

Dear Parents/ Carers,

We are pleased to have launched the Duke of Edinburgh's Award and that your son/daughter has decided to take up this fantastic opportunity. Students have been given some more information about what the award involves, about the equipment that they will need, and about all of the sections of the award: Physical, Volunteering, Skill and the Expedition. Many will now have enrolled but, if not, there is still plenty of time to do this. We do have to charge £25 for this enrolment, which contributes towards the costs of our DofE license and each place. This must be paid online through our website or can be paid directly in our Finance Office by card.

Having enrolled, your son/daughter will receive/will have received an eDofE record book account. This is where they record evidence and get the four components of the award signed up. When all four sections are complete, students will be presented with their Bronze Award and can sign up for Silver.

Although the expedition is what attracts many students to the award, it is really about committing to and celebrating their participation in a number of areas which encompass an enriching, wider life outside of school and lessons. The DofE award is not designed to test the level of skills or physical prowess of students, but to encourage them to participate in a wide range of worthwhile pursuits outside regulated learning which enable them to grow as people. Many of your sons/daughters will already be doing a range of activities which fit the four sections of the award. If not, DofE is an excellent reason to take things up, try new things and develop in new ways. You can find more details about the award and the four sections on the DofE website:

<https://www.dofe.org/take-part/>

Students have been given details about what can count for each section but there are a lot of opportunities and clubs at Liskeard School that could be used for a student's Volunteering, Skill or Physical sections. Details of our current school clubs can be found at our website at: <http://www.liskeard.cornwall.sch.uk/students/clubs>

The Bronze expedition will involve a couple of training Saturdays, a practice expedition and a qualifying expedition. The expeditions will each run from a Saturday morning to a Sunday afternoon. For the expedition, some equipment suitable for walking and camping will be required but we must emphasise that it is not necessary to spend a fortune at specialist, outdoor retailers. Thanks to the generosity of the DofE's Jubilee Fund and our own community through the Friends of Liskeard, we have been able to purchase a good quantity of the specialist kit we need. We will supply tents, stoves and fuel and will have some waterproofs and rucksacks to lend where required. Your son/daughter has been issued with an equipment list.

All staff involved are doing so voluntarily and in addition to their normal roles and are not paid for this work. We are happy to be a part of an activity which is both enjoyable and we believe is an excellent opportunity for our students. There will be some additional charges for the expedition weekends (around £10 each time) to cover the transport and resources' costs. If this presents a hardship for any families, we can help with this. We will meet up with students on average once a half term, to see how they are progressing. If there are any queries or concerns, please contact us through the school (email addresses below)

Yours sincerely,

James O'Connell
Liskeard School DofE MAnager
jaoconnell@liskeardcornwall.sch.uk

Sarah Eastburn
Liskeard School DofE Expedition Leader
saeastburn@liskeardcornwall.sch.uk