

Dear Parent/Carer,

Duke of Edinburgh's Award

We write to you with an exciting opportunity for your son/daughter to complete the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. It's the world's leading youth achievement award which is nationally recognised and highly regarded – this award is sought after by employers, Post-16 providers, and universities alike. Gradually increasing in the minimum time commitment, age requirement and degree of challenge, there are three levels of programme which, when successfully completed, lead to a Bronze, Silver or Gold Award. I am delighted to invite your child to complete the Bronze Award.

What does the Duke of Edinburgh's (DofE) Award entail?

Your child will learn and develop valuable skills such as leadership, teamwork, and organisation. While they continue to develop these skills as part of their day-to-day curriculum at the Academy, students will further enhance them through participating in the following activities:

- completing some voluntary work
- completing a physical activity (expedition) – Ian and Rachel Turnbull of the not for profit company Mid Yorks Expeditions Community Interest Company are running the expedition section on behalf of the school
- developing a skill

Carrying out these areas over a three to six month period, either in or outside of school, will provide new challenges for your son/daughter. The Award will finish with an expedition later this year. Full details can be found on www.dofe.org

What commitment will my child need to make?

Once the deposit has been paid, students will have to complete the Award. There will be a number of compulsory sessions. There will also be a number of enrichment sessions that will take place, which students will be required to attend. If students do not attend these events, then they risk being removed from the Award.

Students will need to complete voluntary work which can be completed in school but you may want to support your child in doing this in their own time. There are lots of opportunities in the community to complete this.

Students will undertake an expedition that will involve camping and walking across rough terrain. While the Academy will endeavour to purchase any equipment required for this, some personal equipment, such as walking boots, will need to be supplied by parents/carers.

Students will also need to be able to access the DofE website. While arrangements will be made in the Academy for this to take place during enrichments sessions, we would appreciate parents'/carers' support in helping your son/daughter to access it at home.

How much will it cost?

As DofE is a charitable organisation, we do have to ask parents/carers to support their child throughout the time taken to complete the Award. Contributions go towards funding the Award itself, including the activities students will be carrying out in and out of school such as first aid training, the practice expedition and final expedition. Students will receive a log book, access to 'eDofE', the DofE website where they will evidence their activities, as well as a certificate and badge upon completion.

The total cost of participation will be around £240, which can be paid in full or in instalments.

As places are limited, please return the reply slip by Friday 29nd November 2019.

When we confirm that your child has secured a place, a non-refundable deposit of £40 will then be required by Friday 6th December 2019, payable online through Tucasi Scopay or to the Finance office by cash or cheque (payable to Outwood Academy Ripon).

If the award generates a surplus equating to £5.00 or more per student then the surplus will be refunded. Any surplus of less than £5.00 per student will be retained by the Academy in a sponsorship fund to support future educational trips/events.

I hope this letter provides you with the necessary information to assist you and your child in deciding if the Award is suitable for them. Should you have any questions, please contact us directly using the contact details below.

Yours faithfully,

Outwood Academy Ripon DofE Team

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