

16 September 2011

To: Parents of Year 10 Pupils

Dear Parents

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award 2011

At PGS, pupils in Year 10 are eligible to take part in The Duke of Edinburgh's Award at Bronze Level. Those who are successful can then proceed to Silver in Year 11 and Gold in the Sixth Form. I am therefore writing to parents to inform them that I am now accepting applications from current Year 10 pupils who are interested in taking part in D of E this year.

There are four sections to complete: Volunteering, Physical, Skills and Expedition. Each section requires perseverance on the part of the pupil and they will need to be able to commit to a minimum of one hour a week of their own time in each of the first three sections; two for a period of three months and one for six months. Activities should be chosen to provide a challenge and represent a broad a range as possible. Further information can be found at www.dofe.org.

One of the principle tenets of D of E is self-reliance. It is therefore important that pupils should expect to work to achieve their own goals. Any research or planning should be their responsibility. In addition, pupils should be prepared to track their own progress and record it on their personal pages on the D of E website.

For the expedition, there will be a training morning held in school on Sunday 26 February 2012 and a practice expedition on Saturday 24 to Sunday 25 March 2012. The assessed expedition will be Saturday 19 to Sunday 20 May 2012 (both the practice and assessed expeditions involve an overnight camp). Attendance at all training events is compulsory and I regret that alternative dates will not be available. Pupils should ensure they are able to meet these commitments before applying and must be able to prioritise D of E events. If they are not able to do so then it is likely that D of E is not the right choice for them.

The popularity of D of E has grown rapidly at PGS and we may well be oversubscribed with applications. Should the number of these be in excess of what we can safely accommodate then we are aware that there may well be some disappointment. In selecting participants, I will be looking for evidence of self-motivation, determination to complete the award and a real thirst for working as part of a team. The D of E Award is designed to encourage young people to take up new activities; I will therefore also give priority to those who are seeking to broaden a limited co-curricular program.

There will be a meeting for successful applicants shortly after the closing date, during which pupils will be organised into groups. Each group will be assigned a mentor with whom they will meet regularly. The mentor will be responsible for the group's training for the expedition and will discuss progress in the other three sections.

I look forward to receiving applications from those with a serious interest. Pupils should complete the attached application form and hand it directly to me. **The closing date for applications is Wednesday 28 September.** I will write to the parents of all applicants shortly after this date.

Please note that once this year's bronze cohort has been finalised, there will be a fee payable to enrol on the scheme and to cover costs on the expedition weekends. I anticipate that we will require £65 to cover school costs and a £14 fee to register with Portsmouth D of E (full details of payment will be circulated next month).

Yours sincerely

Mr D P Ager
Head of D of E (Bronze Level)



Application to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award at PGS

Bronze Level



Name		Tutor	
Current Co-Curricular Activities List activities you are involved with at PGS and the times when you do them			
Other activities/interests List activities you are involved with outside school and the times when you do them			
Proposed Activities for your DofE Program Go to www.dofe.org or check the DofE noticeboard for ideas			

	Activity	Where would you do this?	Who would be your supervisor?
Skill			
Physical			
Volunteering			

Turn over

Supporting Statement

Your chance to say why you would like to be involved

For example:

Why do you think you are suitable to take part?

What are you hoping to achieve?

Key dates for DofE

You **must** check you will be able to attend **all** of the following:

Training Morning (PGS) Sunday 26 February, 9:30 – 12:30

Practice Expedition (South Downs) 24– 25 March, including overnight camping

Assessed Expedition (New Forest) 19^t– 20 May, including overnight camping

Signed		Date	

Hand in your completed form to Mr Ager (Room 2010) by Wednesday 28 September

Replies by email will not be accepted