

20th September 2023

Dear Parent or Carer

Year 9 Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award (DofE) 2023-2024

The Judd School is delighted to announce that we're bringing the Bronze award back to year 9 students so that we can have students engage with the DofE programme earlier and make more progress over their time at Judd.

We've also decided to move to as much of a paperless system as possible to hopefully streamline the experience for both students and parents so there is a Google Classroom that your child can join where more information will be available and updates will be posted as the year progresses.

The key points at this stage are:

- There are four components of the Bronze award: **Volunteering, Physical, Skills** (two of which you do for a minimum of three months and the third for a minimum of six months) along with the **Expedition** section that comprises two expeditions of two days and one night each plus a team presentation. All four sections are equally weighted and should be valued equally.
- The Google Classroom code your child must join is **44t623o** where there is an informative video about the DofE program, additional information for both parents and children and assignments that must be completed no later than the **13th October 2023** but ideally by the **29th September 2023** so potential issues can be addressed.
- There is a parents information evening booked for the **9th October 2023 at 18:00 in M14** where we'll have a DofE representative come in to answer any questions you may have - particularly around what 'counts' for each section.
- The deadline for the [enrolment form](#) to be completed is **13th October 2023**.
- The total cost will be approximately **£294**, based on a maximum of 150 students enrolling. Payment arrangements will require an initial deposit of £100 (via [Parent Pay](#)) which is non-refundable. The payments will then be due as follows:
- Initial Deposit £100 **13th October 2023**
Second payment £63 13th November 2023
Third payment £65 13th December 2023
Final Instalment £66 (TBC) 13th February 2024

Please can we ask that you adhere to this schedule, unless otherwise agreed with the Finance office, as it is based around the school's payment arrangements with the expedition company.

Should financial difficulties prevent your child from accepting a place on the tour, please write in confidence to the School Business Manager, Mrs Hilary Goldsmith, hgoldsmith@judd.kent.sch.uk as we do have a limited Lawrence Atwell Fund that we can use for certain cases (please note the Lawrence Atwell Fund will not cover 100% of the expedition cost).

In addition, the Judd Parents Association have very kindly donated funds to the school to purchase rucksacks and waterproofs which we can loan out to students who have been helped by the Lawrence Atwell Fund.

The expedition section consists of a practice and an assessment expedition with dates **14th and 15th April 2024** in the Ashdown Forest and the **19th and 20th May 2024** near Alfriston. Students must complete both dates and do an expedition presentation back in school to fulfil the expedition requirements. Parents are responsible for transportation to and from the expeditions and more information, including a required kit list, will be sent out closer to the time. If your child isn't able to make all the dates or wants to do something different, like canoeing or sailing or do their expedition with scouts, then it is possible to organise and book an alternative expedition independently and directly with 4th Dimension (our chosen expedition provider) or another Expedition AAP (Approved Activity Provider) but still have their award managed within the school.

As a result of the changes to data protection rules following the introduction of the General Data Protection Regulations, I would advise that personal data regarding your child (dietary and relevant medical information) will be passed to the trip providers. By paying the deposit, you are giving the school explicit permission to share this data with the relevant suppliers as it is a necessity for the safe organisation of the trip and we are contractually bound to do so. Consequently, failure to agree will unfortunately mean that your child is unable to go. If you have any concerns about this or would like to know more information, please contact Mrs Goldsmith on the above email.

You will be required to complete an online medical form and code of conduct, these will be sent out in due course. In the meantime should you have any general questions about the DofE or Physical, Volunteering or Skills sections please contact Mrs Sullivan at the Judd DofE email address.

If you have any questions about the expedition please contact Mr. Pearce using the same email address but with the email title containing **EXPEDITION** as he is the one organising that section of the award.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs M Sullivan
Duke of Edinburgh Manager
dofe@judd.kent.sch.uk