



September 2023

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

Headteacher - Patrick Earnshaw
Deputy Headteacher - Mathew Downs

Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme – Year 9 Bronze

I would like to offer you the opportunity to learn more about the **Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme**.

On **Monday 2nd October 2023** I will be hosting a virtual Year 9 Bronze DofE information evening on Microsoft Teams from 5:00pm-6:00pm. The purpose of the evening is to explain about the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, how it works and what is involved. Students and parents can join at any time throughout the evening to ask any questions. This can be accessed by following the link that will be emailed to all Year 9 students and is given below:

https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_OTIzNDIIMDYtYTkwi00NWRILTgxYTgtYjNiYjMOMDM1NDQx%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%220a7bdf1c-7f95-4445-a094-7553acdd0e0%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%2269278a15-6f9e-4469-aea2-29c16ad07766%22%7d

Activity sections

For Year 9 Bronze DofE, students have three sections to complete: physical, skill and volunteering. Students choose the time scales for their activities, in that two sections are carried out for 3 months, and one section for 6 months.

The activity logging system, where students upload evidence, is via the eDofE App which will be monitored in school. Students will need to check and use email regularly to keep in contact with staff and discuss any issues. Year 9 Bronze students ideally should complete at least two parts of the physical, skill and volunteering sections of their Award, over a six-month period, prior to going on expedition to show their commitment.

Training meetings

Training will be given for navigation, countryside code, camp craft, food hygiene, stove use, route planning and route cards, preparing for the weather and kit guidance during meetings in school. Students are expected to attend all online and in school meetings to prepare for their expedition, and if they cannot they need to inform us beforehand.

Expedition

The Year 9 Bronze expedition is planned to take place during the summer term from **Friday 14th June – Sunday 16th June 2024 in the New Forest**. This will be coordinated by Hampshire Outdoor AAP. This is a DofE Alternative Activity Provider run and staffed by professional DofE qualified personnel, accompanied by Highcliffe School staff. Exact details, timings, logistics and information will be released nearer the time.

The practice and qualifying expedition will be run over a 3-day period. The first day will be carrying out intensive expedition training. The evening will be spent planning their qualifying expedition route. The second and third days are the qualifying expedition.

Enrolment and costs

Year 9 Bronze Enrolment £75

This will enrol your child onto the DofE Award Scheme at Highcliffe School and will include, online guidance (eDofE) for completion of the physical, volunteering and skills part of the Award.

3-day practice and qualifying expedition £125

This will include expedition kit such as tent, stove, maps, compass but **not** personal kit such as clothes, sleeping bag, rucksack, food, water, etc.

Payment

Payment can be made on WisePay and a payment should be made by **Friday 10th November 2023**. Please ensure that you select the correct trip for your child's year group as there are a number of DofE expeditions.

Payment Option 1

A one-off payment £200 due by 10/11/23.

Payment Option 2

First payment (**Non-refundable**) £75 due by 10/11/23

Second payment £65 due by 2/2/24

Third payment £60 due by 5/4/24

Students will be enrolled as soon as the first payment is received and therefore the first £75 is non-refundable.

Students who do not complete two of their sections, and therefore not eligible for the expedition, will have their £125 expedition fee refunded if necessary.

We do have some hardship funding available from DofE, as well as pupil premium in school, so if there are any questions or concerns please contact Mr Evans or Mrs Faulkner-Smith in this regard.

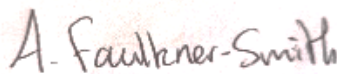
Please be aware that the Headteacher will consider attendance and behaviour before the trip commences. If they are not acceptable prior to the trip parents will be consulted and where time allows, be involved in achieving a positive resolution. Where participation is disallowed this may result in the partial or full loss of trip costs.

If you have any other queries regarding the DofE Award Scheme, please email DofE@highcliffeschool.com

Yours sincerely,



Mr P Evans
Duke of Edinburgh Organiser



Mrs A Faulkner-Smith
Duke of Edinburgh Organiser