



Mrs J Evans
Director of Activities
Email: activities@ellesmere.com

6th September 2023

Dear Parent,

Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award 2023-24

As your child comes into Middle School their activities programme is focused on a robust outdoor education provision. Within that programme is the opportunity to complete the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award.

The College has a proud history of successfully delivering the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award. This year, **all Year 9s** will have the **opportunity** to enrol on to the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme, if they wish to make this commitment **in addition** to the core activities provision.

Enrolling on the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme will involve the following:

- *A fee of £70 to cover enrolment onto the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme and the cost of the assessed expedition.*
- *A commitment to take part in a training walk to take place during the October expeditions and to attend the assessed expedition which will take place in the school week prior to May Half term.*
- *Appropriate kit will be required for October expedition week for the practice walk. (The College can support with this if required.)*
- *A commitment to arrange and participate in 13 weeks of consecutive volunteering (minimum of 1hr per week).*

The Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award is a hugely rewarding but also challenging experience. It consists of four sections, see the outline below. For the majority of participants, the physical and skills sections can be completed in College through our sports and arts provision. However, the 13-week volunteering will need to be arranged and completed independently by the students. (With the only exception of full boarders whom we will endeavour to support.)

Ellesmere College, Ellesmere, Shropshire SY12 9AB

Tel: 01691 622321 Fax: 01691 623286

www.ellesmere.com

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The expedition section of the Award is run by the College, with a practice walk taking place during the October expeditions and the assessed expedition taking place before the May half term. It is very important that pupils consider the physical demands of this before enrolling on the Award. The walk requires candidates to hike for approximately 30km over two days on steep and rough terrain, carrying a heavy bag containing their food and camping equipment. Pupils will also be required to camp out overnight, cooking their own meals. Participants are expected to hike and camp out regardless of the weather conditions, with the exception of any severe weather event.

Completion of Bronze Award is an expectation if pupils hope to progress to Silver and Gold Awards at Ellesmere College.

In the first week of term, we will discuss the structure of the award at Ellesmere College with pupils and give them the opportunity to express an interest in enrolling. At this point we will write to parents of those pupils who have expressed an interest seeking permission for their child to enrol and agreement to pay the additional charge associated with this.

More information on the Duke of Edinburgh Award can be found on the following link:

<https://www.dofe.org/about/>

The Award is hugely rewarding for those who take part and we would encourage you to discuss this opportunity with your child so that they are in a good position to make a decision about enrolling on the award at the start of term. If you have any further queries about the award please contact the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award Leader, Mr Gareth Phillips on gareth.phillips@ellesmere.com.

Yours sincerely,

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