

Date as posted

Dear Parents

Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award

We are pleased to announce the launch of the **Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award** (DofE) to students in Year 9.

The DofE is a great chance for your child to broaden their horizons, discover new interests and talents, have fun, make friends, develop essential skills for their future and achieve an internationally renowned Award. I wanted to share some information about what a DofE programme involves, the benefits for your child and how they can sign up.

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 the DofE programme which, when successfully completed, lead to a Bronze, Silver or Gold Award.

Through their DofE, students will make friends, memories and build their confidence, resilience, and independence. Participants gain skills and attributes for work and life, like problem-solving, team-working and self-motivation – and they will achieve an Award that is recognised by employers and can help them stand out when applying for universities or jobs.

The Bronze Award requires the participants to commit to a range of extra-curricular activities which are assessed in four areas: **Skills, Volunteering, Physical** and **Expedition**, with the aim to be completed by July 2024.

Every young person's DofE programme is personal to them – they choose one activity per section (Skills, Volunteering and Physical), 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 new.

Activities for each section take a minimum of one hour a week over a set period of time (two activities for 3 months and one activity for 6 months), so they can fit around studying, hobbies and social lives. Once complete, they will have shown their progress, commitment, and dedication for their chosen activities. For more details about programmes and timescales visit www.DofE.org/do.

If you go to the extra curricular area on our [website](#) you can see all the DofE information video's available to you and the parent information sessions that they run. These sessions are online, drop-in sessions that parents of prospective DofE participants can join to learn about the DofE and how they can support their young person. There is no need to book, just click on the link to join the meeting.

eDofE and the DofE app

Once registered, participants create their DofE programme and record their progress using eDofE, the DofE's digital system which is available online at eDofE.org and through the DofE app – downloadable for free from Google Play and the App Store. If your child decides to enrol, we will set up their eDofE account and they will receive details of how to sign in and get started.

Students must attend a sign-in session at lunch time where they will learn how to enter activity details for sections, how to submit evidence and assessor reports. The details of these sessions will be in student notices and on Google classroom, they will receive an email notification nearer the time.

What are the costs?

To complete the **Bronze DofE Award (Full)** the total cost is **£217.00**. The total cost covers the DofE registration fee for your child's participation place, a contribution towards the school's admin costs and DofE licence fees, and the participant's Welcome Pack, which will be sent to their home address and includes their personalised DofE Discount Card. Also included is one training day, training expedition and a qualifying expedition. BXM, the expedition provider will send out more information in due course.

For ease we have included a payment schedule and broken the cost down into three manageable payments but can also be paid in full.

Payment Schedule	Payment to be made	Deadline Date
Non refundable payment for individual registration, administration and licence fee	£47.00	2/11/23
1st Expedition payment Practice and expedition training day	£85.00	7/12/23
2nd payment Assessed expedition	£85.00	21/3/24
Total	£217.00	

Please note that payments once made are non-refundable. The only exception to this is in the case of genuine illness that prevents participation in the expeditions. Please use Scopay for all payments.

The cost of the award will also include:

- All the costs associated with a DofE Approved Activity provider delivering the Expedition (eg instructors, assessors, camp fees, insurance, tents, stoves, gas, maps)

The cost however does **not** include:

- Food whilst on expeditions
- Kit costs (other than those mentioned above) - rucksack, sleeping bag and sleep mat, walking boots
- Travel to and from the practice and assessed expeditions (no more than 40 mins by car from Gillotts)

In order to take part in and complete the Award, students **MUST** be able to attend on the following key dates:

Sat 20th January 2024

Training Day, 9am-4pm, at school

Sat 11th - Sun 12th May 2024

Practice Expedition, full days including an overnight camp

Sat 29th - Sun 30th June 2024

Assessed Expedition, full days including an overnight camp

How do I sign up?

Signing up is easy.... all that is required is that you complete the online enrolment form by [clicking here](#) and make the first payment and consent via Scopay by no later than **Thursday 2nd November 2023**.

If you require any financial support with this trip please visit <http://www.henleyeducationaltrust.com/grants> to download and complete the appropriate grant application form (please note there is a different form if your child is in receipt of free school meals). Please ensure you pay the £47.00 deposit on Scopay and send your completed HET Grant Application Form to finance@gillotts.org.uk prior to the deadline of Thursday 2nd November 2023. If you require any assistance with this process please contact us at finance@gillotts.org.uk as soon as possible.

DofE Information event

The DofE organisation are running virtual information events via MS Teams for parents and students which I would highly recommend attending if you have any further questions about how students complete their DofE awards. The dates and times are detailed on the flyer on our website. There is no need to book.

If you would like any further information in the meantime, please email me at: DofE@gillotts.org.uk

Many thanks for your support and we look forward to helping your child to achieve their DofE Award.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alison Michael".

Alison Michael

DofE Manager