

September 2016

Dear Parent/Guardian

Re: Duke of Edinburgh Award

Your son/daughter has shown an interest in enrolling in the Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme began in 1956 and is now widely recognised by employers, colleges, universities and the forces as a powerful tool for the development of young people.

What it will involve?

Your son/daughter will have to complete the following five sections over the next year and a half; Volunteering, Skill, Physical, Expedition and Residential.

The minimum time requirement for each section is expressed in months during which time they will need to undertake a regular commitment of at least one hour per week. It is expected that the Skill, Volunteering and Physical Recreation sections will be completed in the student's own time, with some assistance from both the school and parents.

Gold Award (16 + years)

Volunteering	Skill	Physical Recreation	Expedition	Residential
12 months	One section for 12 months and the other for 6 months.		Plan, prepare for, and undertake a 4 day/3 night venture.	Undertake a shared activity in a residential setting, away from home for 5 days and 4 nights.

Entrants who have not completed a previous level of the award must undertake a further 6 months in either the Volunteering or the longer of the Skill or Physical Recreation sections.

Expedition and training will be co-ordinated through the school by qualified expedition leaders. All training will be completed in school during lunch time sessions early next year.

Provisional dates for expeditions and training are as follows:

Expedition Training	17th to 19th March 2017
Practice Expedition	23rd to 27th April 2017
Assessed Expedition	July 2018 TBA

Each participant must attend the all the above sessions.

There will be a charge of **£50** for the joining fee, which includes the record book, and separate charge for the expeditions the cost for these will vary depending on the location but in the past they have been £120 - £220. **Letters for the expeditions will go out closer to the time of the expedition and when I have an idea of the number of participants.**

If your son/daughter wishes to participate in the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme, please complete the reply slip below and return it to me as soon as possible.

Should you need any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at the school.

Yours faithfully



Mrs T O'Neill
Duke of Edinburgh Manager

REPLY SLIP TO MRS O'Neill

Name of Student: _____ **Form:** _____

I/We* give permission for the above student to take part in the Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

I/We* have paid £50 into the finance Office via Parent pay.

If paying by cheque, please write **NAME, FORM and GOLD DofE 2017** on the back and hand into the Finance Office. Alternatively if you wish to pay by cash, then please put in a sealed envelope with **NAME, FORM and GOLD DofE 2017** on the front.

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____ **Date:** _____

(*Delete as necessary)

TON/TDY