



Dear Parents and Carers

We are delighted to let you know that we are about to launch the 2024/25 enrolment for the Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award (DofE) for Year 10 and Year 11. I am the DofE Manager for the school and wanted to write to let you know more about what is involved.

About the DofE

The DofE is non-competitive and open to all young people – it is 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 and memories and build traits like confidence, resilience, and self-esteem, which can help improve mental health. They will 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 top employers and can help them stand out when applying for university or jobs.

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

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

Activities for each section take a minimum of one hour a week for Bronze this will be for 3 to 6 months and for Silver 6 to 12 months, so they can fit around studying, hobbies and social lives. For more details about programmes and timescales visit [Do DofE - The Duke of Edinburgh's Award](#).

About the Expedition

The Expedition section involves your child working as part of a small team to plan their Expedition's aim, choose a route and do some training to make sure they are fully prepared, before spending two days and one night in the countryside for Bronze and three days and two nights for Silver, this will take place in July 2025.

Ahead of this, they will take part in a classroom session in January for Bronze and October for Silver covering basic Expedition principles and introducing them to Expedition equipment and route planning. They will then have navigation training in the countryside where they will learn how to use a compass and a map to follow a route. In April 2025 they will complete a practice expedition where they will carry their full expedition rucksacks and work as a team to get themselves from point a to point b on the map. For those completing Silver the practice is more extensive being two nights and two days.

eDofE and the DofE app

Participants can create their DofE programme and record their progress using eDofE, the DofE's digital system, available online at [Welcome to eDofE](#) 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.

Signing up and costs

The cost of signing up to the DofE is a one off, non-refundable payment of £28.00 per participant. This covers your child's participation place and Welcome Pack, which will be sent to their home address and includes their personalised DofE Discount Card (which generally gives around a 15% discount off items participants usually require in most outdoor stores).

There will also be added costs for the expedition section of the award and for the buying of equipment for the expedition. The exact costings of this will be given to you in due course, but as an estimate last year's costing for the expedition section for Bronze was £250 plus extra for equipment and for Silver £350. However, as a school and a cohort, we will be running some fundraising opportunities throughout the year to bring this cost down. We are aware there is some financial support available for pupil premium students, however this is on a first come first served basis. There is also some equipment that can be borrowed from school. When we have secured a cost for the expedition, we will confirm this with all the students and yourselves.

If your child would like to take part and they have not done DofE before, they should start at the Bronze level, if they have already completed their Bronze, they are now eligible for the Silver Award.

If this is something you and your child are interested in, please pay the enrolment fee on ParentPay and complete the participant enrolment form and hand it into student reception by **Monday 15 July 2024**.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me via email dofe@jws.bham.sch.uk.

Yours sincerely

Miss J Lockett
DofE Manager