



6<sup>th</sup> September 2019

Dear Parents,

**DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD SCHEME**

For many years now, Gateways School have offered the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme to all students from the age of 14 years (U4), and I would like to take the opportunity to introduce myself, and invite you to a Parents Information Evening for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

I have worked within the School for many years, and currently have approximately 80 students working on their Awards. These Awards cover:- Volunteering, Physical, Skill, and Expedition, - a Residential is an extra added on to their Gold Award, and most activities that the students are using for their Awards are activities they take part in within school time, such as Sports, Drama, Music, Early Birds, Sundowners, Debating etc.

The Award is a Nationally Recognised Award, and thought very highly of within Universities and with future Employers, as it shows the candidate has the commitment, skill, and sense of personal achievement to go on to complete the Award. At Bronze level the Award takes 6 – 12 months to complete, Silver 12 months, and Gold up to 18 months to complete. Having achieved Gold, the participant and their Parents attend St James' Palace to receive their Award from the Duke of Wessex.

This is the ninth academic year Gateways School has been a Local Operating Authority for the Award, a privilege only held by a few Independent Schools within the North Region.

The Scheme is run by myself within the School, - I am a fully qualified Professional Outdoor Instructor, experienced in all aspects of the Outdoors for many years, and therefore also run the Expedition parts of the Award as well as facilitate the rest within School on Wednesdays during lunchtime and after school.

The fee at all levels covers registration, D of E Insurance, all training and instruction - carried out by qualified mountaineering instructors, campsite fees, equipment hire, and expedition assessment by D of E accredited assessors.

If you would like to find out more about the Award, I would welcome the opportunity to meet you at the Presentation Evening I will be holding on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September at 4.30pm in the Library, where I will be able to go into more detail about what the scheme involves and what will be expected by your daughter in taking part.

If you are interested in your daughter taking part please come along - at this point there is no commitment, places are confirmed on receipt of the application form which will be available on the evening. The evening is open to both parents and students and I look forward to seeing you there.

Tracy Sockett  
D of E Co-ordinator

**Headmistress: Dr T Johnson BSc (Hons), PhD, PGCE**