



18<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian

I am pleased to offer the current Year 9 and 10 students with the opportunity to complete their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award. The DofE is a great chance for your child to broaden their horizons, discover new interests and talents, have fun with friends, develop essential skills for their future and achieve an internationally renowned Award. This letter is to inform you about what a DofE programme involves, the benefits for your child and how they can sign up.

### **About the Bronze DofE Award**

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, 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 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 to universities or jobs.

To achieve their Bronze Award, participants must complete **four** sections:

1. Volunteering
2. Skills
3. Service
4. Physical Expedition (two training days and a 2 day/ 1 night qualifying 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. We will provide 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 over a set period of time, so they can fit around studying, hobbies and social lives. For more details about programmes and timescales visit [DofE.org/do](http://DofE.org/do).

If your child chooses to undertake the Bronze Award, they will be required to complete the Volunteering section for 3 months, the Physical section for 3 months, and the Skills section for 3 months. To participate in this Award, they will be expected to organise their own Skills, Volunteering and Physical Activity areas. I will be their point of contact in school for any help or advice they need and to ensure that they are completing these sections. There is an expectation that your child completes a **minimum** of **two** of these sections prior to their qualifying expedition.



### **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 that they can do while social distancing or from home. The DofE has provided useful advice and information, including activity and volunteering ideas, at [DofE.org/DofEWithADifference](https://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.

### **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 [eDofE.org](https://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. We will also hold lunch time and afterschool eDofE drop in sessions to help with any issues.

### **About the Expedition**

The expedition section will be run through both the school and an external provider, Get Outside The Classroom. The expedition section involves your child working as part of a small team to plan their expedition's aim, and they will take part in lunch time and afterschool sessions, covering basic expedition principles, plan their route and familiarise themselves with expedition equipment. Participants will only be able to do their expedition if they attend the organised training. They will then complete 2 training days and 1 qualifying expedition (the qualifying weekend will be 2 days and 1 night).

The following dates have been booked for the expeditions, and details about pre-expedition training will follow:

**Bronze Training Day:** Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2022, at St Nicholas Catholic High School

**Bronze Training Walk:** Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2022, Delamere

**Bronze Qualifying Expedition:** Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> October - Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2022, Cheshire

Please note, parents are required to drop their child off at the locations (typically a 09.30 start) as well as picking them up (typically a 15.00 finish). Further information and exact timings will be detailed prior to the expedition dates.



The cost of running the Bronze expedition is set by Get Outside The Classroom and will cost a total of **£200.00**, which also includes a £30.00 registration fee. 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. The money will come into school online via ParentPay and we will then pay the service.

If you would like your child to participate in the Award then could you please return the attached slip and pay the **non-refundable** deposit of £70.00 by Monday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022.

There will then be two more instalments due:

**Instalment 1:** £65.00 due by Monday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2022

**Instalment 2:** £65.00 due by Monday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2022

Please also note that as we must pay Get Outside the Classroom for their services if your child wishes to withdraw from the award they must do so, at least 10 weeks before (in writing) the final instalment is due. If not the full cost of the award will be payable.

**Please note that payment for the trip will be taken as consent for your child to attend and that you have read the guidance for school trips document attached.**

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me regarding the Duke of Edinburgh Award ([l.forsey@st-nicholas.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:l.forsey@st-nicholas.cheshire.sch.uk)) or please contact Mrs F O'Hanlon on 01606 706011 if you require any assistance with ParentPay.

Yours faithfully,

Miss L Forsey

Duke of Edinburgh Coordinator

**Please complete the Microsoft forms link below**

[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=TQCEKBxgKE67QeEw\\_\\_TROKYdnPCV7JArMUTP91ctZxUMFBZSE1LSjNEV0JKUzRMRllOTEJWM1FURy4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=TQCEKBxgKE67QeEw__TROKYdnPCV7JArMUTP91ctZxUMFBZSE1LSjNEV0JKUzRMRllOTEJWM1FURy4u)