

Dear Parent/Carer,

Following on from the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Parent and Carer Information Session, we would now like to offer your child the opportunity to start their DofE journey. For those that were unable to attend the Parent and Carer Information Session, there is information below similar to that covered in the session.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is the world's leading achievement award for young people, and is highly regarded by universities, colleges, and employers. The Award has 3 levels Bronze, Silver and Gold and is a programme of voluntary activities that challenges young people to experience adventure, acquire new skills and to serve others. It is split into four sections; Volunteering, Physical, Skill, and Expedition. The Award is non-competitive, pupils choose their own personalised programme of activities and need to commit to these for a specific length of time to achieve an award. For further information about the activities which can be undertaken in each section please look here: <https://www.dofe.org/do/sections/>

The school fully supports this unique programme which is well known for developing important life skills in young people such as; confidence, independence, commitment, leadership and teamwork. Completing a DofE Award can really help young people stand out from the crowd, enhance mental health and build resilience and the school is committed to ensuring ALL pupils can access this fantastic programme.

Below are some further benefits your child may develop from taking part and we hope many will choose to get involved. Above all by choosing their own activities most Year 9's also have great fun achieving this Award!

- Self-belief and self-confidence
- A sense of identity
- Initiative and a sense of responsibility
- A real awareness of their strengths
- New talents and abilities
- The ability to plan and use time effectively
- Learning from and giving to others in the community
- Forming new friendships
- Problem solving, presentation and communication skills
- Leadership and teamworking skills.

At The Hastings Academy we are running the Bronze DofE Award to all those that would like to enrol in Yr 9. The deposit is £22 and that will allow us to enrol your child onto eDofE. The cut-off for deposits is the 15<sup>th</sup> December and deposits should be paid through ParentPay.

We are aiming to put on the practice and qualifying expeditions later in the academic year, providing we are able to do so safely and in accordance with government guidelines. This will be at an additional cost of approximately £100-£120 and more information regarding the expedition section will be sent out in due course.

Also, we know that there may be some of you who will not be able to afford the expedition fee, this could be for a whole host of different reasons, including the impact of coronavirus. Therefore, if you do think that the cost would be a barrier for you taking part, please get in contact as we have funds available to support anyone who will struggle to find the fee. This funding will be in the region of 80% of the expedition costs so approximately £80-£100 and will also cover the £22 enrolment fee.

Whilst enrolling onto the award please note that it is your responsibility to check that any activity child undertakes for their DofE programme is appropriately managed and insured, unless the activity is directly managed or organised by their DofE group, centre or Licensed Organisation.

We look forward to working with you and your child as they complete their DofE adventure.

Your sincerely,

Paul Senior

DofE Manager

The Hastings Academy