



Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are pleased to let you know we are offering the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) to students in year 10.

The DofE award is a great chance for your child to broaden their horizons, discover new interests and talents, have fun with friends, develop essential skills for their future and achieve an internationally renowned Award.

As the Ark Pioneer DofE Co-Coordinators, we wanted to send you some information about what a DofE programme involves, the benefits for your child and how they can sign up.

### **About the DofE**

The DofE is non-competitive and open to all young people – it's about setting personal challenges and pushing personal boundaries. There are three levels of DofE programme which, when successfully completed, lead to a Bronze, Silver or Gold Award.

Through their DofE, students will make friends and memories and build traits like confidence, resilience and self-esteem, which can benefit mental health. They'll gain skills and attributes for work and life, like problem-solving, team-working and self-motivation – and they'll achieve an Award that's recognised by top employers and can help them stand out when applying for university or jobs.

To achieve their Bronze Award, participants must complete 4 sections: Skills, Volunteering, Physical and their Expedition.

Every young person's DofE programme is personal to them – they can choose what they'd like to do for their Skills, Volunteering and Physical sections, and most activities can count. We will provide guidance and support, and students can either choose to continue an activity they already do or discover something completely new.

Activities for each section take a minimum of one hour a week over a set period of time, so they can fit around studying, hobbies and social lives. For more details about programmes and timescales visit <https://www.dofe.org/do/sections>

### **About the expedition**

The Expedition section involves your child working as part of a small team to plan their expedition's aim and do some training to make sure they're fully prepared – before spending 2 days and one night in the countryside.

Ahead of this, they will take part in training expedition covering basic expedition principles and introducing them to expedition equipment, camping, navigation and cooking with Trangia's.

We will also be running training afterschool every other Wednesday in which your child and their group will learn more about what DofE Bronze involves and keeping up to date with the volunteering, skills and physical sections. Participants will only be able to do their expedition if they attend the organised training sessions afterschool.

As this is new to all of us, we will be running a practice/training expedition where they will learn to plan their own routes, understand the basics of camping and prepare them for the qualifying expedition. The practice expedition will take place on the **21<sup>st</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup> April**. Later on we will then take them on the qualifying expedition where they will be assessed on their navigation skills, working as a team and planning. This will take place on the **26<sup>th</sup>/27<sup>th</sup> May** and will be a two day walking expedition with an overnight camp. More details of the expeditions will follow. These expedition dates are also on our school calendar.

### **eDofE and the DofE app**

Participants can create their DofE programme and record their progress using eDofE, the DofE's digital system, available online at [eDofE.org](http://eDofE.org) and through the DofE app – downloadable for free from Google Play and the App Store.

If your child decides to enrol, we will set up their eDofE account and they will receive details of how to sign in and get started.

### **Signing up**

We ask for an initial joining deposit of **£30**. This covers your child's participation place and Welcome Pack, which will be sent to their home address and includes their personalised DofE Discount Card. We will send out another letter to collect this fee. This also counts towards the deposit for the two expeditions. There will be additional costs for this however this information will be sent out closer to the time. All payments will be done through Ipay impact.

If you would like any further information, please feel free to contact us using the email [r.sweetman@arkpioneer.org](mailto:r.sweetman@arkpioneer.org) or [c.harris@arkpioneer.org](mailto:c.harris@arkpioneer.org)

Many thanks for your support and we look forward to helping your child to achieve through their DofE Bronze.

Best wishes,

Miss Sweetman

### **DofE Co-ordinator**

[r.sweetman@arkpioneer.org](mailto:r.sweetman@arkpioneer.org)  
[c.harris@arkpioneer.org](mailto:c.harris@arkpioneer.org)

**Please sign and return this form to either Miss Sweetman or Miss Harris by Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> October.**

Duke of Edinburgh afterschool sessions

We will be running alternating session on Wednesdays (we will email you to confirm which sessions your child will be invited to).

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**Duke of Edinburgh afterschool sessions – Wednesdays afterschool (First session on 12<sup>th</sup> October) 15:10 till 15:50**

**Please have your child return this reply slip to Miss Sweetman or Miss Harris, by Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> October.**

Pupil Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Pupil Form: \_\_\_\_\_

I give permission for my child to take part in **Duke of Edinburgh sessions on Wednesdays afterschool from 15:10 to 15:50.** (These sessions will be every other Wednesday starting from 12<sup>th</sup> October 2022)

Yes / No (please circle)

Parent/Carer Signature:

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