



November 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

At Durham Johnston Comprehensive school, all students are invited to apply to enrol with the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme. Following a hiatus due to COVID-19, we are delighted to be able to accept applications to register for the 2022-2023 Bronze award programme from students in Year 9, Year 10 and Year 11.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award programme has been running since 1956 and offers young people the opportunity to develop a range of skills and build self-confidence. It requires high levels of commitment and dedication, over four sections, each with a distinct aim:

- Physical – To inspire young people to achieve greater physical fitness and a healthy lifestyle through participation and improvement in physical activity.
- Skills – To inspire young people to develop practical and social skills and personal interests.
- Volunteering – To inspire young people to make a difference within their communities or to an individual's life and develop compassion by giving service to others.
- Expedition – To inspire young people to develop initiative and a spirit of adventure and discovery, by planning, training for and completing an adventurous journey as part of a team.

The Physical, Skill and Volunteering sections are predominantly managed by the students and are overseen by an assessor of their choosing and an award leader. The students record their activities on the eDofE website. These three sections **must** be completed before a student can take part in the expedition section.

For the expedition section, the students will need to complete a one-day practice walk, and then a final 2-day assessed expedition, including an overnight camp. This section is completed in teams of 7.

Your child will be assigned an expedition during term time. The provisional dates are:

May 22<sup>nd</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> 2023 (Year 9)

May 25<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> 2023 (Year 10)

July 10<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> 2023 (Year 11)

There will be a full programme of training that all students **must** attend in order to fulfil the requirements for this section. These will be on a Wednesday after school, running until 7pm. There will be four training sessions, the dates will be shared once we know the number of participants.

**All training sessions must be completed.** If students do not complete all four this year, they will have the opportunity to attend them in following years.



The Duke of Edinburgh's award requires commitment from students in all four different areas, of which the expedition is the culmination. For this reason, students will not be able to take part in the practice expedition until at least two other sections are complete on eDofE site, nor their final expedition until all three other sections are complete on eDofE site. Starting these sections as soon as the students are registered gives them more than enough time to complete these sections.

The cost of the programme is currently estimated to be approximately £180, but this may increase due to the current financial climate. The cost covers registration into the scheme, the training programme, group equipment and accommodation on expeditions. Food and personal equipment for the expeditions is not included. To prevent students paying for activities in which they do not take part, this can be payable in either a lump sum three £60 installments. Students are encouraged to raise funds themselves to take part in the programme; advice and support with this will be available in school. If the cost of the award presents a financial barrier to taking part, there is some discretionary funding available, please speak to Mrs Gibb through the school office.

Places on the award scheme are limited, therefore we are asking all students who are interested in taking part in the award to complete an application form. This should be returned to Mrs Gibb in Sc4 by **Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2022**. If there are more applicants than places available places will be allocated based on the application form.

Successful applicants will be informed via Teams and the DofE notice board. Students will then need to pay the initial deposit via parent-pay and return the enrolment form to take part in the award programme.

Taking part in the Bronze award does not guarantee a place on the Silver or Gold programmes. The opportunity to take part in the DofE award through Durham Johnston School is only available to students at Durham Johnston School. Students leaving the school to continue their education with other providers will need to explore other opportunities to complete the Silver and Gold awards, if they so wish.

If your son/daughter wishes to take part in the award programme, please complete and return the application form attached to Mrs Gibb in Sc4 by **Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2022**.

Further information about the award can be found at <http://www.dofe.org/>. If you have any queries, please contact either Mrs I Gibb through the school office.

Yours sincerely

Mrs I Gibb

Durham Johnston DofE Coordinator