



15 November 2016

Dear Parent/Carer

I am pleased to inform you that we are planning to offer the Duke of Edinburgh's Award to a limited number of Year 9 students. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award was recently voted by the United Learning Trust, a consortium of major employers, as the extra-curricular award that they see as most important for potential applicants to have attained at school.

The award requires those taking part to complete 4 sections:

- *Skill (learning a skill at least once a week)*
- *Physical (participating in a physical activity at least once a week)*
- *Volunteering (being involved in an activity that benefits others once a week)*
- *Expedition (completing a training and assessed 2 day hike with an overnight camp)*

The Skill, Physical and Volunteer sections must be completed once a week with two of these sections to be completed over three months and one over six months. Students will be assisted in their selection of appropriate activities and monitored by teachers throughout the delivery of the award programme. However completion of these sections will primarily be the responsibility of the students taking part. Students will take part in a practice expedition and an assessed expedition in the spring and summer of 2017. Training for this section will happen during afterschool sessions between 3:30pm and 4.15pm on Thursdays. Completion of the award requires commitment from participants not only to the activities but also to the on-going training, therefore all students taking part will be required to attend the training sessions and the weekend expeditions to complete the award.

To ensure that all participants receive a quality experience whilst studying for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, places on the award will be offered to Year 9 students only and a limit of 42 places are available. Interest in the Award last year was very high and to ensure that participants are fairly chosen, a rigorous selection process is used. If a large number of students apply, we will interview applicants. This process will take place within school and will be finalised after the number of applicants is known. Those successful will be required to pay an enrolment fee £40.

Many students at The Elizabethan possess a wide variety of qualities, abilities, skills, resources and home support that would make them perfect candidates for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. I am sure that over the next year we will create a fun, informative, active and encouraging learning environment which will stretch, challenge and equip those taking part.

Yours sincerely

*C. d'Albuquerque*

Mr C d'Albuquerque

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**Duke of Edinburgh Award 2017 – Expression of Interest. FAO Mr d'Albuquerque – Main Office**

I confirm my child: ..... Form: ..... would like to be considered for the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

Signed .....Parent/Carer Date: .....

Principal: Mrs Christine Horrocks BSc (Hons) NPQH Chair of Governors: Dr Derek Cheetham

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