



Pensby High School

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Headteacher: Mr K Flanagan

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Dear Parents & Carers

I would like to invite you to take part in the next academic year's Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award which will start September 2021. This fantastic opportunity is open to all current Year 8 pupils from September 2021, effectively starting Year 9 with a new programme. It is very important that you read all of the letter before you make any decision about signing up for the award.

This is the fifth year that the school has ever offered DofE to all students within a year group, we have introduced DofE, because it has a huge impact on young people. It gives students leadership skills, confidence and belief in themselves and allows for students to discuss a range of opportunities that might not otherwise be available to them, students find this an immense help when they apply for university, college or employment. This year we had a fantastic response and currently have over one hundred students participating in the award. We hope that everyone within the current year can take up this offer.

What is it?

The Duke of Edinburgh, or DofE, is the world's leading youth achievement award, giving millions of 14 to 25 year-olds the opportunity to be the very best they can be. It is a voluntary, non-competitive programme of practical, cultural and adventurous activities, designed to support the personal and social development of young people aged 14-25. It offers an individual challenge and encourages young people to undertake exciting, constructive and enjoyable activities in their free time, with a well-recognised award at the end to show a possible employer their determination to commit and undertake challenges.

What does the programme consist of?

It is a four Section Programme with three progressive levels:

- Bronze
- Silver
- Gold

What do the Sections involve?

- Volunteering - Helping other people in the local community
- Skills - Covering almost any hobby, skill or interest
- Physical Recreation - Sports, dance and fitness
- Expeditions - The Expedition section requires participants to undertake a 2 day 1 night backpacking practice expedition and an assessed 2 day, 1 night backpacking expedition
- Participants will need to attend all expedition training sessions and complete both 2 day one night events.

How long will it take?

It takes at least six months to achieve the Bronze Award, twelve months for Silver and eighteen months for Gold. This means you will need approximately four hours per week dedicated to this Award. Included in that is 1 hour per week after school for the Expedition training (days to be arranged) and 3 hours for your chosen activities over the week.

How much will it cost?

- £25.00 for the registration welcome pack & the DofE account; we ask that this payment is received by 3rd September 2021 as an indication of your child's commitment to enrol. You will receive a certificate and badge on completion (The £25.00 is non-refundable as it is paid to DofE)

- Expeditions – £100.00 for the 2 day practice expedition taking place on the Wirral (food not included) and then £100.00 for the assessment expedition taking place in Wirral or Cheshire (Helsby, Frodsham, Delamere) (Food not included)
- Financial support may be available in certain cases. Please contact me at school if you would like to discuss this
- Volunteering - usually little or no cost
- Skills - cost depends on the skill chosen and can be negligible
- Physical Recreation - costs depend on the sport chosen and on local availability.

Pupils will have assemblies next term informing them all about this fantastic opportunity available to them here at Pensby High School. The Bronze Award is being offered to Year 9's. There is no longer an age restriction so they can start at the beginning of the academic year. Please note that this Award is a remote supervision activity and when the students are on their expedition the teachers will only meet them at checkpoints on their route and will be supervised at the campsite.

Duke of Edinburgh meetings

During the year, your child will attend a DofE Lunchtime and after school meetings when required. Attendance is crucial to ensure that participants are keeping up to date with their sections and that your child is fully trained for unaccompanied expeditions. Each participant will have to have a completed training log in order to take part in the expeditions. They also need to have 50% of their other sections completed before undertaking the expedition.

If your child would like enrol in the DofE award please return the enrolment form online via the link: https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=vNYRPidMlkaKp_BnFqvJAtiJfFitFBtMikroNUce7GFUMkJYUTBXVTc2NjFHNkMxQjVHUzROMFc5Wi4u along with the registration fee of £25.00 before the end of term or by Friday 3rd September 2021. Payment should be made online using ScoPay; if you don't already have an account please contact the school office who will send you details. Alternatively, payments can be made by cash or cheque, cheques should be made payable to Pensby High School. I am looking forward to guiding the students through this exciting challenge. Please encourage your child to have a look at the DofE website.

The Duke of Edinburgh website has more details on the scheme www.dofe.org or if you have any further questions please contact me at School.

Yours sincerely

A. Davies

Mr Davies

Duke of Edinburgh Award Manager

www.dofe.org

Please note:

The school budget is such that there is not the ability for the school to fund school trips, without having a detrimental impact on the funds available for teaching and learning across the school, therefore voluntary contributions are required to allow trips to happen. The money given by parents/carers is used to pay for transport, entrance fees, tickets etc. that allow the trip to take place. Money is not held by the school, it is passed to a third party.

For the avoidance of any doubt the school does not provide refunds if your child is unable to go on the trip for any reason.

If your child is ill then you may claim on your own travel insurance if it covers such eventualities - the school does not have such insurance for your child.

If your or your child's actions cause them not to be able to go on the trip (for example not returning signed permission by the required deadline, being excluded from school, being told their behaviour in school is such that they can no longer go on the trip) then the school will not provide a refund of any monies paid.