

Our Lady's Catholic High School



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Headteacher: Mr R Charnock

Being One of Ours

Dear Parent/Carer

This year the school will again be running the Duke of Edinburgh Award for Year 9 pupils. Your child has expressed an interest in taking part in the award. The award is broken down into 4 parts which are briefly detailed below however further information can be found at www.dofe.org.

Skill: To inspire young people to develop practical and social skills and personal interests. Ultimately participants must be able to prove that they have broadened their understanding and increased their expertise in the chosen skill.

Volunteering: To inspire young people to make a difference within their communities or to an individual's life and develop compassion by giving service to others. Pupils need to give their time to something useful, without getting paid.

Physical: To inspire young people to achieve greater physical fitness and a healthy lifestyle through participation and improvement in physical activity. Pupils can do this section independently or as part of a team.

Expedition: To inspire young people to develop initiative and a sense of adventure and discovery, by planning, training for and completing an adventurous journey as part of a team.

The Bronze Award can be completed in 6 months and involves the above sections, a two-day practice expedition and a two-day assessment. The award is not an academic award and there is no minimum standard to take part, though we will require commitment from the pupils to attend **all allocated training sessions and expedition dates**. They will also need to independently arrange to complete the volunteering, physical and skill sections outside of school time, though in school activities like the charity committee or playing for the school football team can be counted. Pupils must complete 3 months of weekly sessions for 2 sections and 6 months of one section.

The Award will have a number of after school training sessions. The sessions will teach your child the skills to undertake the expedition section of the award safely and successfully. If your son/daughter fails to attend these sessions unfortunately they may be asked to leave to programme. They must also be available on the following dates to undertake their practice and assessed expedition (9-11th June and 8-10 September).

There is a cost to take part in the Award which goes towards the bus for the practice and assessment expedition, camp fees and the £24 registration to the Duke of Edinburgh Award. Students will be provided with tents, stoves, rucksacks, maps and compasses (we also have some sleeping bags) though they should source their own walking boots over the coming months, wellies or trainers are not suitable. The total for taking part in the programme this year is £95. If the cost is likely to cause you problems please contact Mrs McNeela to discuss how we might be able to help.

If you are happy for your child to go ahead and take part in the award this year then please complete the medical form and then pay the £45 non-refundable deposit on SCOPAY by Friday, 17th February. The final £50 will be required by Friday, 28th April 2023.

Yours faithfully

Mrs McNeela
Assistant Headteacher



Artsmark
Gold Award
Awarded by Arts
Council England