

THE PRIORY ACADEMY  
**LSST**

27<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

## THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S (DofE) AWARD – GOLD LEVEL 2023 COHORT

I am pleased to announce that the 2023-24 DofE Gold Award selection process is now open for The Priory Academy LSST students. The presentations detailing the award have been placed on the school website. The Gold Award is open to all students who are at least 16 years old. Students selected for the award will have the opportunity to start their sections as soon as they reach the age of 16 allowing for some to start over the summer period. 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 will expect to travel around 70km 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 five 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. Upon completion of the Gold award students will be invited to a formal presentation at a

**Headteacher:** Mrs J Hopkinson

**The Priory Academy LSST**, Cross O' Cliff Hill, Lincoln, Lincolnshire, LN5 8PW

**Tel:** 01522 889977 **Email:** [generalenquiries@priorylsst.co.uk](mailto:generalenquiries@priorylsst.co.uk) **www.priorylsst.co.uk**

The Priory Academy LSST is part of The Priory Federation of Academies Trust. For further information please contact:

The Priory Federation of Academies Trust, Cross O'Cliff Hill, Lincoln LN5 8PW **Telephone:** 01522 889977

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Royal palace where they will be awarded their certificate and lapel badge. Further information about the DofE Award can be found at: [www.dofe.org](http://www.dofe.org) , on SharePoint and the academy website. This year we would also like to **invite parents to a virtual information evening on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2023** to hear more about the award and how we deliver it.

The scheme demands a very high level of commitment from its participants, who will be expected to start on the programme in November. 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 child 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 Direct entrants will be considered on a case by case basis and be invited to an interview to discuss the demands of the award. All applications must be handwritten and submitted to the academy either by email ([LSSTDofE@prioryacademies.co.uk](mailto:LSSTDofE@prioryacademies.co.uk)) or handed into their Head of Year by **0900hrs Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2023**.

After considerable analysis of the costs of running the DofE award and the impact that rising prices has had on it, we are looking for an expression of interest in completing the Gold award. At present we anticipate the cost will be no more than **£450**. Subject to the number of applications we may be able to apply a scaled approach to the cost. In addition, we would like to offer the students an incentive to complete some fundraising activities to further reduce the overall cost. The DofE staff be available to support the organisation of any activities but the onus will be on the students to raise the funds.

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



Mrs C L Thompson  
Priory LSST 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 the academy either by email or handed into their Head of Year by **0900hrs Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2023.**

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

I am a direct entry applicant (never done any DofE before):

I am registered on the Bronze /Silver Award (Complete table below).

*(please tick where appropriate)*

Bronze Award

eDofE ID No:			
Sections	In progress	Completed	Assessed
Volunteering			
Physical			
Skill			
Expedition			

Silver Award

eDofE ID No:			
Sections	In progress	Completed	Assessed
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)

Volunteering Section

Activity:

Physical Section

Activity:

Skill Section

Activity:

Residential Section (min five day residential course/experience with no more than one other person you already know)

Activity:

Declaration by parent/carer:

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

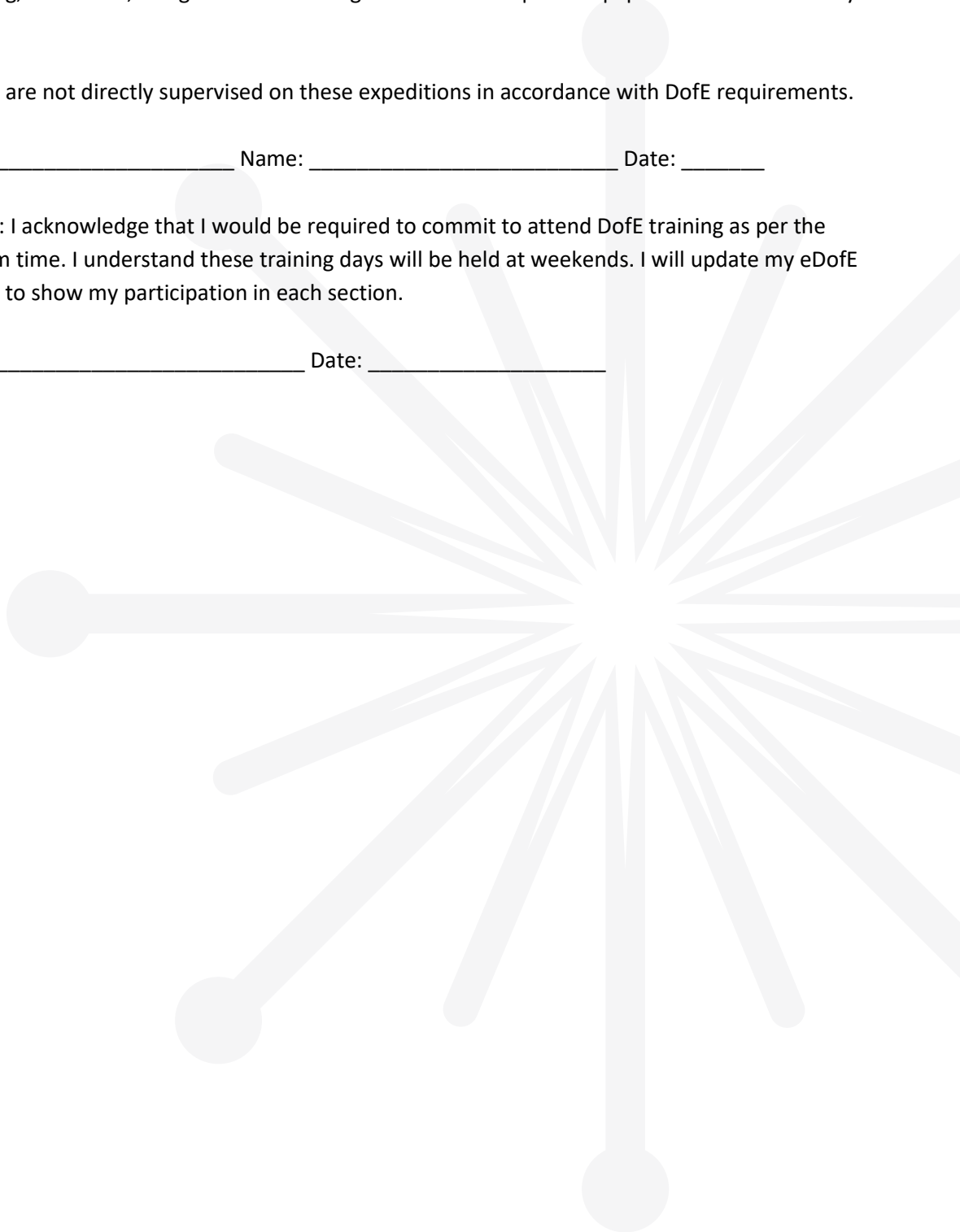
We acknowledge that to complete the award they are required to plan and execute two separate expeditions that involve overnight camping, teamwork, navigation and walking with all their required equipment in a wild country environment.

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 (Hand written):

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



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