



Dear Parent/Carer,

Ref. Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme – Bronze Award

We are thrilled to be offering the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme to our current Year 8 and Year 9 cohort. If your child is interested in applying for the award, we would like to take this opportunity to explain to you a little bit about it and how your child will benefit from participating. We will be holding assemblies to introduce to the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme to our students later on in this Summer Term.

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. We will be holding weekly meetings after school on Tuesdays to assist with this and to train participants for the expedition. 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.

For more information you could look at the website www.dofe.org, clicking on the 'Do DofE' tab at the top of the page.



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How much does it cost?

It costs £50 to complete the DofE Bronze Award, however some kit will be required for the expedition.

KIT PARTICIPANTS NEED	
Walking boots (can be supplied)	Sun cream / Hat & Gloves
Waterproof over trousers (can be supplied)	60 – 65L Rucksack (can be supplied)
Waterproof Jacket	1L Water bottle
Walking Trousers or tracksuit bottoms (not jeans)	Sleeping Bag (can be supplied)
2 pairs of walking socks	Sleeping Mat (can be supplied)
2-3 T-shirts (not cotton) or quick-dry tops	Cutlery and plastic bowl
Fleece or Mid-layer (jumper)	Head torch (can be supplied)
Underwear	
Wash kit	

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 the above items, 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 part of the cost of the award. Please tick the appropriate box on the reply slip 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, unfortunately we are not able to refund any payments.

In order to enrol your child onto The Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme, please could you complete and return the enrolment form/reply slip (attached) and make the initial payment of £25 via Parent Pay, balance of £25 is due by Thursday 21st July.

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

Yours faithfully,

Toni Styles and Heidi Riesner
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