



3rd October 2025

Dear Parent /Carer,

I'm pleased to let you know that Henley Bank High School will be offering the Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) to students in Year 12 this year.

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.

I wanted to send you 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 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 for uni or jobs.

To achieve their Gold Award, participants must complete Five sections: **Skills, Volunteering, Physical, Expedition and a Residential**

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, and 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 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.

GOLD		<i>Direct entrants must do a further 6 months in the Volunteering, or the longer of the Physical or Skills sections.</i>
Volunteering	12 months	
Physical	one section for 12 months, the other for 6 months	
Skills		
Expedition 4 days 3 nights		
		
Residential 5 days 4 nights		

Stephen Derry, Headteacher

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Henley Bank High School is proud to be part of the Greenshaw Learning Trust, which is a charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales. Company number 7633694. Registered office: Greenshaw Learning Trust, ORU Sutton, Throwley Way, Sutton SM1 4AF.



About the expedition

The Expedition section involves your child working as part of a small team to plan their expedition's aim, choose a location and do some training to make sure they're fully prepared – before spending four days and three nights in the countryside.

There will also be a number of training sessions included prior to the final expedition. This will include a practice expedition of the same length in which your child and their group will plan their route and prepare. Participants will only be able to do their expedition if they attend the organised training.

Dates of the practice and final expedition will follow shortly.

Residential

The Residential section is not offered through school and pupils will need to arrange this themselves. However, information, support and guidance will be given to pupils to ensure that they can complete the Gold award. The residential is a shared activity in a residential setting that must be away from home for 5 days and 5 nights. The gold residential can vary in cost greatly depending on what you wish to do. There are free options available.

Please see [here](#) and [here](#) for ideas. These are just a few suggestions and there are many more options.

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 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

The cost of taking part in the DofE is **£150** 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. **It also includes both the practice and final expedition.**

If your child would like to take part, the Enrolment payment of **£37.50** is now available to pay via the Clubs section of the MCAS app. Please also complete the google form [here](#).

Once we know which students are interested, we will communicate when/how a payment can be made.

If you would like any further information in the meantime, please feel free to contact Mr Haseler – ahaseler@henleybankhighschool.co.uk

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

Yours faithfully,

Mrs H. Hatch and Mr A. Haseler

GLT Outdoor Education Lead and HBHS DofE Manager

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