

Dear parent/caregiver,

We are writing to you today to let you know that your child has expressed interest in the Duke of Edinburgh’s Hillary Award. You may have heard of Duke of Ed before, but we are getting in touch to let you know a little more about what the Award is and how it works.

Duke of Ed participants select an Award level depending on their age and how much time they can commit to the Award. They are also tasked with selecting activities for the four Award sections. Your child can choose any activity they are interested in if it meets section requirements and is approved by their Award Leader. See below some examples of appropriate activity for each section.

* **Voluntary Service**: Coaching a sports team, volunteering at Opshops, joining the school student council
* **Physical Recreation**: Joining a sports team or gym, running, cycling
* **Skills:** Learning a language, photography, developing cooking or computer skills
* **Adventurous Journey**: A tramp, kayaking, sailing, or spending time investigating flora and fauna. This section involves overnight camping in tents or huts and must meet Award criteria. School camps may meet criteria, the Award Leader will have more information about this.
* **+ Gold Residential Project** (at Gold level only):Any group project/activity with a purpose, with people they do not already know, over 5 days and 4 nights.

Your child may select activities that they are already participating in (E.g. If they are already playing netball, they may use this as their Physical Recreation activity) or they might need to find time to dedicate to some new activities.

**Key Duke of Ed terms:**

* **Award Leader**: \*insert teacher’s name\* will be your child’s Award Leader and be their main point of contact throughout their Award journey
* **Assessor:** your child will need an assessor for each of their activities. An assessor is anadult who is not family member and is knowledgeable in your child’s chosen activities (E.g. A hospice shop manager to report on Voluntary Service)
* **ORB:** TheOnline Record Book is an online logbook that your child will need to regularly log their activity progress within.

The Award has been operating in Aotearoa for over 60 years and is an extremely rewarding experience for rangatahi. The chance to set goals and achieve them, outside of the formal education framework, can be life changing and is a great chance for your child to experience new challenges.

There are many helpful resources available on the Duke of Ed website to help your child navigate their Duke of Ed journey and we encourage you to browse them if you’re interested in some more information on the Award.

Nga mihi nui,

\*Insert school name/logo here\*