

November 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian

Re: The Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award 2023–2024

The Duke of Edinburgh's 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.

Should your son/daughter express an interest in The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, **the Award is split into Four sections; Volunteering, Physical, Skill, and Expedition.** It takes approximately six 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 trained as leaders will guide pupils through their choices and support training and completion for the Expedition section, which will be undertaken during the Year 9 Enrichment Week in July 2024. Whilst these activities will be led by trained and experienced staff from No Limits Development, teachers from Deer Park will accompany your son/daughter on the training and will also support the qualifying expedition.

Volunteering, Skill and Physical Section

Please see The Duke of Edinburgh Award website: www.dofe.org for more information about each section.

Expedition Section

The Expedition section requires participants to undertake an assessed two-day backpacking and camping expedition. Before this, participants will undertake two full days of training, with an overnight camp on the school grounds. We are partnering with an organisation called No Limits Development who are specialists in providing DofE expeditions. Participants will walk accompanied by qualified mountain leaders initially, building up to walking unaccompanied, but with remote supervision.

The total cost of the project for each pupil will be **£185**. This will include:

- The Duke of Edinburgh's Award registration fee/participation place
- two full days of training and support delivered by No Limits Development and CDPS staff (see draft programme below)
- two days of support delivered by No Limits Development and CDPS staff for the final qualifying expedition (see draft programme below)
- DofE Annual Licence Fee

Monday 1 and Tuesday 2 July 2024	Two full days of expedition training – Cirencester Deer Park School grounds/Bathurst Estate (Cirencester Park), including overnight camp on school grounds
Wednesday 3 and Thursday 4 July 2024	Two-day qualifying expedition – Stroud Valleys with No Limits Development
Friday 5 July 2024	Recovery day – eDofE admin; sports and games on the school field; afternoon at Cirencester Outdoor Pool (additional payment)

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The Award requires a considerable degree of individual commitment and self-motivation. It is not to be taken lightly and requires dedication, hard work and the ability to meet deadlines throughout the year.

The Award is very popular, and places are limited to **70**. The overall cost also covers training, instructors, insurance and campsite fees for the **expedition**. The application window will open at 9am on Friday 10 November and will close at the end of the school day on Friday 24 November. Application letters/consent slips will be available in hard copy from the Pastoral Office, from 9am on Friday 10 November, whilst electronic copies will be accessible via the Letters page of the school website.

If you would like your son/daughter to participate in The Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme at Deer Park, and prepare for and complete the qualifying expedition during our Enrichment Week in 2024, please sign and return the reply slip below to the Finance Office, no later than the end of the school day on **Friday 24 November**. Places will be allocated on a **first-come-first-serve basis**, and successful applicants will then be informed and requested to pay the non-refundable deposit of £37 via the **MCAS MyChildAtSchool** payment system, no later than **Friday 1 December**. If you have any questions regarding the new online payment system, please do contact the Finance Office or email paymentsMCAS@deerparkschool.net. Please ensure that you put The Duke of Edinburgh's Award as your first option when completing both the paper and online application forms and select two other options, in case the DofE programme is over-subscribed.

Owing to constraints on staffing there are **only 70 places available** on The Duke of Edinburgh's Award programme. There will be other activities planned for Year 9 Enrichment Week.

Full payment is required before training commences as follows:

- £37 deposit on Friday 1 December 2023
- £74 by Monday 19 February 2024
- £74 by Monday 8 April 2024

Unfortunately, pupils will not be able to proceed with the training or the final qualifying expedition if fees are not paid in full by Monday 8 April 2024.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further questions.

Yours sincerely



Glynn Reed
DofE Manager

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The Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award 2023–2024
Please return the reply slip to Mrs Testar in the Finance Office by FRIDAY 24 NOVEMBER

Name: Tutor Group:

I give consent for my son/daughter to undertake the expedition component of The Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award with No Limits Development.

Signature: Date:
(Parent/Guardian)