, therefore if your child has not been updating their profile regularly they will not receive their award.

The expedition, an overnight walking/camping trip in the local area, is done as part of a group of between five and seven students. Training, practice and the qualifying expedition will take place in the spring and summer terms of this school year.

How much does it cost?

It costs £40 to complete the DofE Bronze Award, however some kit will be required for the expedition.

KIT PARTICIPANTS NEED TO PROVIDE	
Walking boots (broken in)	Rucksack
Waterproof Jacket	1L Water bottle
Walking Trousers or tracksuit bottoms (not jeans)	Sleeping Bag
2 pairs of walking socks	Sleeping Mat (optional)
2-3 T-shirts (not cotton) or quick-dry tops	Cutlery and plastic bowl
Fleece or Mid-layer	Head torch
Underwear	
Wash kit	
Sun cream / Hat & Gloves	

Once signed up to eDofE they will receive a discount at certain outdoor stores to help with these purchases. If you require any help if funding this please contact us.

What if my child receives Free School Meals?

If your child is eligible for Free School Meals, then we can apply for funding to cover the cost of the award. Please tick the appropriate box on the reply form if you would like to be considered for this funding. Each funding application is considered on an individual basis and we will contact you individually to inform you whether the application was successful.

What if my child decides to drop out of the award?

If your child decides to withdraw from the award at any time throughout the year, we are not able to refund any payments. This is because we are trying to keep costs minimal and £22 of the payment is signing up to the eDofE website.

In order to enrol your child onto The Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme, please could you complete and return the enrolment form (attached) and make the £40 payment via cheque or cash to the finance office by Friday 20th December.

In the meantime, if you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully,

Toni Styles and Heidi Riesner

DofE Centre Co-ordinators