

7th October 2022

Dear Parent / Carer,

Duke of Edinburgh Award – Launch and Information Evening Thursday 20th October 3:30-4:30 pm

It is with great pleasure I write to you to share the exciting news that we are launching the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award and offering it to all year 9 pupils. The award scheme is aimed at those between 14-24 to encourage young people to develop skills in areas including helping the community/environment, becoming fitter, developing new skills, teamwork and planning.

Here at Ormiston Ilkeston Enterprise Academy, we want to make sure every young person - whatever their background, ability or income – can develop the self-belief, skills and confidence to take on whatever life throws their way. In light of all the trials and tribulations over the last couple of years, we strongly believe in encouraging all of our pupils to engage with all aspects of the Bronze DofE Award as a way of re-connecting with society, including friends, family and those within the local community. It is this reason why we believe it is important for the Bronze DofE Award to be a vital component of the Academy's wider character development and enrichment offer.

In addition, new research shows how DofE supports positive mental health and wellbeing:

- 72% of young people agreed or strongly agreed that doing the DofE is fun and enjoyable.
- 75% agreed or strongly agreed that the DofE has given them the opportunity to face new challenges.
- 78% agreed or strongly agrees that it enhance their CV, college or UCAS applications.

A brief course overview for the Bronze Award is included below and pupils must pass all of the four sections in order to obtain the award. All pupils will be supported by our team of DofE staff where appropriate. In the first instance, pupils will be encouraged to take part in weekly extra-curricular activities in school, including volunteering. However, where pupils and families can make arrangements to undertake activities outside of school, this is very much encouraged and supported by staff.

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Skills (3 months of 1 hour per week)2. Physical (3 months of 1 hour per week)3. Volunteering (3 months of 1 hour per week)4. Expedition (2 days and 1 night) – Stanley Head Outdoor Education Centre | <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">One of these must be 6 months commitment.</div> |
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We have been fortunate to secure some funding to offer this opportunity to year 9 pupils at a significantly reduced rate of £80. Usually, it would cost in excess of £150 per pupils. The £80 fee covers participant enrolment fees, camping fees for both the practice and qualifier expeditions, transport, tents, stoves, sleeping bags, rucksacks, walking boots and much more. We hope that by us being able to provide the majority of the expedition kit list, it will allow more young people to get involved without having to worry about undisclosed additional costs in future. However, we do have a small amount of additional funding available to offer the award at a further reduced rate of £60 for those who qualify. To find out if you qualify for this additional discount, please contact Dr Laing (slaing@oiea.co.uk) or Mr Whitfield (gwhitfield@oiea.co.uk).

OIEA Vision

***Believing that outstanding education transforms lives
Persisting until we succeed***

To support our families, we are offering two payment methods that can be seen below.

Option 1	£80 payment in full			
Option 2	£20 deposit	£20	£20	£20
Due Date	Friday 4 th November	Friday 9 th December	Friday 3 rd March	Friday 31 st March

Please complete and return the attached enrolment form, including £20 deposit or payment in full via ParentPay on or before Friday 4th November.

Launch and Information Evening Thursday 20th October 3:30-4:30 pm

We will be launching the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award to students in assembly and sharing information with pupils on Friday 6th October. We would like to invite parents and carers to an information evening on Thursday 20th October, 3:30 – 4:30 pm. We recommend attending this evening to be able to ask questions and get a fuller understanding of the commitment involved for the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,



Dr S Laing

Duke of Edinburgh Awards Manager

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