



14 January 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian

Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's (DofE) Award Letter – Maiden Erlegh Chiltern Edge

This letter is to inform you about an exciting opportunity for your son/daughter in year 9 at Maiden Erlegh Chiltern Edge. The school has begun working closely with the Duke of Edinburgh's Award and we are pleased to let you know that we have secured funding to allow all students in year 9 to be enrolled on to the bronze level of the award

This opportunity will enable your son/daughter to gain recognition for any extra-curricular activities they take part in (either within school or outside of the school environment). Below there are further details explaining how the bronze award is structured and how your child can work towards the sections of the award.

The bronze Duke of Edinburgh's award is made up of four sections: volunteering, physical, skill and expedition. The award requires participants to complete activities towards the volunteering, physical and skill sections for an average of one hour per week. Two of these sections must be completed over 3 months and the third one must last 6 months; it is the choice of each individual student as to which of the three sections they complete for the longer period of time. If students complete any of the sections they will be presented with a certificate for that section and if students complete all four sections they will receive a larger certificate and a pin badge demonstrating they have completed the bronze Duke of Edinburgh's award in full.

As a school, we endeavour to work on the skills, physical and volunteering section with the students from Jan 2022 – July 2022. We will complete the expedition element of the DofE in Summer 2023.

The Duke of Edinburgh's award is the world's leading award for young people and is internationally recognised as a mark of commitment and dedication by colleges, universities and employers. These certificates can be added to your child's record of achievement, their CV and can also promote discussion at interviews, allowing your son/daughter to describe the activities they have completed to demonstrate their skills and experience.

Below is a list of suggested activities for each section, a more comprehensive list can be found at: <https://www.dofe.org/do/ideas/>

- Volunteering: school council, supporting in the school library, volunteering at guides/scouts, charity shops, fund raising, litter picking, park run marshal, sports/dance coaching, animal rescue centre.
- Physical: dancing, cheerleading, cricket, football, rugby, hockey, tennis, netball, trampolining, martial arts, gym work, running, ice skating, yoga, swimming, cycling, climbing, horse riding, bowling.
- Skill: playing a musical instrument, cooking/baking, photography, drawing, umpiring/refereeing, drama, chess, darts, snooker, reading & book reviews, blogging, cross stitch, hair & beauty, debating.

In order for the students to take part in the DofE programme, a parent/carer will need to provide consent. Spaces are limited therefore spaces will be given on a first come first serve basis. The deadline for this form to be completed is January 28 2022 by 3:00pm.

Please complete the form [here](#) to enrol your child onto the programme and return the form to j.chopra@maidenerleghtrust.org by 28.01.2022. Please note there is usually a cost of £23 to sign each student up, however, due to a successful attempt in securing funding, each child, only at Maiden Erlegh Chiltern Edge, will be enrolled for free.

Once your son/daughter is successfully enrolled onto the programme they will receive a participant welcome pack. This pack contains a booklet which they can use to collect evidence for the sections they are completing. To complete a section and receive a certificate, participants ask an assessor to write a paragraph confirming they have completed an activity for the required length of time. Assessors can be teachers, sports coaches, form tutors, family friends or neighbours but they cannot be a relative of the participant.

Students will also receive details of their online eDofE account. Students then log into their account and upload a photograph of the signed paragraph which will then be approved by a member of school staff. The final section of the award is the expedition section which will run in 2023. All students will be given the option of completing this section if they wish to; this will enable them to complete the bronze award in full.

The expedition will comprise of two parts: a training day walk with an overnight camp and then a two-day qualifying walk and overnight camp. Students will be taught navigation and campcraft skills on the training walk. On the qualifying expedition the students will work in groups of between 4 and 8 to navigate a pre-planned route independently and also demonstrate their cooking and tent pitching skills to complete the expedition section. School staff will support the groups by meeting up with them regularly on their route. The expeditions will take place within Berkshire and its surrounding areas and students will travel there by either train or coach, accompanied by school staff. Expedition equipment such as tents and stoves and will be provided but personal equipment such as walking boots & waterproofs should be provided by parents/carers. Further details will be provided nearer the time including the cost of the expeditions. If your child already qualifies for pupil premium funding, the costs and purchase of the equipment will be covered.

We hope that all students will take advantage of this once in a lifetime opportunity.

If you have any questions or would like more details about the Duke of Edinburgh's award please contact

Mrs Chopra (DofE Coordinator): j.chopra@maidenerleghtrust.org

Miss Shepherd (DofE leader): l.shepherd@maidenerleghtrust.org

Mr Watterson (DofE Leader): j.watterson@maidenerleghtrust.org

Miss Gardner (DofE Leader): p.gardner@maidenerleghtrust.org

Yours sincerely



Mrs Jyoti Chopra
Associate Assistant Headteacher