



## THE PORTSMOUTH GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Headmaster: James Priory MA

16 September 2011

To: Parents of Year 11 Pupils

Dear Parents

### The Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award

At PGS, pupils in Year 11 are eligible to take part in The Duke of Edinburgh's Award at Silver Level. Those who are successful can then proceed to Gold in the Sixth Form. I am therefore writing to parents to inform them that I am now accepting applications from pupils who are interested in taking part in D of E next 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. The length of time required for each section is summarised in the table below for both those who have already completed their Bronze Level and those who have not taken part in the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme before (direct entrants). 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](http://www.dofe.org).

Volunteering	Physical	Skills	Expedition
6 months	One section for 3 months and the other section for 6 months		Plan, train for and complete a 3 day, 2 night expedition
Direct entrants must undertake a further 6 months in the Volunteering or the longer of the Physical or Skills sections			

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. In addition, any research or planning should be their responsibility. For the expedition, there will be a training morning held in school on Sunday 26 **February 2012** and a practice on **Friday 23 March to Sunday 25 March 2012**, involving a two night camp. The assessed expedition will be **Friday 29 June to Sunday 1 July 2012**, again with a 2 night camp. Attendance at all training events is compulsory and I regret that alternative dates will not be available.

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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. When 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.

Any pupils interested should complete the attached application form, detailing why they think they have the right qualities to successfully undertake D of E. **The closing date for applications is Wednesday 28 September 2011.** I will write to the parents of successful applicants shortly after this date. Please note that at that stage there will be a fee payable to enrol on the scheme and to cover costs of the expedition weekends. I anticipate that we will require £75 to cover school costs and £14 fee to register with Portsmouth City Council.

Yours sincerely

Mrs R L Nash  
Silver D of E Coordinator

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