



21st February 2018

Dear Parent / Carer,

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme is the world's leading youth achievement award, and is highly regarded by colleges, universities and employers. It encourages young people to develop independence, commitment, leadership and teamwork through being involved in a personalised programme of activities. It is also a great bonus on any CV!

At Rye Hills Academy we fully support the Award and recognise its unique value for developing skills and attributes in young people. Our school has successfully delivered the Duke of Edinburgh's Award for many years and for the past 7 years we have worked in partnership with Hellen Higgs at 25K youth centre in Redcar, who continues to successfully deliver this prestigious Award to our young people.

Your son/daughter has expressed an interest in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme at Bronze level. The Award is split into four sections; Volunteering, Physical, Skill, and Expedition. It takes around 7 months to complete and requires regular commitment to various activities and attendance at the training sessions every Thursday night 6-8pm. This year the sessions will be held at Tuned In, in Redcar, and will be delivered by Hellen Higgs and Elaine Buckby, who is the DofE Awards and Activities Coordinator for our local area. Your son/daughter will need to find ways to fulfil the Volunteering, Physical and Skill section of the award with guidance from the leaders, whereas at the youth centre we will focus on the Expedition Section.

The Award is always very popular so places are limited but your son/daughter has expressed an interest, so I would therefore like to invite you and your son/daughter along to an information/enrolment evening to be held at Tuned In, in Redcar on Thursday 8th March at 6pm. You will be required to stay around 30-40 minutes and then your son/daughter will stay until 8pm.

We will be able to take up to 30 Year 9 pupils through to the expedition phase, therefore secure places on the scheme will only be awarded to those pupils who are 100% committed, attend every week and demonstrate maturity, self-determination and discipline every week at the training sessions. Their behaviour at school also must be of a high standard. The cost of the Award is £25, which covers the cost of enrolment.

As well as this, your son/daughter will need to pay a £1 entry fee every Thursday night to the youth centre. Pupils will also be expected to have their own equipment and kit. Whilst the youth centre can provide tents, cooking equipment



and a limited number of individual items (sleeping bags and Rucksacks), your son/daughter will need essential kit like walking boots and waterproof jackets. There is a discount available in many outdoor retailers for Duke of Edinburgh's Award participants.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award website (www.dofe.org) has more details on the Award, and what each section involves so please take a look and encourage your son/daughter to have a look to get some ideas for each section of the Award. It is a fabulous scheme that I'm sure your son/daughter will find both fun and rewarding, so please do come along to hear more about the programme, meet the staff involved in running it, and ask any questions you may have.

If your son/daughter is interested in committing to the Award and you will be attending the information/enrolment evening on Thurs 8th March then please complete the reply slip and return to Mrs Haslam in room 213 by **Wednesday 7th March**.

Yours Faithfully,

Mrs Haslam
Director of Teaching and Learning

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Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award 2018-2019

I will be attending the information/enrolment evening on Thursday 8th March at 6pm at Tuned In, Redcar.

Name of Student Tutor Group

Signature of Parent/Carer Date

***Return slip to Mrs Haslam, Room 213 by WED 7th March
Please do not send any payment until place is confirmed.***