



4 October 2024

Dear Parents and Bronze Students

### Re: Bronze Training, Practice and Qualifying

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) is a scheme of activities open to all young people between the start of year 9 to 24 years old, regardless of ability or disability. There are 3 award levels, Bronze, Silver and Gold available, starting at year 9 with Bronze. All participants complete 4 challenges – **skills, physical, volunteering** and expedition, the first 3 are chosen by the participant to be realistic and achievable by them. It is not competitive. The completion of the award, at any level, cultivates perseverance, organisation, team skills and determination and is well regarded by higher education and employers.

#### Summary

At Bronze Award level, participants must complete the 3 sections as listed above. Each of the sections requires regular commitment, two sections for 3 months and one for 6 months. To begin the student must register, pay and then insert information into electronic DofE - name, date of birth and contact details. It is up to the participant to choose their activities, add their goals, assessors name and submit their plan to DofE account. There is an eDofE app and plenty of useful DofE You-Tube videos to assist you (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GuZMfKbMW6M>) . If you are interested, please fill out the required info on ParentPay to give your consent, contact details and any medical information we need.

There is also a two day/one night qualifying expedition to complete in rural countryside. This requires all participants to complete basic first aid training, learn campcraft skills, plan a menu for meals, select appropriate clothing and equipment.

Once registered each student will be issued with a brand-new compass, survival bag and whistle.

Activity	Dates	Minimum 4, maximum 7 in a team.
Local day practice walk and training	17 May 2025	
Qualifying Expedition - 2 days	13 – 14 June 2025	
	20 – 21 June (If needed)	

#### Equipment

**Tents** will be supplied for all expeditions. You can use your own but do consider size and weight. No one individual will carry the whole tent.

**Trangia Stoves** will be supplied to each team, with fuel. These are recommended stoves for school groups.

A list of the essential and recommended equipment is available on the college website.



### **Water Bottle**

A sturdy, reusable water bottle - minimum 1 litre. Not a single use water bottle from the shops. Save the planet!

### **Rucksacks**

We have available to loan - 65 litre rucksacks suitable to school groups and suitable for those with a small frame. You can use your own, and 65 litres is sufficient for all levels of the award.

**Note:** Full expedition kit must be brought by each student. The participant may not be able to begin the expedition if the essential equipment is not brought. This is for safety. A full kit list can be found on the school website under Students > Extracurricular > DofE. A suggestion is to purchase sturdy boots around Christmas to not be caught out by the inevitable growth of feet for this age group!

### **Expedition Food**

This will be discussed and demonstrated on the training days. It is recommended 3000 – 5000 kcal per day per person.

**Day hikes and training days** – a sandwich or equivalent, plenty of snacks, not just sweets etc. Contained in a bag, to keep all the rubbish in for later disposal. Afterschool training and meetings will begin on **Wednesday 29 January 2025** in the dance studio 3.15pm - 4.15pm, if students do not engage with these sessions, they will be taken off the expedition list.

### **Outline Costs for training and expeditions:**

Registration and compass etc as detailed in the summary above - **£55.00** – ParentPay **deadline is Friday 18 October 2024** at which point everyone who has paid will be registered onto Edofe. There will be a meeting for students on **Wednesday 23 October 2024 in the dance studio at lunch time** (1.45pm – 2.15pm) to give the students their eDofE log ins. Please ensure students have downloaded the dofe app by then.

Day Walks and 2-day Expeditions – all campsite fees, fuel for stoves, supporting minibuses, school insurance - **£40** (to be paid early 2025, date TBC)

To register please log onto Parentpay, there will be a £55 'Bronze DofE registration 2025' option. Pay this and fill out the required information. Deadline is Friday 18 October at which point this will be removed from ParentPay. **Parents of Pupil Premium students should tick the box on the form, and I will apply for funding for you. This award is fully funded for these pupils.** Pay point letters are available upon request. Please contact the Finance Team on 01373 465353 ext.312 with any payment queries.

**Please be aware:** We will be limiting the number of places to 70 on a first come, first served basis. To reserve a place please register and pay on ParentPay as soon as possible. Appendix I (see below) is an example of a program planner, I don't need these back, but it may be worth printing off and filling out the activities your young person will be doing.

Yours sincerely



Theo Pavli  
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**Bronze Award Programme Planner**

**Appendix 1**

Students name .....Volunteering, Physical and Skills sections

	<b>Volunteering</b>	<b>Physical</b>	<b>Skill</b>
<b>Time to complete</b> You must do one section for 6 months	3/6 months	3/6 months	3/6 months
<b>Activity</b>			
<b>Where?</b> Where are you going to do it?			
<b>When?</b> When do you plan to start? You aim to finish by?	Start	Start	Start
	End	End	End
<b>What?</b> What are you going to do?			
<b>Who?</b> Who is going to support and <u>assess you?</u> (name) It cannot be a parent or member of the family. <u>Their contact email/telephone number</u>			