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**Head of School**

Andrea Jones

**Executive Principal**

Melanie Wicks

October 2023

Dear Families

**Duke of Edinburgh – Bronze Award**

Following our recent assembly launching the Duke of Edinburgh to Year 9, I am writing to outline the programme in more detail. The award is a nationally recognised achievement in which students can progress from Bronze through to Gold standard, developing their personal skill set from the age of 14 – 25 years. As both employers and universities recognise and value this award highly, achieving it can prove beneficial in terms of future aspirations.

The award is a challenging programme of activities, which will help your son/daughter learn new skills, help others and experience physical recreation and adventure, providing a great sense of achievement. The award will take between six and twelve months to complete and will include two expeditions, one being a practice expedition

It is important to note that doing a Duke of Edinburgh award is not simply completing expeditions (practice and qualifying) and that there is a requirement for participants to complete weekly activities (skill, physical and voluntary) for one hour over a three to six-month period. To fulfil these sections of the award each student will be required to attend additional activities either via our extra-curricular offer or community based. They will also be required to complete a school-based training unit, which will cover all elements of the expedition training framework.

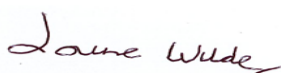
In order to become a participant of the Duke of Edinburgh Award we are asking students to complete an application form. These have been shared in tutor group today and are also available at the main office. **Completed applications forms need to be returned to the school office by Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November.**

Following completion of the student application form there will be an initial cost of £30.00 to be paid, this covers the DofE registration and contributes towards the camp site costs for the expedition. We will notify you when this payment is required. The payment will be made via ParentPay at which point an account will be created and welcome packs sent out confirming participation. We do ask that you consider the other cost implications which would be kit for your child. Please remember to ask amongst family and friends for any kit you may be able to borrow. We do have a limited amount of equipment for students to borrow if this poses a problem. You may find the link below useful, the DofE sites gives parent/carer information on the award. <https://www.dofe.org/do/parents/>

The local governing advisory board support the activity described above and remind parents that, while there is no obligation to contribute, the activity can take place only if adequately financed. If contributing presents a problem, please contact me on the email address below.

Thanking you in advance for your continued support. If you have any queries regarding the award, please contact me on the school telephone number below or email [l.wilde@lhs.spt.ac.uk](mailto:l.wilde@lhs.spt.ac.uk)

Yours faithfully,



L Wilde  
**Operations Manager/ D of E Centre Manager**