

Dear Parent/Carer,

All year 9 students had a virtual presentation this morning about the Duke of Edinburgh's Award which they can enrol onto in Year 9.

[The Duke of Edinburgh Award \(DofE\)](http://www.dofe.org) 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: www.dofe.org.

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.

Our DofE Operations officer, Jo Ireland, will be hosting a virtual parents and pupils information evening on **Monday 18th October at 6.00pm**. This evening will enable you to hear Jo speak about the programme and how it is run at the school. There will be an opportunity for us to address any questions you may have after the evening. We will send the Google meet link via email prior to the evening.

We hope you will be able to attend the information event virtually, to encourage or support this opportunity for your child. 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.

Kind regards.

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