

Dear Parents/Carers,

It is time for this academic years' launch of DofE. Your child has recently had an assembly on the Duke of Edinburgh and you are receiving this letter to provide more information about the award.

The Duke of Edinburgh's award is open to all students, regardless of ability or physical fitness, from Years 9 upwards. Full details are available at [www.dofe.org](http://www.dofe.org) but I would encourage you to speak to myself for further details or if you are unsure whether or not it is for your child.

The Award requires you to complete four sections: focusing on volunteering, developing skills, developing physical fitness, and completing an expedition as part of a team. The length of the expedition and time scale for each section depends on the award you will be doing and if you are a direct entrant or not. For gold award students you are required to do a residential for 5 days and 4 nights. Students find the award highly rewarding and enjoyable as it offers challenge and adventure to those who are ready to commit to something for the entire year. Many students at HCC already do activities which come under the different headings. Below are some ideas of the things HCC offers that can be done for each of the sections.

<b>Skill- Learning a new skill</b>	<b>Physical Activity- Developing/ sustain physical activity</b>	<b>Volunteering- Assisting someone/ others out without being paid</b>
Play a musical instrument	Teen Gym	Paired reading
Food technology/ product design/ textiles	Any sports club - HCC extracurricular (lunchtimes/ after school) or out of school	Leading a lunchtime club
Creative Arts- Photography/ Art/ Drama	Ten Tors training	Sports leadership
Animal care	Cycling	CET/ Learning Leaders/Sixth Form Mentors/ SET/Prefects
IT- Web design/ Mircobits (programming)	This Girl Can	Charity Shop/ memory café
Map reading/ navigation		Helping with any extracurricular club
Modern foreign language		
Learning to drive- GOLD		

Further ideas can be found here: <https://www.dofe.org/do/ideas/>

Timescales:

<u>Bronze</u> (year 9+)	Volunteering 3 Months	Physical 3 Months	Skills 3 months	Expedition 2 days 1 night	
	Plus a further 3 months in either the volunteering, physical or skills section				
<u>Silver</u> (year 10+)	Volunteering 6 months	Physical 6 or 3 months	Skills 6 or 3 months	Expedition 3 days 2 nights	
	Physical and skills sections: one section for 6 months and the other for 3 months				
	If you didn't do Bronze, you must do a further 6 months in either the volunteering or the longer of the physical or skills sections.				
<u>Gold</u> (year 12 +)	Volunteering 12 Months	Physical 12 or 6 months	Skills 12 or 6 months	Expedition 4 days 3 nights	Residential 5 days 4 nights
		Physical and Skills section for 12 months and the other for 6 months			
	If you didn't do SILVER, you must do a further 6 months in either the volunteering or the longer of the physical or skills sections.				

If you would like to participate, please make a payment of £25.50 for Bronze, £25.50 for Silver or £32.50 for gold. This is the cost to register to DofE and you will get an eDofE log in, a discount card and a welcome pack. Please make this payment before **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2023** via Weduc. Please note that this payment will not become live until Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023. I explained to the students today that I will not buy their participant place until they have completed the programme planner, which identifies the activities the students are going to do for each section. This can be found on the school website as well as your child's school email. You must also complete an online enrolment form which can be found here: <https://forms.office.com/e/HCXdAbQSz7>.

We will meet several times throughout the year to support your son/daughter through their award. Key dates are:

**15<sup>th</sup> September 2023 –**

Sign up deadline (enrolment form and payment via Weduc)  
 Programme planner to be completed.

**eDofE Session 1 (wb 18<sup>th</sup> September 2023)**

Receive eDofE log in details  
 Add section details  
 Learn how to upload evidence

**eDofE Session 2 (wb 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024)**

Receive assessor sign off cards

Start to complete sections

Prepare for expeditions

**Summer Term 2024 – Expeditions (exact dates tbc)**

There will be an additional cost for expeditions and this cost is to allow for an external activity provider to run the expeditions. We have recently switched supplier to make this cheaper than it has previously been. Once confirmed, this will be payable via Weduc and the cost can be spread over the course of the year. Expedition training will not start until the Summer term. Last year, the bronze expedition cost £140 and the silver cost £235.

Using an external provider for the expedition section will ensure our students gain a comprehensive experience and have the best possible chance of completing this section successfully. Schools, in general, now opt for external providers and although it increases the overall cost of the DoE Award it is widely acknowledged to be the right option. For each award, students will receive training days, practice expeditions and finally, their assessed expedition.

In addition, we do have some school kit that you can borrow such as waterproofs and backpacks so please do contact me if you would like to borrow any. We also encourage and support our students to engage in fund-raising activities to meet their personal costs. However, if you would like your son/daughter to participate but are worried about the cost, do please contact me as some limited funding may be available, dependent on personal circumstances – we would not want a student to miss out due to financial constraints.

Again, thank you for your interest and please do get in touch should you have any questions.

Yours Sincerely,

Ben Davis

*DofE Manager*

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