

15 July 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,



With the summer break fast approaching I enclose some information with regard to the Duke of Edinburgh Award for which your son/daughter will be eligible once they start in year 9.

### Overview of the DofE

The Award is highly respected by colleges, universities and employers and demonstrates a young person's commitment, determination, compassion and team-working skills. It is open to all young people between the ages of 14 and 24, regardless of ability or background.

Participants set their own challenges, choose their own programme of activities and make new friendships. Most importantly, students have an enormous amount of fun and get the chance to take up new activities that they might not do otherwise, including planning and completing a two-day walking and camping expedition.

The DofE Bronze Award is broken down into 4 sections and the students must complete each section to gain the Award.

**Volunteering** – make a positive difference to someone else's life

**Physical** – do something that helps them improve their personal fitness

**Skill** – learn something new

**Expedition** – A two day, one night camping expedition in the Northampton area. The school will organise an expedition on foot however, you could do it by bike, canoe, kayak, wheelchair, sailing boat or even on a horse but will need to organise this independently.

### Cost

The cost of completing the Award will vary from one participant to another depending on the activities that they choose, but the cost for registering and the participating in the school expedition are the same for all participants.

Registration is **£27** and includes personal online eDofE account, certificate and badge upon completion along with use of The Duston School Duke of Edinburgh Equipment (tents, cooking equipment, maps and compasses), licensing fees and insurance.

The expedition cost is approximately **£20** and includes one training/practice walk and one assessment weekend. This price also includes staff supervision, assessor fees and campsite

Mr S Strickland – BA (Hons), MA, NPQH  
Principal

01604 460004

office@thedustonschool.org | www.thedustonschool.org



fees and is payable at a later date. Full details communicating the dates and costs will be sent nearer to the expeditions.

### **DofE with a difference**

As a result of the COVID19 pandemic, enrolment will be slightly different for participants. I have attached an introductory PowerPoint to this letter to give you more information.

Participants may also find that there are restrictions on some of the activities that they can complete for each section. Full support and guidance will be given to help your son/daughter find an appropriate activity for each section. Despite these minor alterations this is still a fantastic opportunity to be involved in an unforgettable experience that is highly regarded by many colleges, universities and workplaces.

### **Securing a place**

To secure a place please pay £27 via ParentPay. This amount will be paid directly to DofE to register your child and is non-refundable. Registration will occur at the end of September once participants have completed two sessions. This will allow time to experience some of the award and will give an indication of commitment.

If you have any questions or would like any other information, please contact me on the details below.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs G. Freeman  
Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme Facilitator

[gfreeman@thedustonschool.org](mailto:gfreeman@thedustonschool.org)

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