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February 2026

Dear Parents/Carers of Year 9 students

Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award Launch

I am delighted to introduce myself to you as the Duke of Edinburgh Manager and to inform you that we are now launching recruitment for the Bronze Award. As you may know, West Kirby Grammar School holds its own DofE operating licence, making us a Directly Licensed Centre. Our expeditions are run by Approved Expeditions Ltd.

Participating in DofE is a brilliant way for young people to discover how much they are capable of. It is a powerful way for them to build belief in themselves, whatever their background, interests and abilities. Working towards this award, your child/ward will have the chance to make new friends, learn new skills and make a difference in our community. Gaining a DofE award is a great way to impress employers too.

The Bronze Award is the first of three levels of the DofE programme. To achieve this award, your child will need to complete four sections: Volunteering, Physical, Skills and Expedition. Starting the Duke of Edinburgh award in Year 9 allows participants plenty of time to choose their activities and we run a support session every Thursday lunchtime to provide guidance and assistance along the way.

Preparation for the Expedition phase begins after Christmas in Year 10 with the expedition taking place in May 2027 in North Wales, near Loggerheads and involves a night away. We will ensure that our participants are fully prepared for this adventure as the date approaches.

We hope that many of our Year 9 students will take this opportunity to get involved with DofE Award. The cost is £220 per person, with a deposit of £50 due by Monday 23 February to secure a place. If your child is interested in participating but the cost is prohibitive, please do contact me, as we may be able to offer some financial assistance.

Please get in touch if you have any questions. Thank you for your support.

Best regards,

S Harris-Smith

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