

RPR/tp

15 November 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian

Re: Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme – Bronze

Your child has requested to take part in this year's Duke of Edinburgh award scheme at Bronze level. This is a scheme for young people which aims to promote leadership skills. The award is made up of 4 sections: Physical, Skill, Volunteering and Expedition. The majority of work which we do during school based sessions will focus on the expedition section of the award. The level of commitment required for the award will be 1-2 hours a week. An extra hour once a fortnight will be required in an after-school session for expedition training. It is likely that some students already take part in extra-curricular activities that can contribute towards the award, in areas of volunteering, skills or physical.

The Duke of Edinburgh award is an extra-curricular activity. Therefore, unlike school based lessons the responsibility for success is up to the individual. Students will be given help and guidance by staff, but it is up to them to work with their team to ensure all aims and goals are met. One of the objectives of the award is to encourage the students to become more independent.

Please note, there is an expectation that each student would have completed at least one of the following, either Volunteering, Physical or Skill sections before the expedition assessment in June 2023.

If your son/daughter has chosen to complete the Duke of Edinburgh award, they will be expected to participate fully in the expedition section. In order to do this, students will be required to be properly equipped. They will need to purchase appropriate footwear (walking boots) which will need to be broken in before an expedition to reduce the likelihood of blisters occurring. They will also need a 65+ litre rucksack, water proofs, a roll mat and sleeping bag. Advice on other smaller items will be discussed during school based sessions.

The day and weekend walks and expedition training sessions play an important role in the Duke of Edinburgh award. It is designed to teach students the navigation skills they will require to achieve the award. This year this will be carried out in the New Forest, Queen Elizabeth Country Park area and South Downs area. On these expeditions the weather can be unpredictable so it is extremely important that your child wears suitable clothing and footwear. Any student who attends an expedition wearing jeans will not be able to participate due to safety. Students will also be required to bring a packed lunch and drinks. Specific details of this will be communicated closer to the time during after school sessions.

This award will incur a registration fee for the Duke of Edinburgh award. There will also be a cost for the 4 trips to cover for camping (2 weekends), food for expeditions and travel to the destinations for the weekend camps. **This payment totals £110.00.**

Due to increased interest within school for DofE, and an increase in costs of coaches for transport, we will be asking parents to support with transport of students for some of the trips (outlined in the summary of dates below). We would encourage car sharing for these as much as possible. If you are having difficulty with finding transport for your child, please let us know so that we can support you in arranging this.

Below are the dates for all expeditions.

- **Saturday 7 January 2023** - a half-day walk around Manor farm and the local area (start and finish at school)
- **Saturday 4 March 2023** for a day walk in the New Forest. **Parents to drop off and pick up.**
- **Friday 12 & Saturday 13 May 2023** - Practice weekend. South Downs, Winchester area. **Parents to pick up.**
- **Friday 23 & Saturday 24 June 2023** - Assessment weekend. **Parents to pick up.**

If for any reason your child cannot make some, or even one of the dates, your child **will not** be able to participate in the Wildern DofE programme due to the stipulations of the DofE award.

Please complete the parental agreement form online through your Parentpay account to give consent for your son/daughter to attend this trip. You will be asked to provide your emergency contact details and any relevant medical information. If a deposit, or full payment, is required this will also need to be paid at the time. If you have not already activated your Parentpay account and require your login details please do not hesitate to contact the Finance Office at finance@wildern.org.

If you have been notified that we as a school receive Pupil Premium funding for your son or daughter, the cost of this trip will be covered. If this is the case, your Parentpay account will automatically reflect this but please complete the consent, emergency contact information and medical details through Parentpay as usual. The same procedures regarding oversubscription for the trip will apply.

If you would like your son/daughter to attend please complete the online Parentpay medical and consent forms accompanied by a payment of £110.00 by Friday 2 December 2022.

In the event of oversubscription we will endeavour to take into consideration any students who may have missed out on trips previously due to oversubscription and will allocate any further places by drawing names out of a hat. In the event of a place not being allocated you will be informed and any monies received will be returned.

Teachers accompanying trips carry enormous responsibility for the students in their care. The Senior Leadership Team therefore reserve the right to refuse or withdraw a place to any student whose behaviour in school has been or becomes a problem.

Finally we hope that your child will enjoy the Duke of Edinburgh adventure and find it a rewarding experience.

Yours sincerely

Mr R Ryan-Heaney
Duke of Edinburgh Leader