

## Duke of Edinburgh's Award Information Letter

### Y10 students and families 2022-23

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) is an internationally recognised youth programme that has been running since 1956. It operates in 144 countries around the world and has touched the lives of around 8 million young people. At Hope Valley College, the award scheme was first run in 2005 and has built a very strong reputation in the school with around 60-70% of students taking part during their Y10-11.

There are three award levels (bronze, silver and, gold) open to young people up to the age of 25. At Hope Valley College we just do bronze level, and many students will continue their award journey at sixth form, university or as independent young adults.

There are four sections to each level. These include a **skills** section, a **physical activity** section, a **volunteering** section and an **expedition** section.

Initial registration onto the award is done through school. The first three sections must be organised and completed independently by the young people, with support from family. These first three sections require at least a three-month commitment each (at least 1 hour per week equivalent of time), with one requiring a six-month commitment. The final (expedition) section is all completed within school but needs family input in terms of transport and providing some equipment.

To take part in the award at Hope Valley College you will first need to check some important dates with your family calendar. These dates cannot be missed, and they cannot be moved. The dates to check are as follows...

<b>First Aid training</b>	<b>28<sup>th</sup> Jan 2023</b>
<b>Practice expedition</b>	<b>13-14<sup>th</sup> May 2023</b>
<b>Final (assessed) expedition</b>	<b>16-17<sup>th</sup> Sept 2023</b>

#### Timeline

##### **Week beginning 9<sup>th</sup> Jan 2023**

Introduction letter, and meeting for students. Introduction video available on College website (DofE link) for families

**20<sup>th</sup> Jan 2023** – Deadline for registration onto DofE College award scheme and first payment

**25<sup>th</sup> Jan 2023** – Weekly, after-school training for students starts in preparation for expedition

**28<sup>th</sup> Jan 2023** – First aid training half day in College for students

**3<sup>rd</sup> Feb 2023** – Deadline for at least two sections to have started and a good plan for all three

**21<sup>st</sup> April 2023** – Second payment required to continue onto expedition section

**13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> May 2023** – Practice expedition in Peak District

**16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> Sept 2023** – Final (assessed) expedition in Peak District

**Certificates and pins** will be posted to families individually.

### *Outstanding Achievement for All*

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If those dates can be confirmed for the student and, you as a family feel the whole award is achievable and worthwhile, then the young person needs to be registered. This can be done using an online link that will be emailed to all interested families. This will confirm attendance on the dates above, give consent for activities and expeditions and, include a plan for completing the three sections of the award (skill, physical activity and, volunteering) not provided by school.

The online link will also include a request for an initial (non-refundable) fee of £70. This first payment covers a DofE welcome pack, registration on the award scheme until the age of 25 and, First Aid training. If this fee is prohibitive, please contact Mrs Jones (headteacher) directly. The school does not want cost to be a barrier to any young person taking part in the award scheme.

If you want to register interest or you have any other questions, the DofE manager at school is Mr Fitton and his email address is [mfitton@chorustrust.org](mailto:mfitton@chorustrust.org). Alternatively, young people may speak to Mr Fitton directly at school.

After registering on the scheme, completing all the consent forms and, making the initial payment, the young people will have around 5 months to complete as much of the first three sections as possible. To support young people, Mr Fitton and staff volunteers will offer advice on starting the first three sections. They will also start expedition training at school (once a week, immediately after school). The First Aid training will also take place during this time.

All families of young people who are continuing onto their expedition section will be sent a second payment request of around £25 to cover campsite fees, equipment hire and the cost of external freelance instructors. This cost will not be known exactly until we can confirm how many young people are going on to the expedition section. However, it will not be significantly different from the cost quoted above. This will be requested around the 21<sup>st</sup> April 2023.

**Before committing to the award, please think carefully about the time and energy that will be required, including support from family.**

If, having watched the introduction video on the school website, you have any further questions, please contact Mr Fitton using the email mentioned earlier.

We look forward to getting started on the award very soon.

Kind regards

Mr M Fitton (DofE manager)