MAIDEN ERLEGH
SCHOOL
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13 November 2026

Dear Parent/Guardian

Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award Year 9

I am delighted to write to you regarding the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award which is available to current Year 9 students. The DofE Award is a well-established and world-renowned extracurricular programme, designed to help young people develop new skills, volunteer to help their community, improve their levels of fitness and provide them with opportunities that build their character, confidence and competence. The award requires students to complete the four sections: Physical, Volunteering, Skills and Expedition. This is a brilliant opportunity for our students to gain valuable new experiences and a skillset that will help them develop as well-rounded, confident individuals.

Students are expected to find their own activities for the Volunteering, Physical and Skills sections. Some students may already be doing activities, such as football, playing an instrument or supporting a Scout/Guide group that would count as part of each of these sections. Two sections need to be completed for 3 months for 1 hour a week, and the third section needs to be completed for 6 months for 1 hour a week. Progress towards the award will be logged via the eDofE app which students will have access to after enrolment and allows their assessors for each section to upload a report. Please find more information on the DofE website.

Students participating in the DofE Bronze Award will be expected to meet after school from 3:00pm – 4.00pm every Tuesday, commencing Tuesday 8 December. These sessions will help to prepare students for their expedition and teach them the skills they need to excel in their DofE journey.

The expedition section will be run via the school while the other three sections are for students to complete independently. The practice expedition will run from Saturday 1 May to Sunday 2 May 2027 in West Berkshire. The qualifying expedition will take place from Friday 28 May to Saturday 29 May 2027 in the Chiltern Hills. For both expeditions, students will be walking for at least three hours a day and camping in two or three person tents in the countryside with basic facilities. They must hike with all their equipment for the weekend and complete a small project as part of the expedition which can be chosen by the group. The Duke of Edinburgh Award is inclusive and recognises not all students are able to meet these demands, therefore, expeditions can be adapted to the individuals

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needs allowing all students the opportunity to take part and gain the award. Please ensure before enrolling that your child is available for both the practice and final expedition as there will not be another opportunity during the year. Parents/guardians will need to drop off and collect students for both expeditions. The location will be confirmed in due course and will be within a 40-minute drive from the school grounds.

During the second day of the practice expedition and the whole final expedition, your son/daughter will be remotely supervised by the accompanying staff. We will issue them with a mobile phone number, a map, a compass and a route with instructions designed by the students themselves. Each group will have a tracker which allows staff to monitor progress and ensure the safety of students while they are remotely supervised. The students will meet up at the campsite/destination for a final register before parent or carer collection.

The cost to formally enrol your son/daughter to participate in the Duke of Edinburgh Award will be approximately £90.00. This is subject to change depending on final booking costs. This price includes participation fees, expedition fees and a welcome pack that will be sent to you via post, also accompanied with a DofE discount card offering 10% off all purchases at Millets, Blacks and Go Outdoors. The cost will be split into two payments. The first non-refundable payment of £40 will be required within two weeks of your son/daughter acquiring a place on the award which covers enrolment and participation fees. The second payment of approximately £50 will cover both the practice and final expedition of a 1 night and 2-day adventure and will be due in the Spring term, 2026. If your child is eligible for Pupil Premium funding, you can request a contribution towards the enrolment and expedition costs by emailing me at s.pringle@maidenerleghtrust.org.

If your child is unable to attend this trip due to illness, unfortunately we are unable to guarantee a refund, however we will endeavour to offer a full/partial refund if;

- Another student replaces your child's place on the trip
- The school is able to agree a full/partial refund from external agencies with whom the trip is booked

We will be asking for students to purchase personal kit for the expedition, i.e. backpack, sleeping bags, roll mats, shoes, clothing, appropriate food and drink. Tents and cooking equipment will be provided for students. Should you be entitled to Pupil Premium funding, there will be limited kit available to hire should this be needed. Please discuss this with your child's group leader once allocated. A full kit list required for the DofE expedition can be found here.

Due to limited equipment and safety of the students on expeditions, we are limiting the number of places available to 77. Please complete the expression of interest form below

to register your son/daughter for a place on the award by **3:00pm on Friday 20 November**. Selection of students will be random if places are oversubscribed.

Bronze DofE Expression of Interest Form

Please note that representing the school on a trip, fixture or at an event is a privilege and we reserve the right to withdraw that privilege for students who are persistently late to school or lessons, do not follow our uniform or behaviour policies or bring the school into disrepute in any way.

Please direct any questions regarding the award to s.pringle@maidenerleghtrust.org.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Yours sincerely



Mr S Pringle
Duke of Edinburgh Coordinator
KS5 Maths Lead