

20th September 2019

Duke of Edinburgh 2019/20

Bronze – Year 9

Dear Parent / Carer,

We are delighted to launch the Duke of Edinburgh Award at Lymm High School for 2019/20. Last year, we had more than 220 students sign-up for one of the three DofE awards and it has been fantastic to see numbers increase year-on-year. We will continue to offer all 3 awards in school and these will be open to all students in the 3 year groups below, thanks to the continued collaboration with *Get Outside The Classroom (GOTC)*, the Expedition Provider we have worked with for the last 4 years.

We will be offering the following awards this year:

- **Bronze** Duke of Edinburgh to Year 9
- **Silver** Duke of Edinburgh to Year 10
- **Gold** Duke of Edinburgh to Year 12

We do not offer the Duke of Edinburgh Award in Years 11 and 13 due to our students' external examinations, but students in these years are welcome to pursue Duke of Edinburgh outside of school if they wish.

The **Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award** is available to **Year 9**, the Silver Award for Year 10 and the Gold Award to Year 12 students. Students are welcome to register for Silver or Gold Awards either as 'Previous Level Participants' (i.e. if applying for Silver, this means they have completed Bronze) or 'Direct Participants' if they have not. Participation works in the same way but timescales for commitments are longer for Direct Participants. If a student has started the previous award, they need to have completed it before we can start them on the next award – please contact Mrs S Hill in the School Shop before the deadline if your child has not finished their award from 2018/19 and would like to sign up for 2019/20. There is a lower age limit for Bronze, but your child does not need to be 14 years old already in order to sign up – they only need to turn 14 during this academic year.

Further information (including FAQ), is available on the school's website under Enrichment/Duke of Edinburgh; there is also a wealth of information on www.dofe.org. We would thoroughly recommend taking some time to access this information before committing to any payments or expedition dates. We will also be holding a **DofE Parent Information Evening** on **Wednesday 2nd October 2019** in the Main Hall 6-7pm. We would urge parents to come along (parents only, no students please due to space) to find out more information about how the award runs in school.

A DofE Award is an enormously valuable programme and is recognised worldwide. Universities and employers are looking for more than just strong academic achievement and participation in extra-curricular activities, so emphasising involvement in DofE on a UCAS or job application can tell an institution/employer that a student is ambitious, has demonstrated leadership skills and commitment, and has spent time helping other people in their community.

The cost of the Bronze award this year is **£243**, which covers the training day, 2 expeditions, insurance and the DofE registration pack. It is important to make you aware that the school operates Duke of Edinburgh on a 'not-for-profit' basis. The school directly funds the cost of additional support from Get Outside The Classroom (for example the eDofE Support Sessions we run throughout the year), and this does not affect the cost to students in any way. Due to our large numbers, we would not be able to run the DofE programmes in school without the support of GOTC. Equipment such as tents, stoves, fuel bottles, waterproofs, roll mats and rucksacks can all be

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borrowed from the school free of charge and any monies remaining in budgets at the end of the year are reinvested to ensure future participation.

The school will open an enrolment window from Friday 20th September until **Friday 4th October** for participants to secure a place. During this period an initial non-refundable deposit of £100 will need to be made using Parent Pay. Your child will also need to return the reply slip and medical form, confirming they are able to commit to the various aspects of the DofE Award in question, in particular the dates of the compulsory training day and 2 compulsory expeditions.

The **final balance for Bronze should be paid by Fri 14th Feb 2020**; for Silver and Gold, the balance should be paid by Fri 3rd Apr 2020. A place on the expeditions will not be allocated without full payment being made by these dates. If you would prefer to pay in instalments by this deadline, please contact Mrs S Hill in the School Shop to arrange on 01925 755458 ext. 113.

Please be aware that in the unlikely event of a conflict in dates occurring, injury/illness or family emergency preventing a student's participation in any expedition or training day, unfortunately it will not be possible to refund monies paid, due to costs already incurred by the school. You may wish to explore personal travel insurance options where your provider allows. Circumstances for a need to withdraw are by their nature very individual and we would ask you to contact Mark Harnden via email (mark@getoutsidetheclassroom.co.uk) as soon as possible should any issues arise. We would also ask you to cross-reference the expedition dates with your family calendar before signing up to check your child can commit to the award fully.

Training and Expedition dates for this year are set in the school calendar as follows:

BRONZE – Year 9

Event/Expedition	Date	Venue	Transportation
Bronze Training Day	Fri 31 st Jan or Mon 3 rd Feb 2020	Lymm HS	n/a
Bronze Training Expedition	Wed 6 th May – Thurs 7 th May 2020	Cheshire	Parents
Bronze Qualifying Expedition	Fri 19 th Jun – Sat 20 th Jun 2020	Cheshire	Parents

Please be aware that in order to keep costs down for participants, parents are required to drop off and collect for all DofE expeditions (you may find it helpful to car share).

New participants will be given access to an online eDofE account and shown how to add their section aims and evidence, after we purchase places (this will be after the deadline regardless of when parents sign up). It is important they keep their login safe; to allow us to help them we ask students not to change their account username or password. This year, DofE will be sending registration packs direct to students' home addresses but we will continue to get students logged on and set-up on eDofE in a registration session in school. Once planners have been submitted and approved, all participants simply need to follow their commitments and obtain the important Assessor's Report as soon as they have finished. All participants will be able to back date **one** of their activities to Monday 9th September.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is a fantastic opportunity and all students are welcome to apply for a place. If your child is eligible for Pupil Premium, please consider using your Trip Voucher towards the cost of the Award by informing Ms A Ralph in the School Shop (aralph@lymmhigh.org.uk). We would just like to finish by taking this opportunity to thank you in advance for all the support you will undoubtedly be offering in the background to help your child to participate. If you have any queries regarding any aspect of the Award please don't hesitate to get in touch. We look forward to your child's participation in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award this year.

Yours faithfully,

M Harnden

Mark Harnden

DofE Award Manager (Get Outside The Classroom)



Natalie Dixon

Assistant Headteacher



Duke of Edinburgh's Award 2019/20

BRONZE – Year 9

STUDENT NAME:

FORM:

I wish my child to participate in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award at Bronze level this year. I can confirm they are available for participation in the compulsory Training Day on either 31st January or 3rd February 2020 and the 2 Expeditions on 6th-7th May and 19th-20th June 2020. I also enclose the completed medical form.

PARENT NAME:

DATE: