

11<sup>th</sup> December 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians of Year 9 Students

### **Duke of Edinburgh’s (DofE) Award Scheme**

You may be aware that for many years we have been running a DofE scheme at TQEA. Previously we have offered the Bronze level award to Year 10 students and the Silver level award to Year 11 students.

We have become increasingly aware that, due to the pressures of GCSE examinations, it is not ideal to ask Year 11 students to take on the commitment of the DofE award. Therefore this year we intend to introduce a new strategy by offering the Bronze level award to Year 9 students with the opportunity of carrying on to the Silver level in Year 10.

Our position at the Academy has been complicated this year by the fact that in August 2017 Warwickshire County Council withdrew their licencing arrangements to all Warwickshire schools. This meant that it was necessary to put various measures in to place in order to continue offering the award at TQEA. These measures include the Academy becoming directly licenced with the National DofE Governing Body and considerable revalidating/retraining of staff. The final stage of this change process will take place during the Christmas holidays.

### **Assuming all goes well at Christmas we would like to launch DofE to Year 9 students in early January with a view to going out on expeditions in the Summer Term of 2018.**

To gain the Bronze award students must undertake four separate sections: -

- Volunteering
- Physical
- Skill
- Expeditions (two x 2 days)

The enrolment fee will be approximately £40 and students will also have to pay for transport and camping fees for the expeditions, this will cost approximately £20 per expedition. Students will also have to self-fund any expenses incurred for the volunteering, physical and skill sections. We may also be arranging a day of navigation training which will cost around £20 per student. **THEREFORE TOTAL COST £100.**

The provision of equipment for expeditions is generally also the responsibility of the student although we do have some available for loan.

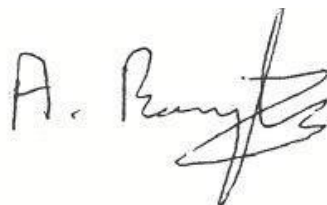
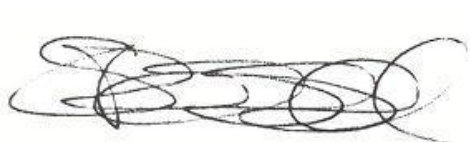
**WE WILL NOT ALLOW STUDENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE EXPEDITIONS UNTIL THEY HAVE FULLY COMPLETED ONE OTHER SECTION AND HAVE MADE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS IN THE TWO OTHER SECTIONS**

More information and details of the DofE award can be found at [www.dofe.org](http://www.dofe.org) or please contact Mr Bovington or Mrs Ressel at the Academy.

If, after discussion with your son/daughter, you would like to express an interest in taking part then please complete the slip below and return it to reception.

We will then arrange further meetings with you and your son/daughter early in the New Year.

Yours Sincerely



Mrs S Ressel and Mr A Bovington  
Joint TQEA co-ordinators of The DofE Award

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Having read the above letter and considered the financial and time commitment necessary to undertake the DofE Award Bronze level, I would like to express an interest in my son/daughter enrolling on the scheme.

Student Name.....

Parent/Guardian Signature.....

Date.....