

LANCASTER ROYAL GRAMMAR SCHOOL

East Road Lancaster LA1 3EF

Tel: 01524 580600

Email: ashawcross@lrqs.org.uk

Dr A Shawcross DofE Coordinator

23rd January 2019



Gold at LRGS

Dear Parent or Guardian,

There is an opportunity for your son to continue/begin The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme through the school. The Award aims to stimulate the enthusiasms and energies of young people by presenting them with a challenging programme of activities. The essence of the Award 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.

The Award has three levels: Bronze, Silver and Gold. Our aim at the school is for pupils to complete their Bronze Award during Year 10, the Silver Award during Year 11 and their Gold Award in the 6th form. The Award demands persistence and commitment and cannot be completed in a short burst of enthusiasm. 'It is a marathon not a sprint!'

At each level there are four sections to be completed; Volunteering, Expedition, Skill and Physical, and in addition to this Gold requires a residential section also. Your son's achievements in each section are recorded in his own personal record and on the eDofE website. Details of the requirements for each section are available through the Award website (<http://www.dofe.org/>)

We try to keep the financial requirement to a minimum. Participants are required to pay £52 (this fee covers the Gold registration, and contributions towards our DofE licence fee and our equipment pool). Each participant will also need to contribute towards the operating costs of the practice and assessed expeditions (see below) and will be required to equip themselves with outdoor clothing. If a family has particular difficulty with the costs then please contact me as there are sources available in school to ensure that no boy misses the opportunity to participate on financial grounds. We have group equipment available through school (tents and stoves) and a few personal items (rucksacks, karrimats) but we encourage participants to provide their own of the latter where possible.

We will provide all the training and assessors that are necessary. To complete the training and assessment for the Expedition section of the Award your son will need to attend on the following dates:

Wednesday 27th to Saturday 30th March 2019 – Practice Expedition and training, (approx. £65 – this will include all campsite fees)
Friday 12th to Wednesday 17th July 2019 – Assessed Expedition in Scotland (approx.. £190 – this will include all campsite fees)

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 deadlines. If your son is unable to meet a deadline it may no longer be possible for him to continue with DofE at LRGS.

Please consider your son's existing commitments before agreeing to sign his application for the Gold Award.

If your son has been part of the Silver programme, he should by now have completed this award in order to move onto Gold. This condition has been set to encourage and ensure that as many boys as possible see all parts of the Award through to completion. There are a handful of boys who have not yet done this and need to if they are to participate in the Gold award.

Please read carefully the requirements for the Gold Award on the DofE website and if your son would like to participate, please:

1. Complete the registration form and either return it to me by e-mail, or hand it in to the **science office**
2. Complete payment on the school's Wisepay system (Boarders please note, I'm no longer able to put it on the bill) by Friday 1/2/19.

If you have any questions, please get in touch, with e-mail probably being the easiest way.

Regards,

Alistair Shawcross

DofE Coordinator

ashawcross@lrgs.org.uk