

October 2023

Dear parent / carer,

I'm pleased to let you know that Poltair School are able to offer your son / daughter a place in the **Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award** (DofE) in 2023/2024.

The DofE is a great chance for your child to broaden their horizons, discover new interests and talents, have fun with friends, develop essential skills for their future and achieve an internationally renowned Award.

As Poltair's DofE Manager, I wanted to share some information about what a DofE programme involves, the benefits for your child and how they can sign up.

### **About the DofE**

The DofE is non-competitive and open to all young people – it's about setting personal challenges and pushing personal boundaries. There are three levels of DofE programme which, when successfully completed, lead to a Bronze, Silver or Gold Award.

Through their DofE, students will make friends and memories and build traits like confidence, resilience and self-esteem, which can benefit mental health. They'll gain skills and attributes for work and life, like problem-solving, team-working and self-motivation – and they'll achieve an Award that's recognised by top employers and can help them stand out when applying for uni or jobs.

To achieve their Bronze Award, participants must complete four sections: Skills, Volunteering, Physical and their Expedition.

Every young person's DofE programme is personal to them – they can choose what they'd like to do for their Skills, Volunteering and Physical sections, and most activities can count. We will provide guidance and support, and students can either choose to continue an activity they already do or discover something completely new.

During and in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, participants who complete their Skills, Volunteering and Physical sections will also receive a DofE Certificate of Achievement – a formal recognition, by the DofE, of their efforts at this extraordinary time.

Activities for each section take a minimum of one hour a week over a set period of time, so they can fit around studying, hobbies and social lives.

### **About the expedition**

The Expedition section involves your child working as part of a small team to plan their expedition's aim, choose a location and do some training to make sure they're fully prepared – before spending two days and one nights in the countryside.

Ahead of this, they will take part in various activities covering basic expedition principles and introducing them to expedition equipment.

There will also be a number of training sessions in which your child and their group will plan their route and prepare. Participants will only be able to do their expedition if they attend the organised training.

The expedition will be overseen by an AAP (approved activity provider) 'APEX EXPEDS' and will take place during Curriculum Enrichment Week in July 2024. This means they WILL NOT be able to take part in CEW.

## **eDofE and the DofE app**

Participants can create their DofE programme and record their progress using eDofE, the DofE's digital system, available online at eDofE.org and through the DofE app – downloadable for free from Google Play and the App Store.

If your child decides to enrol, we will set up their eDofE account and they will receive details of how to sign in and get started.

## **Signing up**

**The cost of taking part in the DofE is £249 per participant.** This covers your child's participation place and Welcome Pack, which will be sent to their home address and includes their personalised DofE Discount Card. There will also include all costs associated with the expedition in July 2024.

We will be running a 'Poltair Plus' club to assist your child through this.

**Payment is split into three payments £49 - 1<sup>st</sup> November, £100 - 1<sup>st</sup> February and final payment of £100 by 1<sup>st</sup> May**

If the cost of taking part is prohibitive, please speak to me as there may be financial support available to you.

If you require any further information about the qualification, please feel free to contact me.

Many thanks for your support and we look forward to helping your child to achieve through their DofE.

Yours faithfully,

Paul Marshall

**DofE Manager**

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