

26th January 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

## Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award

We are delighted to invite Year 9 pupils to join our Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award programme. The aim of this award is to provide new challenges for our pupils to develop in several fields, including outdoor pursuits, volunteering, and individual skills. Each participant must complete a programme of activities including helping the community/environment, working on personal fitness and well-being, developing new skills, and planning, training for and completing an outdoor expedition.

As it will be our first time offering it to Year 9s as well as Year 10s we will only have 70 places available, those will be allocated on a first come first serve basis.

Darrick Wood School is working in conjunction with Let's Get Out C.I.C., an expert external provider who will join us in coordinating, provisioning, and assessing the Expedition section of the Award. This portion of the programme will include online training, a 3-hour training session in school, an A4 informative booklet for all students, one full day training and the 2 day (1 night) assessed weekend. The expedition dates are as followed:

- In school training day  
A Saturday just after Christmas time 9:00-12:00, need to confirm availability with school.
- Training day (practise day)  
**Friday 20.3** at Frylands Wood Scout Outdoor Centre, Featherbed Lane, Croydon, CR0 9AA, 9:00-5:30
- Route planning after school  
**Monday 23.03 OR Wednesday 25.03** – who group needs to agree to one date
- Assess expedition
- **Friday-Saturday 24-25.04** at Mill Green Common Car park 98 Mill Green Rd, Ingatestone CM4 0RH.

The total cost of participating in the Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award is £228.00. For this, pupils receive guidance and support in completing the Award, and a personal online eDofE account to log and track their progress towards completing the Award. This amount also includes expedition costs including campsite fees, assessor fees, supervisor costs, and group kit hire.

To secure a place please complete the attached reply slip and forms and pay the non-refundable £28 deposit by Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2025 at the latest. For security reasons, NO CASH is to be brought to school by pupils. Pupils who qualify for Pupil Premium funding are eligible to have their place fully funded. Please contact Mrs Bothick or Miss Manning to discuss enrolment of your child if this applies.

Payment of the £228.00 fee can be completed in one payment or using the following payment schedule:

- Non-refundable deposit of £28.00 by Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2025
- Second payment of £70.00 by 28<sup>th</sup> November 2025
- Third payment of £65.00 by 30<sup>th</sup> January 2026
- Final payment of £65.00 by 27<sup>th</sup> February 2026

We look forward to supporting your child on their Duke of Edinburgh experience. We welcome any questions via email.

Yours sincerely,

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Mrs. C Bothick and Miss J. Manning

Outdoor Education Coordinators

### **Information for parents regarding Remote Supervision**

Remote supervision is about supervising from a distance, not supervising in a remote environment (although this is often where such supervision takes place). During the qualifying expedition, it is the final delegation of control that promotes and encourages experiential and developmental learning. Remote supervision is about participants making real decisions, sometimes getting it wrong and bearing the consequences. It is the empowerment of the participants and the acceptance that ownership of the expedition must lie firmly with the team. Remote supervision is a proactive process that starts even before the expedition has begun. All DofE expeditions are concerned with the development of the individual, with teamwork and social interaction within the team. DofE expeditions provide opportunities for participants to learn and benefit from a range of developmental experiences. This 'learning by doing' (experiential learning) is maximised when individuals are given the space to make their own decisions and subsequently to bear the consequences of acting on those decisions.

However, before participants are encouraged to undertake a DofE expedition with remote supervision, they should have a good understanding of all that the expedition entails. Participants must have the appropriate level of experience, knowledge, maturity, awareness, and judgement to be able to cope fully with the chosen environment and the range of conditions that might normally be encountered.

There is a further important requirement that must be confirmed. This is skill. Participants need their journeying, navigational and camp-craft skills developed to a level of proven competence before being expected to cope without direct adult support. Included in the skills to be demonstrated is 'dealing with the unexpected'.

Only after both understanding and skill have been demonstrated will remote supervision be introduced. Prior to that close or accompanied supervision will continue to be necessary. Remote supervision will then be introduced during practice journeys so that participants have the opportunity to experience it before undertaking their qualifying expedition.

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**To: Mrs C. Bothick**

My child would like to participate in the Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze award. I fully understand the role of the school and my responsibilities in helping them achieve their award. I also agree and accept how they will be supervised during their expedition.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ (Tick here to acknowledge)   
Form \_\_\_\_\_  
Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Level of enrolment: BRONZE

I agree that the full amount of £228 will be paid

I agree to split the cost and initially pay the £28 enrolment fee & deposit, followed by the remaining £200 on the 28<sup>th</sup> November, 30<sup>th</sup> January and 27<sup>th</sup> February