Wednesday 6th September 2023

**Duke of Edinburgh Award – Years 9 and 10**

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are delighted to let you know that we are about to launch the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh’s Award (D of E). We are the D of E Managers for Aylesford School and wanted to write to let you know more about what is involved.

**Why do DofE?**

Doing their DofE is a brilliant way for your young person to discover just how much they are capable of. It gives young people the chance to make new friends, follow their passions, learn new skills and make a difference in our community. Achieving a DofE Award is a great way to impress employers too. And it helps young people to see themselves differently and gain a new level of confidence. We always say that after taking on your DofE, you know that whatever life throws at you, you’re ready to deal with it.

The D of E is non-competitive and a powerful way for every young person to build belief in themselves, whatever their background, interests and abilities.

**How it works**

There are three levels of D of E Award – Bronze, Silver and Gold. To achieve their Award, your young person will need to complete four sections – Volunteering, Physical, Skills and the Expedition.

Young people can choose what they would like to do for the first three sections, and we will provide all the guidance and support they need. The Expedition involves spending two days and one night in the countryside. We provide comprehensive training beforehand to ensure everyone is fully prepared and has the best possible experience.

**Next steps**

We hope lots of our young people will take this opportunity to get involved with DofE. The cost is **£30** per person. This includes the enrolment fee as well as the costs associated with the expedition element of the award. This is to be paid for through our online e-payment system Parent Pay by Friday 6th October.

[If your child is interested in taking part but the cost is prohibitive, please do speak to me as we may be able to arrange financial support.]

We have planned an information event for parents, carers and young people on **Wednesday 27th September from 17:30-18:30**. This will be a great opportunity to learn about the award and speak with us directly. If you have any questions in the meantime, please feel free to contact me. The D of E website dofe.org - has a lot of useful information too.

Thank you for your support. I hope you’ll agree that the DofE is the perfect way for your young person to feel ready for anything.

Yours faithfully,

Mr C Nicholls and Miss C Daniels – D of E Managers

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