



27 September 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

All Year 9 students had an assembly presentation today 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, students 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 students can access this fantastic programme.

Our DofE Operations officer, Jo Ireland, will be hosting a parents and students information evening on **Tuesday 10 October at 5.30pm**. 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.

If you would like to attend the information event to encourage or support this opportunity for your child, please click on the link to give us an indication of numbers to expect. 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 9s 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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