



4th February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to you to launch the Duke of Edinburgh Award. The DofE award is an amazing award comprised of four sections; volunteering, physical, skill and the expedition. The DofE challenges students to work beyond their comfort zone and develop skills for life.

During 2020, the DofE award has been very different and Year 10 have had to face challenges that they may not have thought could even happen. They have completed their physical by joining in with Joe Wicks twice a week or doing online Zumba classes, completed a skill through recording themselves playing a musical instrument or taking images of their paintings and have achieved their volunteering by supporting their community through delivering food packages or writing letter correspondences to an elderly relative. Their resilience through a difficult period of time has been exemplary.

This year, I'm hoping that your child's opportunities will be greater. I am launching the DofE with the prospect of being able to complete the physical, skill and volunteering sections outside of their home or local area. However, the expedition may be just like the expedition Year 10 will complete this summer. There may not be sleeping in a tent or carrying kilograms upon kilograms of tents, spare clothing and food but there will still be challenges that your child will face navigating through the forest, completing team building activities, facing first aid scenarios where they will need to use their knowledge and judgement. I may not be able to take your child far afield, but I will show them the wonders of their local area and how an expedition doesn't need to be extravagant to develop them as a person and leave them with memories that can be recall with family, friends, college interviewers and employers.

Usually, the DofE would be launched to students during an assembly and more information would be provided at a parents evening event. However, due to the current circumstances, these events cannot be held so please use the links to videos and the DofE website for further information:

<https://www.dofe.org/>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y7kY2w4A7_s

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mbtr92yavas>

<https://www.dofe.org/thelatest/elle>

<https://www.dofe.org/thelatest/lavine>

This year, we have sourced funding to support enrolment for the DofE and encourage equal opportunities for all. This means that I can offer a reduced rate of £15.00 for your child to participate in the DofE.

If your child would like to participate in the DofE this year, please make the £15 payment via school money and complete the attached form and return to reception by the end of Wednesday 10th February.

Yours faithfully

Miss H Colson