

4th November 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

RE: The Duke of Edinburgh (Bronze Award)

I am delighted to be able to offer your son/daughter the opportunity to enrol in the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme is the world's leading achievement award for young people, and is highly regarded by Universities, Colleges and Employers. It encourages young people to develop independence, commitment, leadership and teamwork through being involved in a personalised programme of activities. Altwood fully supports the award and recognises its unique value for developing skills and attributes in young people.

The award is split into four sections; volunteering, physical, skill, and expedition. It takes approximately six months to complete and requires regular commitment to various activities. Your son/daughter will need to find ways to fulfil the volunteering, physical and skill section of the award, while in school we will focus on the expedition section. I will be happy to give advice and support to help students choose appropriate activities, and enrichments.

The total cost is estimated to be £200, this will cover training, instructors, staffing, insurance, transport and campsite fees for all the training and trips detailed below in the **Expedition Section**.

We are excited to offer this opportunity to year 9 and 10 students. We anticipate this being a popular enrichment offer and if it is oversubscribed places will be allocated by a lottery system and any monies paid would be refunded to the unsuccessful applicants.

Please see the Duke of Edinburgh Award website www.dofe.org for more information about each section. Attached is an initial enrolment form which will need to be completed before students register for the award. This details what they are planning to do, who will be their section Assessor, and how it fulfils the award. Once this is done, the form needs to be signed and returned to me, a non-refundable registration fee of £25 will also need to be paid via the school website or cash paid at student Reception by **11th November 2022**

Expedition Section

The Expedition section is divided into three sections; training, mock expedition and assessed expedition. The assessed expedition requires participants to undertake a two day backpacking and camping expedition. The training element will be delivered within the school grounds during a weekend the date of which will be shared nearer the time. The mock expedition will be, as per the assessed, two days and one night. Participants will need to complete all three sections to achieve their award.

During the mock expeditions students will be accompanied by qualified mountain leaders. As their training progresses students will gain the confidence to walk unaccompanied but with remote supervision. During the assessed expedition students will walk unaccompanied at all times but will be supported through remote supervision. In both cases, we will use campsites in the area. The expedition session will be completed in the later stages of spring term, January- Easter. Dates will be finalised closer to the time.

Whole weekend training (in school, Saturday and Sunday)

- Camp craft
- First aid
- Navigation
- Observation and recording

- Emergency procedures
- Awareness of risk and health and safety procedures
- Country & Highway Code
- A practice walk in the local area (to take place on the Sunday)

Practice expedition: Leave Saturday morning and return Sunday afternoon

Assessed/qualifying expedition: Leave Saturday morning and return Sunday afternoon

Please encourage your son/daughter to have a look at The Duke of Edinburgh Award website which has more details on the award, and what each section involves. If your son/daughter would like to apply for a place on the Duke of Edinburgh Award, please complete the reply slip below and return it to Student Reception by 11th November 2022.

Yours faithfully



Miss L Horwood

Student Name: (please print)

My son/daughter would like to complete the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award. I give my consent to my child attending all 3 weekends. I understand that the £25 deposit is non-refundable, unless my child's application for a place is unsuccessful.

I enclose £25 cash OR I have paid online (please delete appropriately)

Parent Signature: