

## LANCASTER ROYAL GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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Dr A Shawcross DofE Coordinator

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Dear Parents/Carers,

There is an opportunity for your son to 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 person's 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 their 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!'* Due to the popularity of the award at school, we can normally only accept new boys and girls to the school directly at Silver and Gold level, so if your son would like to take part, this is their opportunity.

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 and on the eDofE website. Details of the requirements for each section are available through the Award website (<http://www.dofe.org/>).

With ever increasing interest in the scheme, we have to outsource our Bronze expedition. After a number of successful years using them, we will again be using the well-established Sam Sykes Ltd ([samsykesltd.com](http://samsykesltd.com)). A video from him can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=slauGEWri5g&t=51s> and should give a good overview.

The costs for the scheme are as follows:

£50 to cover scheme registration and a contribution for our costs of running the scheme at school.  
£195 to cover all expedition training, completion of the expedition section of the award, as well as use of equipment such as rucksacs, tents and stoves.

As the expedition will be taking place near Waddacar there are no transport costs included as many parents have taken/collected their own sons, being closer to the venue than school. For those requiring transport from school, I will book a bus and share the cost between those requiring it. Participants will also be required to equip themselves with outdoor clothing (there will be discussion and advice about equipment, so please DON'T buy lots of new stuff yet).

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.

The expedition will be on the 27<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> September, hopefully when the weather improves after the summer holidays.

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 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.

**In order to sign up:**

Please make a payment of £50 using the school's Wisepay system, entry "Not CCF Bronze DofE deposit 2024/5" by Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> June. The balance of £195 will then be required on the first day back in September and an entry for this will go up at the end of June.

I am out of school a lot this term on field trips, residentials and expeditions, but will endeavour to reply to e-mail questions as and when I can. If you have any questions regarding Wisepay, Mrs Pearson ([lpearson@lrgs.org.uk](mailto:lpearson@lrgs.org.uk)) should be able to help you.

Kind regards,

Dr A Shawcross

Duke of Edinburgh Coordinator

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