

October 2020

Dear Parent/ Carer,

I'm pleased to announce that we will again be offering the **Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award (DofE)** to students in Year 9.

About the DofE

The DofE is non-competitive and open to all young people – it's about setting personal challenges and pushing personal boundaries. There are three levels of DofE programme which lead to a Bronze, Silver or Gold Award.

Through their DofE, students will make friends and memories and build traits like confidence, resilience and self-esteem, which can benefit mental health. They'll gain skills and attributes for work and life, like problem-solving, team-working and self-motivation – and they'll achieve an Award that's recognised by top employers and can help them stand out when applying for university or jobs. This can also count towards completing their Outwood Pledges.

To achieve their Award, participants must complete four sections: Skills, Volunteering, Physical and Expedition.

Every young person's DofE programme is personal to them – they can choose what they'd like to do for their Skills, Volunteering and Physical sections, and most activities can count. We will provide guidance and support, and students can either choose to continue an activity they already do or discover something completely new.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, participants who complete their Skills, Volunteering and Physical sections will also receive a DofE Certificate of Achievement – a formal recognition, by the DofE, of their efforts at this extraordinary time.

Activities for each section take a minimum of one hour a week over a set period of time, so they can fit around studying, hobbies and social lives. For more details about programmes and timescales visit www.DofE.org/do.

The DofE and COVID-19

Your child can still have the full DofE experience, safely and in line with Government guidance, during the COVID-19 outbreak. The motivation and focus the DofE gives, and its positive impact on mental and physical health, can play an important role in helping your child navigate our 'new normal', safely expanding their world and giving them skills and experiences to open doors in the future.

As participants can choose and change their activities, they can pick ones they can do while social distancing or from home. The DofE provides advice and information, including activity & volunteering ideas, at www.DofE.org/DofEWithADifference.

The DofE has also introduced a number of flexibilities to allow expeditions to take place safely, in line with social distancing restrictions and government guidance. While your child's expedition may look slightly different to those in previous years, they will be able to do theirs safely and with all the benefits and memories they'd get at any other time.

Cost

The cost covers your Bronze Welcome Pack, online DofE account (eDofE), campsite fees, maps, map cases, tents, group first-aid equipment, group kit and all expedition transport costs. This will be payable in two instalments, initially the enrolment fee of £22 followed by the expedition cost.

Once enrolled we will host a welcome meeting for all participants and are hoping to plan an expedition during the summer term (adhering to government guidance).

If your child would like to take part, please complete the form online at <https://forms.gle/Ex1MPLKNMV1ntSh46>. Once this is complete, please pay the enrolment cost via your online iPayimpact account. Please do this by **Friday 6th November**.

If the cost of taking part is prohibitive, please contact me as there may be financial support available.

More information can be found on the official DofE website, www.dofe.org. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me via the Academy.

Yours faithfully,


Mr S Taylor
DofE Manager