

September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

We are delighted to announce the launch of The Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award (DofE) programme as part of our school's Character Programme.

The DofE is a nationally recognised award that provides young people with opportunities to develop resilience, independence, teamwork and leadership skills, whilst making a positive contribution to their communities. More information about the award can be found at <https://www.dofe.org>.

Participation in the DofE programme requires dedication and commitment throughout the year. To achieve the award, students must complete three out-of-school sections: Volunteering, Physical and Skills. In addition, students will undertake expedition training and complete both a practice walk and a qualifying expedition including one night of camping.

We are pleased to be working with CHASE Training Solutions, who will provide all expedition training and expedition support. Students who enrol on the programme will be required to attend the following dates all of which are full days.

- Monday 1st March - Navigation Day
- Saturday 14th March - Classroom Training Full Day
- Sunday 18th April - Practice Walk
- Friday 7th May to Saturday 8th May - Expedition

The total cost of the DofE programme is £240.50, including a £33 deposit payable upon registration. The full balance must be paid by 20 February 2027.

Unfortunately, once a pupil has registered, the full programme fee remains payable. We therefore encourage students and parents/carers to consider this commitment carefully before signing up.

This fee covers all training, expeditions, tent hire and cooking equipment hire. The school also has a small selection of equipment available to borrow on a need's basis, including rucksacks, roll mats and sleeping bags.

As participation in DofE represents the values and standards of our school, pupils must meet the following expectations throughout the academic year:

- Attendance: Your child must maintain an overall school attendance of 97% or above.
- Behaviour: Your child must consistently demonstrate our STAR values throughout the academic year, both in and out of the classroom.



Principal: Mrs H Zakary

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Please note that mobile phones are not permitted during any DofE training sessions or expeditions. However, when on expedition without a leader each group will carry an emergency phone to only be used if required. This expectation supports the development of independence, teamwork and engagement with the programme and in in-line with the DofE regulations.

There are 35 places available on this year's programme. Places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis, so we encourage families to register promptly should their child wish to take part.

The programme will be officially launched following the Parent Information Evening on Thursday 10th September at 5.30pm in The Mill. During the evening, families will have the opportunity to find out more about the award, the commitment involved and the registration process before places are offered.

We are excited to offer this opportunity and look forward to supporting pupils as they embark on this rewarding challenge.

Kind Regards

Emily Marsden and Harry Brooks-Keith

DofE Manager and Assistant Manager



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