



THE DUKE OF  
EDINBURGH'S AWARD

October 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I am writing to introduce you to the Duke of Edinburgh's Award and to explain the enrolment process for Bronze Award participants at **Priory School**.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is the world's leading youth achievement award and is a globally recognised Award. There are three levels: Bronze, Silver and Gold, which differ in terms of increasing time commitment, degree of challenge and age of entry. The benefits of achieving an Award at any level are endless. It encourages young people to push themselves to do new things, grow in confidence and develop new skills. The Award is highly valued and respected by both employers and further or higher education establishments.

We are providing the opportunity to undertake the Bronze Award to all students in Year 10. In completing the Award over the next few months, students will undertake four sections as part of their own personal and unique journey. These are **Physical, Skills, Volunteering & Expedition**.

The ethos of the award is that the participant is proactive and responsible for organising these sections, (although parents can be in the background to provide support) it is the responsibility of the young person to attend meetings and meet the deadlines. Information will be sent to students via the school bulletin and notices in their form rooms. Emails will not be sent home regularly.

Every young person's DofE programme is personal to them – they can choose what they'd like to do for their Physical, Skills and Volunteering 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. When an activity is chosen, an assessor needs to be approached to monitor progress, validate the outcome and complete the assessor report. The assessor can't be a family member and should be someone impartial and experienced in that field. One section can be an after school activity via school such as circuits and the assessor can be a PE teacher, however to get the most of the award the other two sections ideally need to be achieved by new experiences and a challenge.

Students can get started on their non-expedition sections as soon as they are registered. The school's D of E manager and team will be on hand to support the students throughout the award to offer advice and ensure they record their activities correctly on the d of e app.

In order to take part in the expedition a level of commitment needs to be shown so at least two sections out of volunteering, skills and physical must be completed, uploaded and approved by the manager by

the end of the Easter holiday ( April 7th 2024). It is advisable to start on the 3 month sections in order to meet this deadline.

### **About the expedition**

At Priory School, the expedition section is completed under the supervision and guidance of Mrs Clare Wassall, who will ensure that the expedition meets the requirements of the award. This section will involve training and a qualifying expedition, and students are in teams of 4 – 7. There will be some training sessions after school and a Saturday which must be attended. The overnight expedition will hopefully be a Friday afternoon and Saturday in July, however, this may be changed according to numbers. Exact dates and times will be given out as soon as possible.

### **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. When your child enrolls, we will set up their eDofE account and they will receive details of how to sign in and get started via the email address given on the application form.

### **Signing up**

The cost of taking part in the DofE this year is £118 per participant. This will get your child enrolled on to the award and covers a contribution to the school's licence fee, school admin charges and expedition costs. If your child would like to take part, please complete the Microsoft form via the website (after the weekend) and pay the sum of £118 to Priory School or via parent pay by the closing date – 9am Wednesday 18th October. You can make two payments of £59 if you wish however it must be paid in full by the end of the year. There is a maximum number of places available and any forms or payment after this date may not get a place.

However, if the award scheme is oversubscribed (when more students apply than there are places available), by the deadline the school will make every effort to increase the numbers of students who are able to join. If we are not able to offer a place to all students that have applied then a selection process will then take place. Any student in receipt of Pupil Premium funding will automatically be offered a place on a trip as per our school's Pupil Premium policy.

All other students will be randomly sorted into an ordered list by the Award Leader with a witness present using an appropriate computer program. This list will not be published but it will be used to determine which students are offered places on a trip and the priority order of those students on the reserve list. Siblings will be entered into this process as individual students which may therefore result in one sibling gaining a place and another not.

Any student whose behaviour is poor in and around school or who has been recently excluded may be denied permission to join the award, this is at the Headteacher's discretion.

Many thanks for your support and we look forward to helping your child to achieve through their DofE.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Clare Wassall DofE Manager

