

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are pleased to write to you following your child's expression of interest in taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Bronze Award.

A DofE session will be taking place after school today for all students who have expressed an initial interest in the programme. This session will be delivered by a representative from the Duke of Edinburgh Award. During the session, students will receive a form to complete over the Easter holidays, outlining their planned activities for each section of the award. This form must be completed and returned in person to Miss Aitken after the Easter break, as it demonstrates students' commitment to the programme. Please note that failure to return this form will mean that students cannot be enrolled onto the programme or issued with their eDofE account.

An activation session will take place after Easter for all students who have both returned their completed form and made payment. The date for this session will be confirmed in due course. To confirm your child's place on the programme, a non-refundable fee of £56 is required. This fee covers their Bronze Award participation, a one-night campsite stay as part of the expedition section (provisionally scheduled for 13th–14th July 2026), and coach travel to and from the campsite.

As part of the programme, there may be some additional costs to ensure students have suitable clothing and equipment for the expedition in July; however, we will always aim to keep these to a minimum. The school is able to provide a number of expedition rucksacks and tents for students to borrow, although students are welcome to use their own equipment if they have it. Further details, including a full kit list, will be shared at a parent information evening closer to the time.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award is an extremely rewarding experience, but it does require a significant level of commitment and effort throughout the academic year, culminating in an assessed overnight expedition. During this time, students are expected to be self-sufficient while completing two days of walking in hilly terrain, often in unpredictable weather conditions. They will need to carry all of their equipment, set up their own tents, and prepare meals using a camping stove.

We ask that you carefully consider these expectations before confirming your child's participation. A series of training sessions will take place across the year to prepare students fully for the expedition. Attendance at all sessions is essential to ensure students are well-prepared and have the best possible opportunity to successfully complete the Bronze Award.

Payment alongside permission for your child to take part will need to be completed by **Monday 20th April 2026** via ParentPay. If you require any support with the cost, or your child is in receipt of free school meals, there is potentially some additional funding from the Duke of Edinburgh scheme, so please do reach out and we will look to see how we can support you.

We are very excited to offer this opportunity and look forward to supporting your child through this rewarding experience. Please see the attachment alongside this letter for further information about the Duke of Edinburgh programme, including an overview of each section and the expected time commitments.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind Regards,

Miss K Aitken

Assistant Principal – Personal Development

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