



**YOUTH
WITHOUT
LIMITS**

Dear parent/carer,

I am delighted to let you know that we are about to launch our recruitment for the Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE).

Why do DofE?

Doing DofE is a brilliant way for your young person to discover just how much they are capable of. It gives young people the chance to make new friends, follow their passions, learn new skills, and make a difference in our community. Gaining a DofE Award is a great way to impress employers too. The award tests resilience and resourcefulness and completion of the award is very favourably viewed by employers and college admissions tutors. It is often seen as equivalent to an extra A-Level. Students who have already completed either Bronze or Silver will be familiar with how it works, but even if they haven't, they are able to access the Gold Award through Direct Entry.

It is also non-competitive and a powerful way for every young person to build belief in themselves, whatever their background, interests, and abilities.

How it works

This is a nationally recognised award that challenges students to take part in activities in five areas: Volunteering, Skills, Physical, Expedition and Residential. The award tests resilience and resourcefulness and completion of the award is very favourably viewed by employers and college admissions tutors. The school will support completion for Year 12 students.

To achieve the awards, your child will need to complete five sections – Volunteering, Physical, Skills, Expedition and Residential.

Students can choose what they would like to do for the first three sections, and we will provide all the guidance and support they need. The Expedition involves spending four days and three nights in the countryside, and again we will make sure that our young people are fully prepared for it.

Volunteering – Students may use weekly supervision sessions to plan for the delivery of supportive sessions for students in years 7-9. Students will need to maintain commitment to the delivery of this club for a period of at least 12 months to meet the requirements of the award. Students will need to maintain commitment to a volunteering activity for 1 hour per week for a period of 12 months to meet the requirements of the Award.

Skills – Students will be given the choice of skills to take part in during enrichment time. They will be given either instruction or practice time for two sessions a fortnight so that they can meet the requirement of showing progress. They need to sustain involvement in this for a period of 6 or 12 months. Students will need to maintain commitment to a skills activity for 1 hour per week for a period of 6 or 12 months to meet the requirements of the Award.

Physical – Students may use the Enrichment Programme to take part in a relevant physical activity. They need to commit to a chosen activity for 1 hour per week for a period of 6 or 12 months.

Expedition – The delivery of the expedition element is shared between John Mason School and a private company with a proven record of accomplishment in expedition delivery. The expedition will be in canoes. Students will receive training for the expedition element on the In School Training Day. They will receive instruction in all skill areas needed to undertake a four-day, self-sufficient assessed canoe expedition. They will attend a set of four day supervised expedition for Practice and Assessment. Training for all students will be a compulsory part of the Programme.



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Residential – Students are required to arrange a 5 day, 4 nights residential experience for themselves. They will receive full advice and guidance on this aspect, which can range from supporting their old primary school in a trip, to archaeological digs, to participation in the NCS program.

Please look at the dates below and keep them free.

Dates that you would need to attend:

Friday 26th April 2024 – In school Training Day.

Saturday 25th May to Saturday 01st June 2024 – Practice Expedition (keep all dates free as there may be x2 cohorts dependent on numbers).

Saturday 15th to Sunday 23rd June 2024 – Assessed Expedition (keep all dates free as there may be x2 cohorts dependent on numbers).

Next steps

Attached is the link for the Enrolment Form that needs to be completed and returned by 31st October 2023:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSemTwgtM215A-2rEQSdisSNNikQPdPqIOx4Eino4yE7OPclXA/viewform?usp=sf_link

Attached is a Medical Form that needs to be completed and returned by 31st October 2023:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdzM24ebJpAcoK6VUW2EB28uy0-BJwk6_nqt1yd0JQrNfqcRg/viewform?usp=sf_link

We hope many of our students will take this opportunity to get involved with DofE. The cost is £515 per person, an instalment payment schedule has been set up on MCAS, once the initial payment of £42 which is **non-refundable** has been received by the closing date of 31st October 2023 the participant will be registered on the programme.

This all-inclusive cost covers Registration Fee with the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, Licencing Fee, Training Day, Practice Expedition, Assessed Expedition, Assessors, River Licences, Canoes, Buoyancy Aids, Paddles, Barrels, Campsite Fees, Tents, Stoves, and Gas. Participation in those trips may require some personal equipment.

Bursaries and financial aid may be available, please contact Mrs Butler-Miles if you have any queries: abuttermiles@johnmason.school

Students will choose their own expedition groups which **MUST** consist of x8 students, once the groups are chosen these **CANNOT** be changed.

Full details of the expeditions, including dates and full kit list, will be available closer to the Expeditions.

I hope that you agree that this Award will both challenge and reward your child, and we hope that you will get involved in their progress and support it at home.

The DofE website – www.dofe.org - has a lot of useful information.

I am the DofE Manager for John Mason School, so if you think you might be interested or have any questions, do get in touch on idelrio@johnmason.school and state what level of



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award you are referring to. It would be great to get a big group of students together to make the most of this opportunity.

Thank you for your support. I hope you'll agree that the DofE is the perfect way for your child to feel ready for anything.

Kind regards

John Del Rio

DofE Manager

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