3rd May 2017

Dear Parents/Carers

**THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH’S (DofE) AWARD – GOLD LEVEL 2017 COHORT**

I am pleased to announce that the 2017-18 DofE gold award selection process is now open for The Priory Academy LSST students. Years 12 and 13 will receive an assembly presentation in the near future to clarify what the award is. The Gold Award is open to all students who are at least 16 years old when starting the award (normally by September). The award is held in high regard by universities, employers in the UK and internationally due to the high level of commitment, participation and teamwork that is required for successful completion. The award is achieved by completing these four sections:

**Expedition**: Candidates must travel a minimum of 80km over four days with at least eight hours’ activity *each day*. There are nine areas of training covered across a number of compulsory weekend sessions; these include an introduction to the eDofE system, navigation, camp craft, expedition planning, first aid training, a practice expedition and then an assessed expedition over ‘Wild Country’. It is vital candidates attend these weekend sessions and complete the practice expedition in order to have a successful assessed expedition. In addition they will be required to present their purpose work as a team after their assessed expedition.

**Physical**: Candidates are to participate weekly in a physical activity, setting goals and recording participation.

**Skills**: Candidates are to learn /develop a skill through activity, recording weekly participation to achieve a stated aim.

**Volunteering**: Candidates are to volunteer either in the school or your local community in non-curriculum time for the benefit of others. Again, this should be done on a weekly, recorded basis.

**Residential**: Candidates are to attend a residential course/experience away from their normal environment for at least 5 days with no more than one person whom they already know, including staff.

Apart from the expedition, sections will run for up to 18 months for direct entry, (less if you hold the Silver Award). Regular participation would normally be one hour/week/section. Please note; no curriculum or academy-organised activities can count towards the DofE sections. All activity and goal setting, as well as participation, is recorded online using the eDofE record system. This also allows statements and images to be attached as evidence which can be printed at the end of the award in a bound booklet as a record of the candidate’s achievement. A formal certificate and lapel badge is presented on successful completion at an academy celebration event. Further information about the DofE Award can be found at: [www.dofe.org](http://www.dofe.org), on Sharepoint and the academy website.

The scheme demands a very high level of commitment from its participants who will be expected to start on the programme in September. Failure to complete all training events may result in the candidate being withdrawn from the award. The award’s ethos is one of independence and self-discipline; a candidate who fails to uphold the Trust’s standards on discipline and behaviour within academy time and award time will jeopardise their place on the award. All monies paid will be forfeited and non-refundable. If your son/daughter is fully aware of this from the outset then the scheme offers fantastic and rewarding opportunities. Please take time to consider the commitment before an application is made. A selection process is undertaken to ensure that we have sufficient information for us to make a decision on entry to the programme.

If you wish to apply for a place on the DofE Gold Award please complete the form attached to this letter. All applications must be submitted to Mrs T Alderman via Student Reception by **Friday 9th June**.

The Gold Award cost is £350. This will include all costs incurred; licensing, registration, staffing, transport, expedition fees, loan of equipment and accommodation plus certification. Once students are successful in their application, further registration paperwork will be released with three payment options: a one- off upfront payment; three termly payments, or ten monthly payments. Please note that all training is regulated by the DofE Award with all staff involved being accredited with the Priory Federation Licensing Authority.

We hope you feel that this is an opportunity worthy of the effort it demands. If there are any questions regarding the DofE Award I am very happy to discuss them with you further.

Yours faithfully

Mr M A Ginty

DofE Manager

**THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH’S AWARD SCHEME – GOLD APPLICATION**

Please complete the details below. This information is held only for the purpose of selection and will be destroyed in due course.

**To be completed in full and returned to Mrs Alderman at Student Reception by 9th June 2017.**

**Full Name of applicant: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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**I am a direct entry applicant: I am registered on the Silver Award (Complete table below)**.

**Notice to applicants previously registered on a DofE Award:** Your application for a Gold place will **not** be considered if you have not completed at least one section on eDofE for your previous award (not including the expedition section) by the hand-in date for this form. You will be considered as a direct entrant if you do not complete the previous award by Christmas 2017.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Bronze Award**  **eDofE ID No:**  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | In progress | Completed | | Assessed | | Complete on eDofE |
| Volunteering |  | |  | |  |  | |
| Physical |  | |  | |  |  | |
| Skill |  | |  | |  |  | |
| Expedition |  | |  | |  |  | |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Silver Award**  **eDofE ID No:**  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | In progress | Completed | | Assessed | | Complete on eDofE |
| Volunteering |  | |  | |  |  | |
| Physical |  | |  | |  |  | |
| Skill |  | |  | |  |  | |
| Expedition |  | |  | |  |  | |

Please indicate what activities you are doing, or would intend to do for each section. For this; refer to the section ideas sheets that are available on Sharepoint or via the Participants section of the DofE website: [www.dofe.org](http://www.dofe.org)

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Volunteering Section** | | | |
| Activity: |  | | |
| Started: | **Y / N** | Comment: |  |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Physical Section** | | | |
| Activity: |  | | |
| Started: | **Y / N** | Comment: |  |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Skill Section** | | | |
| Activity: |  | | |
| Started: | **Y / N** | Comment: |  |

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| --- | --- |
| **Residential Section (min 5 day residential course/experience with no more than 1 other person you already know)** | |
| Activity: |  |

**Declaration by parent/carer:**

We understand that the DofE Award requires commitment to activities outside of school time including some weekends. Completion of the Award is dependent on my son/daughter committing to the activities chosen by them, over a significant period of time through regular attendance of their chosen activities.

We acknowledge that to complete the award they are required to plan and execute two separate expeditions that involve overnight camping, teamwork, navigation and walking with all their required equipment in a wild country environment.

Please note; Participants are not directly supervised on these expeditions in accordance with DofE requirements.

Parent/Carer Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Declaration by Applicant**: I acknowledge that I would be required to commit to attend DofE training as per the forecast of events in term time. I understand these training days will be held at weekends. I will update my eDofE record on a regular basis to show my participation in each section.

Applicant signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Applicant Personal Statement:

Please write below your reasons for wanting to take part in this award and describe why you think you will be successful:

Personal Statement Continuation:

Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Applicant Signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_