



June 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to you to offer your child the chance to participate in the school's Duke of Edinburgh award program.

The award is split into three levels – Bronze, Silver and Gold. All three run along similar lines – there are 4 different sections students must complete to then gain the award. The difference (between Bronze, Silver and Gold) is the level of time commitment needed from students in order to complete the award. For Year 8, they will be able to access the Bronze award with aspirations to continue their journey in the future to Silver, then Gold in Years 12&13. The sections cover volunteering, learning a new skill, undertaking physical activity and an expedition which involves walking and camping. Expeditions take place sometime in June/July, the actual date will not be set until next academic year.

In terms of time commitment, each section involves the students undertaking their chosen activity for, on average, an hour a week for 12-24 weeks depending on the section. All students will be briefed in detail on this. The idea is to give you an indication of the time commitment needed from your child. Ideas for activities are listed on the DofE website or your child can come and speak to me about what they can do.

A key aspect to consider is that for the expeditions to be undertaken, your child will need to have completed all other sections of the award – in other words, the expedition is the final section of the award. Experience shows if this does not happen, your child is unlikely to complete the award. Once this level is completed, they will then be able to move onto the Silver and Gold awards.

If your child is interested in joining our DofE Team they must come and see me to collect a sign-up form. This should then be brought home and filled in by you the parent/carer and return to me before the end of June. If you are able please access TEAMS at home please look at the Year 8 groups as Mr McAllister has uploaded a video about the DofE Bronze Award. The deadline for returning forms will be **Thursday 30th June**.

A parents' information evening will be held before the end of the year on TEAMS. Once we have students signed on, they will be seen by staff and 'get going' on the award ASAP. Should you have any questions in the meantime, please do not hesitate to ask.

Yours sincerely

Mr Owen Doyle
Duke of Edinburgh Coordinator



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