



October 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

A presentation has been given to all Year 9 students during PDT time this week offering them the opportunity to apply to participate in the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award. Riddlesdown has been offering the Award for a number of years and currently has students involved at Bronze and Silver level. **The presentation, a copy of this letter and the application form will be on the Riddlesdown website by the end of this week.** You will find this under Curriculum – Enrichment - Duke of Edinburgh Award. If your child is interested in applying please complete the Google enrolment form (link in this letter) and the application form on the website. The application form should be completed by your child and handed in to Student Services. It must not be handed to their Tutor. **The closing date for applications is Tuesday 14th November.** Please note that any applications received after this date will not be considered.

To apply please follow this [link](#) to a Google form

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is a voluntary, non-competitive programme of practical, cultural and adventurous activities, designed to support the personal and social development of young people. It offers an individual challenge and encourages young people to undertake exciting, constructive, challenging and enjoyable things in their free time. The Award is widely recognised by educationalists and employers. Some of the benefits to young people include developing or discovering:

- A sense of achievement and enjoyment
- New skills and interests
- Self-confidence and self-reliance
- Leadership skills and abilities
- Exciting opportunities
- Experience of teamwork and decision making

We operate a selection process for the Bronze Award. There will be 100 places available to current Year 9 students (25 per College). By reducing our numbers we will be able to better support students in fully completing their Bronze Award. Administrative support is provided by Mrs White, based in Student Services, who is usually the first point of contact for parents on matters concerning the Award. Students who have not been selected on this occasion will have the opportunity of applying for the Silver Award in Year 10. For more information on the Duke of Edinburgh Award please visit www.dofe.org

The Award Team will work with College staff on selection of students. It will take a couple of weeks for applications to be reviewed – you will be notified once decisions are made – this will be after half term. The Award is a national charity and whilst receiving some funding from government and commercial sources, participants support the charity through the purchase of a Welcome Pack. The cost of the Award is £80.00 and **this will only be due on acceptance onto the Award** via Parentpay and is non-refundable. This fee includes the enrolment and the welcome pack, any training required and the cost of the training and assessed expeditions. Please note that it is not possible to hire camping/expedition equipment from school.

Key dates for the Bronze Award are:

Wednesday 17th January 2024 - Parents Information Evening (for those students selected): 6.30 – 7.30 pm – Main School Hall
Please note that information will be sent to you via email (parent and student email) and also put on Google Classroom before this date so that your child can start the Award

Sunday 24th March 2024 - Training Morning, School: 9 - 12 pm

Friday 10th – Saturday 11th May 2024 - Practice Expedition, Local area, camping overnight at School

Friday 28th - Saturday 29th June 2024 – Assessed Expedition, East Grinstead (venue tbc)

The above dates are given at this stage for you to check that your child is available. All of the events must be attended so please check before your child applies. There will be further after school sessions – dates to be confirmed but notice will be given.

Yours sincerely

Miss J P Baker, Duke of Edinburgh Award Leader

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