



Sherburn High School

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Dear Parents/Carers

Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme – Bronze Award

I'm pleased to let you know that we intend to offer the Bronze Award over the course of the next 12 months. 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. As DofE Coordinator, 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 university or jobs.

To achieve their Bronze Award, participants must complete four sections: Skills, Volunteering, Physical and their 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, 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. During and in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, participants who complete their Skills, Volunteering and Physical sections will also receive a DofE Certificate of Achievement – a formal recognition, by the DofE, of their efforts at this extraordinary time. 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 www.DofE.org.

About the expedition

The Expedition section involves your child working as part of a small team to plan their expedition and undergo training to make sure they're fully prepared – before spending two days and one night in the countryside. Details about pre-expedition training and expedition dates are yet to be confirmed.

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. At the moment, residential trips are not allowed so we will need to wait and see when we can do the expedition section. In the meantime, participants can work to complete the other three sections and receive a certificate of achievement from the DofE.



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 enroll, we will set up their eDofE account and they will receive details of how to sign in and get started.

Signing up

Because of current restrictions, I propose to initially only charge the registration fee of £50. This covers your child's participation place and Welcome Pack, insurance and school's administration fees and is **non-refundable**. This would enable your child to begin the other three sections, complete them, receive the certificate of achievement and be ready to participate in the expeditions when we are allowed to run them. They would then receive their award certificate. I'll let you know the proposed costings for the expedition section closer to the time when I know how they will be run.

If your child would like to take part, please complete the slip below, log onto ParentPay and pay the registration fee of £50. Please also complete the attached DofE enrolment form and medical forms and return them directly by email to me at dofe@tgs.starmat.uk **by Friday 18 December 2020**. If you have any questions I can be contacted by email or my mobile on: 07906 478272. For further information on the award please visit www.dofe.org.

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

Yours sincerely
Mr D Sanderson
DofE Coordinator