



ABINGDON

From: The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Leader, Mathew Dempsey

15 September 2020

Dear Parents,

**Parents of Fifth Year Students
Duke of Edinburgh Award Silver Level**

Introduction

The Duke of Edinburgh's award offers a personal challenge through a balanced programme of activities. Boys are encouraged to serve others, acquire new skills and experience adventure. It is non-competitive, being based on individual improvement and achievement, reflecting personal choice, initiative and perseverance and, in some cases, leadership.

When boys sign up for the award they will be provided with a welcome pack, a login ID and password for the eDofE recording system. The welcome pack contains various leaflets, a 'Keeping Track' booklet for recording progress within the various sections of the award and a discount card for use in various outdoor shops.

Boys joining the award should be aware that it is their award. This means that it is for them to motivate themselves to complete the skill, volunteering and physical sections. The amount of time required for each section is contained on the award [website](#); however it equates to approximately one hour a week over a six month period for two of the three sections and over a three month period for the remaining section. In most cases boys can use something they are doing in school to satisfy the criteria as long as it is outside normal lessons. For instance, music lessons can be used, as well as many Other Half clubs and sports, a suggested list can be found [here](#). Suggested socially distanced activities can be found [here](#). Some boys are allocated one of the places only to drop from the scheme during the year because they do not motivate themselves to continue, by which time it is too late to reallocate their place. Please ask your son to consider if he can commit to the time required to complete the award before applying.

The only section that is normally arranged for them is the expedition section. However due to the Covid-19 government restrictions on residential school trips we will not be able to offer this to your son this year. This is because in the summer term, when the expeditions would potentially take place assuming restrictions are lifted, he will be studying for his GCSE exams. Without completing the expedition section boys will gain the Duke of Edinburgh's Certificate of Achievement and will be able to proceed to gold level in the future as normal. Alternatively, your son could complete his expedition section with an external provider; these are easily found by searching "DofE open award expedition online".

The award's website www.dofe.org is the best source of information and is updated frequently with new ideas and information. Participants new to the scheme are strongly advised to look at the site or to watch this [presentation](#) before applying for a place on the award in school.

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Costs

Enrolment fee £22 This is for the initial registration with eDofE (£22), a welcome pack, certificate and badge (on completion).

Joining the Scheme

To join the scheme boys and parents should complete this google form together. It will only be valid if it comes from a parent's e-mail account. The form should be completed by Wednesday 30 September 2020.

The form:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScGv2nPOXq2WYds73tsVJH1VQbPbPhPLZgixh47wk7zFLoJ9g/viewform?usp=sf_link

Once boys have been allocated a place they will be notified by email. Due to the time it takes to set boys up with an eDofE account there may be a short delay. Boys who are allocated a place will also receive, prior to the induction briefing, an email with their login ID and password to the eDofE system.

Finally, boys need to be aware that, although the Duke of Edinburgh's Award is not time-constrained (up to age 25), they should attempt to complete each element within a specified time, and that this will require a consistent effort and commitment on their part to achieve.

Please make sure your son is aware that to progress on to Gold level they will need to have completed all sections of the Silver award and for it to have been signed off on eDofE before the end of September 2021.

Yours sincerely,

Mathew Dempsey
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