



19 October 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian

### **Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award - Year 9/10**

I am writing to you today with exciting news of a fantastic opportunity for our Year 9 and 10 students. We are very pleased to inform you that our students now have an opportunity to achieve a Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Bronze Award. The DofE Award is a well-established and world-renowned extracurricular programme, designed to help young people develop new skills, volunteer to help their community, improve their levels of fitness and provide them with opportunities that build their character, confidence and competence.

#### **About the DofE**

The DofE is non-competitive and open to all young people – it's about setting personal challenges and pushing personal boundaries. There are three levels of DofE programme which, when successfully completed, lead to a Bronze, Silver or Gold Award. Through their DofE, students will make friends and memories and build traits like confidence, resilience and self-esteem, which can benefit mental health. They'll gain skills and attributes for work and life, like problem-solving, team-working and self-motivation – and they'll achieve an Award that's recognised by top employers and can help them stand out when applying for college, university or jobs.

To achieve their Bronze Award, participants must complete four sections: Skills, Volunteering, Physical and their Expedition. Every young person's DofE programme is personal to them – they can choose what they'd like to do for their Skills, Volunteering and Physical sections, and most activities can count. We will provide guidance and support, and students can either choose to continue an activity they already do or discover something completely new. During and in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, participants who complete their Skills, Volunteering and Physical sections will also receive a DofE Certificate of Achievement – a formal recognition, by the DofE, of their efforts. Activities for each section take a minimum of one hour a week over a set period of time, so they can fit around studying, hobbies and social lives. For more details about programmes and timescales visit [DofE.org](https://www.dofe.org)

#### **About the expedition**

The Expedition section involves your child working as part of a small team to plan their expedition's aim, choose a location and do some training to make sure they're fully prepared – before spending two days and one night in the countryside. Ahead of this, they will take part in a training session covering the basic expedition principles and introducing them to expedition equipment. There will also be a number of training sessions available after school on Wednesdays in which your child and their group will plan their route and prepare. Participants will only be able to do their expedition if they attend the organised training.

## **EDofE and the DofE app**

Participants can create their DofE programme and record their progress using eDofE, the DofE's digital system, available online at eDofE.org and through the DofE app – downloadable for free from Google Play and the App Store. If your child decides to enrol, we will set up their eDofE account and they will receive details of how to sign in and get started. We will also hold an eDofE launch session.

## **Signing up**

The cost of taking part in the DofE is approximately £175.00 per participant. This covers all aspects of your child's participation in the DofE Bronze Award, including; an official welcome pack, equipment (such as maps and tents), campsite fees, transportation costs and contingency plans which will be sent to their home address and includes their personalised DofE Discount Card. Please see the break down of the costs below:

DofE Sign up fee - £25.50

DofE Ridgeline adventures fee - £142

Cost of campsite: £7.50

**Total: £175**

To secure your child's place we will take the payment in two instalments of £87.50 via Parentpay.

**If your son/daughter would like to participate in the DofE Bronze Award, please complete the expression of interest form which can be [found here](#) . Once this form is completed, we will forward you the information to make the payment via email. We would appreciate it if this can be completed by **Friday 3rd November 2023**. This will allow us to plan for the next phase of establishing a robust programme, tailored towards the student's interests and motivations.**

We may be able to provide financial assistance for those students who are registered for the Student Premium. Please contact me at [j.chopra@maidenerleghtrust.org](mailto:j.chopra@maidenerleghtrust.org) , should you feel you may need this financial support. Upon completion of the enrolment form, you will receive a letter explaining how the payment can be made via our Parentpay platform.

If you would like further information about the award please visit the [DofE website](#). Additionally, please feel free to get in touch if you have any further questions (see email above).

Many thanks for your support, we look forward to helping your child achieve through the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Chopra  
DofE coordinator