

18 December 2020

Dear Families,

On Wednesday 25 November 2020, our Year 9 students were shown an [introductory presentation and video](#) about the school's Duke of Edinburgh Award. The Award has been offered to our students for a number of years and has steadily grown in popularity. 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. The school fully supports the Award and recognises its unique value for developing skills and attributes in young people. Due to the current issues, we have unfortunately had to delay our launch, but are now ready to go.

Should your son / daughter have expressed an interest following that introduction, please read on. The Award is split into four sections; Volunteering, Physical, Skill, and Expedition. Participants would need to find ways to fulfil the Volunteering, Physical and Skill sections of the award, which must take either 3 or 6 months to complete, but overall, it can take approximately 9 months to complete, requiring regular commitment to various activities. In school we monitor progress in the various sections but focus on the Expedition Section later in the academic year.

There is a cost for joining the Award. In the first instance we ask for £50 which covers registration costs, set up fees and also insurance for any activities that we offer in preparation for the Expedition weekends. The initial registration charge is paid via ParentPay of which details can be found below.

Expedition Section

The Expedition section requires participants to undertake an assessed two-day backpacking expedition. Before this, students undertake a training and practice weekend and attendance at all weekends is required to pass the section. At this stage we can only estimate the overall cost of the expedition weekends as the overall price depends on numbers, but based on past experience it should be no more than an additional £250 for which a payment scheme will be set up in advance. More details regarding the Expedition will follow in due course, covering information about the specific equipment required for the section, where it can be hired from etc. The provisional dates that we have for the expedition weekends are mid-May, early June and early September. Assuming your son/daughter passes their expedition section, it is hoped that by the latter date, all other sections will be completed and your child will have all but passed their Bronze Award.

The Misbourne continues to be a Good School:

"A culture of ambition permeates the school; students are at the heart of everything the school does"

Ofsted



Commitment

We cannot stress enough that the Award requires commitment and perseverance; once an allocated place has been “bought” from DofE, we cannot reimburse the joining fee. With the current uncertainty within our country and the world at large, students are often having to find ways of covering the sections differently to any other youngsters in the Award’s history. Our students should understand that by joining they are not only representing a highly respected and reputable Award but also themselves and the school and we expect behaviour commensurate to this, at all times. Ordinarily our DofE students would attend a fortnightly, lunchtime meeting in order to update their online booklets and upload evidence towards completing their sections. For the time being however, we expect to have to monitor progress via emails and possibly Teams, but aim to establish regular two-way communications. We offer guidance as to how the sections may be completed but must stress that we ask students to gain approval of any plans they have before they commit too much time to them. A huge amount of information about the Award can be found on the DofE website www.dofe.org especially under the section titled DofE with a difference www.dofe.com/withadifference. Please encourage your son / daughter to have a look at the website as they plan what they might do for each section. Direct family members cannot be assessors. Once completed, all awards are submitted for approval by the regional office in Windsor therefore if your child has not been updating their eDofE profile regularly, they may not receive their full Award.

Securing a place

Should the information contained within this letter, our lesson introduction and that which can be found on the Duke of Edinburgh Award website, be of interest then please apply. We ask you to complete two tasks please. To secure a place, please search our ParentPay site for the “Bronze DofE Award 2021” and make the initial registration payment; then complete the [online form](#), which will automatically return to us, by Friday 29 January 2021. Students who secure a place on the Award will be notified via email and will be invited to an after-school meeting within a few weeks of the deadline. Students can always approach either of the course leaders should they have any questions, but we can also be contacted through the school.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Tebb and Ms McCarthy
DoE Course Leaders

