17th July 2025

Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award - Year 9

Dear Parents and Carers,

I'm excited to offer our students the opportunity to begin their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award from September 2025 as Year 9 students.

Why Take Part in Duke of Edinburgh Awards?
Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) awards are internationally recognised awards for young people, designed to encourage them to show and develop independence, determination, leadership and teamwork through a personalised programme of activities. Each student's DofE journey will be unique to them and decided by them. DofE awards have been voted as the most important extra-curricular award employers want to see students achieve while they are at school. In addition, all activities done for DofE can also count towards students earning their half and full Legacy Colours in school.

About the Bronze DofE Award
The Bronze DofE award consists of 4 sections. A student's Volunteering, Physical, and Skills activities must each be completed for approximately 1 hour every week to earn their award:

- Volunteering - Giving up time to help others outside of your home and family.
- Physical - Taking part in a regular physical activity.
- Skills - Learning or improving a non-sports skill.
- Expedition - Completing a 2-day hike with overnight camping at the end of Year 9.

Volunteering, Skill and Physical Sections
Students must spend about 1 hour on each of their Volunteering, Physical, and Skills sections every week; a DofE award is roughly 3 hours per week. Photographic or written evidence is required to show what they have done each week. Evidence can be uploaded via the Duke of Edinburgh app or the eDofE website. Students will also be given a paper Logbook to help them keep on top of their activities and guide them through their DofE award. We highly recommend using this Logbook to track your progress.

Students must take responsibility for earning their own awards. School staff and students' families can support them, but earning a DofE award requires determination and regular effort from students.

Stephen Derry, Headteacher

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DofE activities must be completed outside of lessons; classwork cannot count for DofE. Two sections will last three months and students choose one to last six months. Activity choices for these sections are practically limitless and all extracurricular activities or club students already do can be counted as DofE activities from the 1st September when they are in Year 9. Please use these links to see which kinds of activities count for each section: Volunteering ideas, Physical ideas, Skills ideas.

All students who enrol on a Bronze DofE Award at Henley Bank will be expected to meet the following **sectional deadlines** to ensure we have time to support all our students in evidencing their Volunteering, Skill and Physical activities to complete their awards:

- By the Christmas Break, all students must have begun all 3 Volunteering, Skill and Physical activities and be providing regular evidence on the eDofE website or app.
- By the Easter Break, all students must have completed their two 3-month sections.
- By the May Half Term Break, all students must have completed their 6-month section.

Expedition Section

The Expedition section is the final step to earning a Bronze DofE Award and will consist of a 2-day backpacking and camping expedition in groups of 5-7 in the summer term. Before the expedition, participants will be trained in navigation using a map, campcraft and safety. They will also complete a Practice Expedition of two days and one night, which is required before students can take part in the Qualifying Expedition. The **confirmed weekends** for these expeditions are below. These are unlikely to change, so please keep these weekends free.

- Sat 6th - Sun 7th June 2026 - Bronze Training weekend, Henley Bank.
- Sat 27th - Sun 28th June 2026 - Bronze Qualifying, Dursley.

Walking boots with good ankle support and a waterproof jacket with a hood are required for the expeditions. Mid-range walking boots can cost £30-£60 from outdoor retailers and DofE sends participants a discount card to help reduce costs. Participants will also need a large camping rucksack (65L+), sleeping bag and roll mat, which can be borrowed from the school if students cannot acquire their own. All students will be provided with tents, mess tins, and gas cookers for their expeditions unless they have their own. Compasses and maps will also be provided to groups.

Costs

The cost of completing a Bronze DofE award at Henley Bank is broken down below. The enrolment fee is passed directly to the DofE organisation to enrol each student and is non-refundable. The expeditions costs are priced to cover equipment purchase & maintenance, campsite fees, staff training costs and minibus running costs.

- £30.50 - Bronze enrolment fee due by Friday 3rd October 2025.
- £10 - Practice Expedition cost due by Tuesday 2nd June 2026.
- £25 - Qualifying Expedition cost Tuesday 16th June 2026.

Therefore, the total cost of completing a Bronze DofE award at Henley Bank is £65.50.

Financial support is available if needed. The cost should not be the barrier to your student completing their DofE award. Please contact me by email asap if you would like to discuss this further.

To Sign Up for Bronze DofE
If your student would like to begin working for their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award when they start Year 9, please:

1. Make the first payment of £30.50 on MCAS by **Friday 3rd October 2025.**
2. Complete this google form to provide consent for your student to be enrolled on their Bronze DofE award.

On the google form, you will be asked to accept the following statement of liability as provided to us by the Duke of Edinburgh organisation:

> *I agree to my son / daughter / ward doing a DofE programme. I note that it is my responsibility to check that any activity my son / daughter / ward undertakes for their DofE programme is appropriately managed and insured, unless the activity is directly managed or organised by their DofE group, centre or Licensed Organisation.*

You will also be asked to enter your student's initial plans for their Volunteering, Skill and Physical activities. Please remember that students must take responsibility for earning their own awards. These are just their initial ideas and can be changed, but will be used to support your student at the start of their award, so please take some time to consider them. A reminder that these links show you which kinds of activities count for each section: Volunteering ideas, Physical ideas, Skills ideas.

I look forward to guiding our students through this exciting new challenge.

Kind Regards,

Mr A Haseler
Duke of Edinburgh Coordinator
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