



HITCHIN GIRLS' SCHOOL

Highbury Road, Hitchin, Hertfordshire SG4 9RS

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Headteacher: Mr J Crowther

Ref: 063

7 November 2023



Dear Parent/Carer,

Your child has recently attended an assembly and may be interested in undertaking the Duke of Edinburgh's award. The award has been running in school for many years and is a nationally recognised scheme in which many thousands of young people around the country participate. When applying for further education places and jobs, participation in the award is always favourably looked upon. Undertaking the award is, however, a commitment and they need to consider carefully whether they will be able to complete it properly.

Please take a few moments to discuss with your child the information that they have been given and ensure that they understand what will be expected of them if they decide to apply. They will need to be organised and independent in their approach to completing the award and should embark on it because they wish to do so, not merely to follow their friends. In previous years, the scheme has been very oversubscribed with students being put on a reserve list and, therefore, participants who subsequently drop out at a later stage may well have prevented another student from fulfilling all commitments.

Participants will need to organise the completing of the physical, skills and volunteering sections themselves but the expedition section will be completed through school. In order to do this, they will need to complete two Sundays' worth of training (campcraft, first aid, navigation and other relevant skills) which will take place at Hitchin Girls' School. There will then be a practice expedition weekend followed by one for qualifying based at campsites in the local area. The dates of all of these are listed below. **Participants must attend all of the dates** given in order to fulfil the requirements of the expedition section. Anyone who is not able to attend will not be able to complete the section as there are no avenues for catching up at a later stage.

Running expeditions here in school means that a large number of experienced staff are required. We are fortunate to have a very dedicated group of volunteers from both inside and outside of school. They do, however, give their time freely which means we can keep the cost of the award to a minimum. The total cost, including affiliation to the DofE in Windsor and Herts CC and all expedition expenses, is £60. This is payable when participants are accepted onto the scheme. If your child is in receipt of Pupil Premium and you would like financial support, please complete the Google parental bid form once their place has been confirmed.

If your child decides to apply please follow this link to complete the Google form by the deadline date of Friday, 17 November 2023. <https://forms.gle/1VbgJPn24vZbkEh48>

After this date, a random draw will be made, if necessary, and then you will be notified as to whether they have been successful or not. Their name will then be added to Parentpay for you to make the relevant payment.

Expedition dates are as follows:

Training: Sunday, 4 February and 3 March 2024 (9.30am-4.00pm) @ HGS

Expeditions: Saturday, 11 May and Saturday and Sunday, 15-16 June 2024

Planning evenings: Weds, 5 June 2024 (6.30pm-9.30pm) @ HGS

Please remember that participants must be available for all dates.

If you have any queries about the award, in the first instance, your child should email me or come and ask me, as they are the one undertaking the award.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Edwards'.

Mrs S Edwards
DofE Coordinator