



Dear Parent or Guardian,

There is an opportunity for fourth form pupils to participate in The Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) Scheme through the school. DofE aims to stimulate the enthusiasms and energies of young people by presenting them with a challenging programme of activities. The essence of DofE is to provide a "challenge to the individual" and not simply another competition in life where success is another persons comparative failure. We hope that the process of participation in the programme leads to personal development and new, well-earned confidence.

DofE has three levels: Bronze, Silver and Gold. Our aim at the school is for pupils to complete their Bronze Award during their fourth and early fifth year, the Silver Award during their fifth year and their Gold Award in the 6th form. The Award demands persistence and commitment and cannot be completed in a short burst of enthusiasm.

At each level there are four sections to be completed; Volunteering, Expedition, Skill and Physical. Your son's achievements in each section are recorded in his own personal Record Books and details of the requirements for each section are available through the DofE website (<http://www.dofe.org/>)

We keep the financial requirement to a minimum. Participants are required to pay £26 to join the DofE Scheme here (this fee covers the purchase of a Record Book plus a small contribution towards our equipment pool). Each participant will also need to contribute towards the operating costs of the practice and assessed expeditions (£25 for each), to pay their own campsite fees (~£7pppn) and will be required to equip themselves with outdoor clothing (there will be lots of discussion and advice about equipment at lunchtime and other meetings, so please DON'T buy lots of new stuff yet). If a family has particular difficulty with the costs then please contact Mr Matthew, as there are sources available in school to ensure that no boy misses the opportunity to participate on financial grounds. We have some equipment available through school (tents, stoves, rucksacks, karrimats) but we encourage participants to provide their own where possible.

We will provide all the training and assessors that are necessary for the Expedition section of DofE. To complete this training your son will need to attend a lunchtime meeting every Monday at 1.30pm and keep the following dates clear

Sunday 8th November 2009,

Sunday 21st March 2010,

(Continued overleaf)

Friday 7th and Saturday 8th May 2010 (Practice Expedition) and
Sunday 26th and Monday 27th September 2010 (Assessed Expedition).

With the growing amount of bureaucracy involved with adventurous activities (such as DofE training and Expeditions) and the need to book adequate staff and transport participants will need to submit completed consent and medical forms, completed route cards and monies by the relevant deadline (which will be AT LEAST 4 school weeks before the trip). If your son is unable to meet a deadline it will no longer be possible for him to continue with DofE at LRGS. I will be encouraging the boys to have everything in at least a week before the deadline so that they avoid missing-out.

I would strongly urge you to consider your son's existing commitments before agreeing to sign his application to join the scheme. At LRGS, we are usually over subscribed so names normally have to be drawn from a hat. If your son's name is drawn and he decides half way through that he cannot fit the award scheme in with his other commitments then he will have deprived someone else of the chance of completing the Award scheme at LRGS.

In the past a significant number of boys have joined DofE, participated in the Expedition Section and done nothing further. This is completely at odds with the positive spirit of DofE, which is for all participants to complete all 4 sections of their DofE. The Headmaster, the Area DofE Supervisor and I are keen to encourage every participant who starts Bronze DofE at LRGS to complete it. To this end it will be essential for participants to have completed one section of their Bronze DofE by the end of February if they wish to go on the Practice Expedition. A further 6 month section will need to be completed by the end of May if they wish to participate in the Assessed Expedition. These requirements are not onerous, and are well within what committed DofE participants have completed in the past.

Please read carefully the requirements for Bronze DofE on the website and then sign your son's application which **he must return to the School Office** by 11.40am on Friday 18th September if he wishes to become involved in the Award at LRGS.

Thank you for your support.

Mr. T. Matthew

Teacher in charge of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme (at LRGS)

Application for a place on



I WISH TO PARTICIPATE IN THE **Bronze** DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S
AWARD SCHEME (DofE). If I start Bronze DofE at LRGs I am determined
to complete it.

SIGNATURE _____

NAME (print please) _____ FORM 4 _____

Your email address _____

PARENT'S/GUARDIAN'S NAME (print please) _____

PARENT'S/GUARDIAN'S SIGNATURE _____

FORM TUTOR'S INITIALS _____ FORM TUTOR'S SIGNATURE _____