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Dear Parent / Guardian,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to follow up on the recent assemblies and introduction evening regarding the Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Award, to provide you with further information and answer any questions you may have.

The DofE Award is a prestigious and internationally recognised award that aims to encourage personal development and foster a spirit of adventure, service, and skill acquisition among young individuals. This program is designed to challenge and inspire participants, allowing them to develop essential life skills, build resilience, and promote their overall well-being.

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. Achieving a DofE Award is a great way to impress employers too. And it helps young people to see themselves differently and gain a new level of confidence. We always say that after taking on your DofE, you know that whatever life throws at you, you're ready to deal with it.

The DofE 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

There are three levels of DofE Award – Bronze, Silver and Gold. To achieve their Bronze Award, your young person will need to complete four sections – Volunteering, Physical, Skills and the Expedition.

Young people can choose what they would like to do for the first three sections, and we will provide the guidance and support they need. The Expedition involves spending two days and one night in the countryside. We provide comprehensive training beforehand to ensure everyone is fully prepared and has the best possible experience.

Next steps

We hope lots of our young people will take this opportunity to get involved with DofE. The registration cost is £30 per person. This would be due by the **Friday 8th November 2024**. Continuing on from last year's success, we will be running the expedition portion of the award in house. Costs fully depend on the amount of young people that take part in the award. Our aim is to keep the **total cost** (including registration fee) of the award under £100. This covers, all your young person's training, a weekend expedition and the use of shared team kit including tents, stoves and trackers. If your child is interested in taking part but the cost is prohibitive, please do speak to me as we may be able to arrange financial support.

If your young person wishes to participate, please complete the Microsoft form (<https://forms.office.com/e/nw2ygRBMQy>). Once you have registered their interest, Parent pay will then open for you to pay the registration fee. The fee is paid to the Duke of Edinburgh Award and is non-refundable once a place has been purchased.

If you have any questions in the meantime, please feel free to contact me at joanna.firmingermathieu@paigntonacademy.tsat.uk or visit the DofE home page on the Academy website.

Yours faithfully,
Jo Firminger- Mathieu
Head of Outdoor Education