

QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mr S Garrity Chair of Governors: Mr C Smith



18th September 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Duke of Edinburgh's Award - Year 9 Bronze Enrolment **Award Leader: Ms Watson Jones**

I am writing to let you know of the exciting opportunity available to your child to achieve the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award through QEGS in Year 9. This is a co-curricular activity and is optionally available to all Year 9 students. Our aim is for students to be well on the way to completing the Award by the end of Year 9/beginning of Year 10, so that they can move on to participate in the Silver Award during Year 10 if they wish, with ample time for completion before their GCSE examinations in Year 11 (however, they do have until they are 24 to complete any of the Award levels).

Why do DofE?

Doing their DofE is a brilliant way for your young person to discover just how much they are capable of. It gives young people the chance to make new friends, follow their passions, learn new skills and make a difference in our community. The Award is an adventure from beginning to end, with students enjoying many new experiences, discovering talents that they did not realise they had, challenging their potential, and standing out from the crowd. Many businesses and universities value the Duke of Edinburgh's Award and believe candidates to be more rounded and employable individuals.

The DofE Award is non-competitive and a powerful way for every young person to build belief in themselves, whatever their background, interests and abilities.

How it Works

The Award involves four sections that students must complete: Physical, Skill, Volunteering and Expedition. The Expedition section of the Award is fully organised by QEGS, using an Approved Activity Provider. Students can choose what they would like to do for the first three sections, and we will provide all the guidance and support they need.

The 'Expedition' section of the Award is usually participants most favoured section and involves two separate weekends (Practice Expedition and an Assessed Expedition) where the students will walk for two days and camp for one night, proving that they can be self-sufficient. Both these weekends will be in the Peak District National Park and/or the surrounding area and will be reliant on parents and carers dropping students off at the start of the expeditions, and picking them up at the end. The expeditions vary depending on groups and campsites available and this information will be given to you and your child nearer the time of the expedition. It is my initial intention that they will complete the Practice expedition in early May 2024 and the Assessed Expedition in early June 2024.

As this is a co-curricular activity, students will be expected to complete their volunteering, skills and physical sections out of lesson time, as well as spend some of their after-school hours undertaking training in camp craft and map navigation, to enable them to undertake the expedition. It is my initial intention that students will have two afternoons of face to face training in January 2024 and March 2024.

In addition to this, students will take part in on-line training where they will undertake some basic First Aid, as well as become informed of the equipment, packing and food requirements for their expeditions. This training will be provided by the AAP (Approved Activities Provider) that will be leading the Expedition section of the Award.

Next Steps

If you would like to find out more about the Duke of Edinburgh program, you can visit our webpage (<https://www.queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk/key-information/dofe/>) or the DofE website (<http://www.dofe.org>).

I will also be holding a Parent Information Evening and Q&A on TUESDAY 26th SEPTEMBER. Please keep an eye out on Groupcall for a link to this.

The cost for the Bronze Award enrolment is £26.50. This is payable via ParentPay, with a deadline of **Friday 13th October**. This is **NOT** the total amount payable for the Award. This cost is for enrolment on to the Bronze Award only and is not refundable once the student is enrolled. There will be an additional cost for the expeditions and training (**which is estimated to be £205**), that will be payable later in the academic year.

Costs are kept to a minimum and the academy does not receive any profit from this. Most of the costs are for assessors/supervisors, qualified staff with Mountain Leader qualifications and many hours of experience in their field. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award risk assessment and safety requirements now insist that qualified and approved staff have to be used.

If you have any queries or questions regarding the Duke of Edinburgh's Award in the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me by email at Watson-jones@queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk

Yours faithfully

Ms Watson Jones

Duke of Edinburgh's Award Manager

Twitter: http://twitter.com/QEGS_DofE

**by clicking the "consent" button on ParentPay to confirm the payment detailed above, you are also confirming that the emergency contact and medical details we have on our system are correct for your child and that you understand that these fees are non-refundable.*

Please inform me as a matter of urgency should there be any changes to the details we hold.