



Sir Frederic Osborn School

Achieving Success Together

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Herns Lane, Welwyn Garden City
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14th November 2017

Dear Parent/Carer and Students,

The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme is the world's leading achievement award for young people, and is highly regarded by Universities, Colleges and Employers. It encourages young people to develop independence, commitment, leadership and teamwork through being involved in a personalised programme of activities.

Your son/daughter has expressed an interest in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme at Bronze level. The Award is split into four sections; Volunteering, Physical, Skill and Expedition. It takes a minimum of 6 months to complete and requires regular commitment to various activities. Your son/daughter will need to find ways to fulfil the Volunteering, Physical and Skill section of the award, while in school we will focus on the Expedition Section. Members of staff in school will be happy to give advice and support to help pupils choose activities.

The award is very popular and places are limited. Total cost is estimated to be £175. This will cover transport, camp fees, equipment loans / purchase and DofE administration fees. If the cost will be an issue for you, please contact me as soon as possible to discuss the support we can offer. A non-refundable deposit of £28 will need to be paid on Wisepay by the **Thursday 30th November**.

Volunteering, Skill and Physical Section

Please see the Duke of Edinburgh Award website: www.dofe.org for more information about each section. Attached is an initial Enrolment form that needs to be completed before students register for the award. This details what they are planning to do, who will be their section Assessor and how it fulfills the award. Once this is done, the form needs to be signed and returned to the DofE Co-ordinator.

Expedition Section

The Expedition section requires participants to undertake an assessed 2 day backpacking and camping expedition. Before this, participants need to be trained and to take part in a practice expedition, of two days and one night, before they will be allowed to take part in their qualifying expedition. Participants will need to complete all three parts to achieve the award. Practice participants will walk accompanied by qualified leaders initially, building up to walking unaccompanied but with remote supervision. Assessed participants will walk unaccompanied at all times and will be remotely supervised. In both cases, we will use campsites in the area of the expedition.

The First training session will be delivered at Sir Frederic Osborn on **Thursday 30th November** between 3.00pm - 4.00pm in B15.

There will be a total of nine training sessions to cover skills such as:

- Camp craft
- First aid
- Navigation
- Observing and recording

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- Emergency procedures
- Awareness of risk and health and safety procedures
- Country & Highway Code

Throughout the academic year there will also be occasional sessions aimed at filling in and uploading information onto the online DofE portal, for which all participants will be given access.

Practice expedition: May half-term – (dates to be confirmed) to Hertford Camp Site.

Assessed / qualifying expedition: Dates and location to be confirmed, but likely to be after the examinations season during the beginning of July.

Students will be expected to have their own equipment. Whilst the school might be able to provide additional tents and cooking equipment, and a limited number of individual items (sleeping bags and rucksacks). There is a discount available in many outdoor retailers for Duke of Edinburgh Award participants. Please do contact me if costs are a concern as the school is able to offer financial assistance in some circumstances.

If your son/daughter wants to take part in the Award, please go onto the schools electronic payment system Wisepay, complete the compulsory '**Consent Form**' located at the top of the trip information page, then once you have done this make the **£28.00** non-refundable deposit by **Thursday 30th November** at the latest. Ensure you have also completed and returned the slip below to the Finance Office by the same date.

Please also return the following:

- DofE Participant Initial Enrolment Form (to DofE Co-Ordinator).
- Completed Activities planner.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award website has more details on the Award, and what each section involves. Please encourage your son/daughter to have a look at the website as they plan what they might do. We will be hosting an **information evening for parents/careers** at Sir Frederic Osborn School on **Monday 27th November** at 6.00pm in **K2**, so please do come along to hear more about this program, meet the staff involved in running it and ask any questions.

Yours sincerely



Mr R Sutton & Ms G Ward
Duke of Edinburgh Co-ordinator/Leaders

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To the Finance Office

Duke of Edinburgh's Award - Bronze

I would like my son/daughterForm: to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme as detailed in the letter above and have paid a deposit of £28.00 (payments via Wisepay only please).

I understand that the deposit of £28.00 is non-refundable.

I am able / not able to attend the Parent Meeting on **Monday 27th November**, 6pm at Sir Frederic Osborn School, in **K2**.

Signed (Parent/Carer) Date:

Please note that this Award can only be gained if the student shows persistence and reliability.