

4th October 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians

Re: Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Expression of Interest

Following on from the recent information evening, we are writing to inform you that Ruislip High School is now sending out an expression of interest for our current Year 9 students for the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme is a fantastic and prestigious achievement, is great fun and provides many opportunities but also involves a lot of hard work.

The Bronze Duke of Edinburgh programme is broken down into four sections:

- Volunteering
- Physical recreation
- Skill
- Expedition

Students need to be 13 years old to begin a Bronze programme and must complete three months in volunteering, skills and physical activities. Students will also need to pick one of the three sections to complete a further 3 months, making it 6 months in total.

The award consists of one in-house training session led by mountain leaders from H5 Adventure, which all students will be expected to attend and two expedition camping weekends, each lasting for two days and one night to include the pre-assessed and assessed expedition. On expeditions students are expected to be completely self-sufficient, carrying a large backpack, planning their routes and cooking meals and working as a team.

Required participation dates are as follows:

- In-school training day led by qualified mountain leaders in school on **Saturday 15th March 2025**
- The pre-assessed Bronze expedition will be **Saturday 24th to Sunday 25th May 2025** (this is a practice run) and the assessed Bronze expedition will be **Saturday 7th to Sunday 8th June 2025**.

The cost of the course is approximately £300. This is dependent on the intake of students signing up for Bronze Duke of Edinburgh this academic year, and the price could fluctuate slightly. This includes a logbook, in-house mountain leader training and close supervision on both trips by mountain leaders to consist of: two weekend trips; transport to and from for both expeditions; kit hire; camping fees; minibus hire; direct licence fee and the cost of assessors on the final expedition.

Due to increasing costs of coaches over the last couple of years, we may consider looking at alternative methods of transport to and from the expeditions. This could include parents/guardians being responsible for dropping off their child and picking them up the following day once they have completed their expedition. This option will be considered should the uptake of the DofE award not be as high as we expect, making coaches not cost-effective. We will of course update you on the final cost once we have attendance figures.

Please complete the Google form linked [here](#) as an expression of interest for your child's participation in the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award by **Monday 14th October**. Once your child has secured a place on the scheme, you will receive another letter with payment details for a £50 deposit.

For more information on the award scheme, please visit: www.dofe.org. Should you have any queries please contact Miss Mackow through the school office.

Yours sincerely



Miss H Mackow
Second in Charge of Duke of Edinburgh



Ms K Hunter
Duke of Edinburgh Coordinator