

Friday 5th November 2021

Dear parent/carer,

SUBJECT: Joining Duke of Edinburgh's Award Programme

Your child has expressed a wish to join the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Programme and work towards their bronze award. More information about the programme can be found on the DofE website <https://www.dofe.org/>

Young people who are successful in completing the awards programme demonstrate desirable and transferable life skills which are highly regarded by colleges, universities and employers. The DofE programme encourages teamwork, resilience, independence and a willingness to learn whilst embracing new and exciting life experiences.

What does the DofE award consist of?

The DofE award comprises four sections:

1. Volunteering
2. Physical
3. Skill
4. Expedition

The first three sections are intended to take three months each, with one of them continuing for 6 months.

The DofE group meets regularly in school to monitor the progress of pupils in each section and to offer advice and guidance. We also train for the final section which can only be completed from Easter to October – the expedition! This will involve the pupils planning a route and navigating to an overnight campsite, and they must be entirely self-sufficient. Pupils will be required to give up a weekend for the practice expedition and also a weekend when they will be assessed. We are able to provide tents and stoves for the pupils to use on their expedition and we have a few rucksacks to lend out, but pupils will need their own pair of walking boots, a sleeping bag and mat, and will need to bring their own food for the expeditions.

Provisional dates for your diary:

28-29th May - Practice expedition

25-26th June - Qualifying expedition

Each pupil will need to be highly motivated to achieve their bronze award but it's also important for them to have your support, e.g. you may be able to help them secure a suitable place to volunteer for 3 months, or support them in the development of their chosen skill or physical activity. They must also keep detailed records of their progress in all areas via the eDofE app and it will also be very helpful if you 'encourage' them to keep on top of this.

Costs of the programme and further information





RISEDALE
A family of learners

RISEDALE SCHOOL

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There is a cost of £60 involved in joining the scheme which gives pupils access to their DofE account, limited personal accident insurance, an electronic copy of the achievement pack on completion and a certificate and badge upon approved achievement of the award. It also covers the cost of the campsite fees for the expedition and the practice.

All the Risedale staff that support the awards scheme and expeditions give up their time voluntarily, which helps us to keep the costs down as much as possible.

If you would be happy for your child to take part in the scheme, I would be grateful if you could pay the £60 using ParentPay by the end of February, or if you prefer to pay in two instalments, £30 by the end of December and a further £30 by the end of March.

Nearer to the expedition dates you will receive more information about all the important details and you will be sent an email requesting that you complete a consent form on Evolve.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me directly hailwood.j@risedale.org.uk

Yours sincerely

Jane Hailwood

(Senior Teacher, Head of Science Faculty and DofE Leader)

