

Spring 2022

Our Ref: KSE/PDU

Dear Parents/Carers

I am pleased to inform you that your Son/Daughter has expressed an interest in joining the Holyrood Academy Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award. The Duke of Edinburgh Award was recently voted the United Learning Trust (a consortium of major employers) as the extra-curricular award that they see as most important for potential applicants to have at School.

The Award requires those taking part to complete four sections:

- Skill (learning a skill, at least once a week)
- Physical (participating in a physical activity at least once a week)
- Volunteering (being involved in an activity that benefits others once a week)
- Expedition (completing a training and assessed 3 day hike with 2 overnight camps).

The Skill, Physical and Volunteering sections must be completed once a week for 3 – 6 months, with one of these sections to be completed over 6 – 9 months. Students will be assisted in their selection of appropriate activities and monitored by Teachers throughout the delivery of the award programme. However, completion of these sections will primarily be the responsibility of the students taking part, completion of Bronze will reduce the timescales. There is a drop in session every Tuesday lunchtime in E10, where they can get assistance with any of these areas as well as being shown how to log on to the eDofE page.

Students will take part in a local practice expedition (which may be the Bronze expedition) and will hopefully be in the summer on Exmoor; this will depend upon Government guidelines at the time. Training for this section will take place once a week, in an after school session which will take place later in the Summer Term. Completion of the award requires commitment from participants not only to the activities but also to the ongoing training, therefore, all Students taking part will be asked to attend every scheduled extra-curricular session. The cost of the expedition will be in the region of £40.00 which will be confirmed nearer the time. By completing the Skill, Volunteering and Physical sections, Students will achieve the Certificate of Achievement. Once the expedition is also completed, they will gain the full award.

To take part in the award, participants pay a £40.00 fee. This fee is waived for Students who are in receipt of Pupil Premium. The fee is their contribution towards the Charity's costs in running their DoE programme and represents a personal commitment adding value to their involvement and includes:

- Their online E DoE account
- Welcome Pack
- Cotswold Discount Card
- Certificate and Badge

I am sure that over the next year we will create a fun, informative, active and encouraging learning environment that will stretch, challenge and equip those taking part.

More details of the requirements of the award can be found on the DoE Award website – <https://www.dofe.org/>

Yours faithfully

Mrs K Seib
DofE Co-ordinator