



## Duke of Edinburgh Award - Bronze Award

Dear Parent or Carer,

We are delighted to let you know that the registration for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) is now open to students.

### Why do DofE?

Doing their DofE is a brilliant way for your young person to discover just how much they are capable of. It gives young people the chance to make new friends, follow their passions, learn new skills and make a difference in our community. The DofE is voluntary and non-competitive and a powerful way for every young person to build belief in themselves, whatever their background, interests and abilities.

A DofE Award will help young people, develop skills for life and work and is a recognised mark of achievement, respected by employers, colleges and universities.

To achieve the award, students must complete a programme of 4 sections detailed below.

### Sections:

- **Volunteering:** Making a difference to individuals or the community
- **Physical:** Encouraging physical fitness and a healthy lifestyle through participation and improvement in physical activity.
- **Skills:** Inspiring the learning and development of practical and social skills and personal interests.
- **Expedition:** Developing initiative and a spirit of adventure by completing an adventurous self-sufficient journey as part of a team.

Young people choose what they would like to do for the first three sections and work through these independently. Activities cannot be part of their school curriculum but can be extra-curricular clubs or out of school activities. Guidance on activities will be provided and regular support available. The Expedition is a team section and will be organised by the school.

Ideas of activities for each section can be found at; <https://www.dofe.org/do/ideas/>

### Timescales:

One of the principles of DofE is to show regular commitment and progression. Students need to complete two of these sections, Volunteering, Physical and Skills for a period of 3 months and one for a period of 6 months. Timescales are based on a regular weekly commitment of an hour a week and students will plan



when they start each section. The Expedition section involves a two-day training programme followed by a two-day qualifying expedition and overnight camp. These dates will be set by the school (see below).

More information on timescales can be found at: <https://www.dofe.org/do/timescales/>

### **How students record their progress:**

Once enrolled each student will receive an email with their own online eDofE account log in. This account can be accessed via the [DofE App](#) or via the DofE website [www.edofe.org](http://www.edofe.org). Students need to activate this account promptly to receive their '[DofE Welcome Pack](#)' in the post.

Once activated they must add the information for each section Volunteering, Physical and Skill so staff can approve the activities. This is called a programme plan. Before adding their section programme plan, they need to find a non-family member to assess their progress. This [Assessor](#) will be required to write a short report for them at the end of their section timescales. Students can also upload evidence as they progress such as photos or diary entries but to complete the section will need to ask their assessor for their report.

eDofE sessions will be run to support logging in and using eDofE.

### **Sign up and Costs**

To sign your child up you need to fill in the reply slip online by clicking on the following link. This needs to be done by no later than **Friday 1 November 2024**.

[https://gateway.dorothy-stringer.co.uk/DSHS/parent/Pages/school\\_Trips.aspx](https://gateway.dorothy-stringer.co.uk/DSHS/parent/Pages/school_Trips.aspx)

**The total cost is £286.00** which includes, the DofE online enrolment fee and official Welcome Pack, verifier and administration, the Expedition training and assessment package provided by Blackland's Farm Outdoor Centre, an approved expedition provider, with qualified staff and assessors.

£100.00 – 1st Payment by 22 November 2024  
£93.00 – 2nd payment by 20 December 2024  
£93.00 – 3rd payment by 31 January 2025

Payment will be open from 6 November 2024, this payment can be made using our online payment system via the School Gateway, by credit/debit card or by Instant Bank Transfer. This can easily be accessed by using the following link; <https://login.schoolgateway.com/0/auth/login>

If you have any financial questions/queries regarding DofE then please contact our Financial Support Office (FSO) on [fso@dorothy-stringer.co.uk](mailto:fso@dorothy-stringer.co.uk)

### Training and Expeditions Dates:

The school will organise the expeditions and supply some group kit e.g., cookers, tents, maps, compasses. Further information on the kit required will be given to students nearer the time.

Students will need to be dropped off and picked up from their training and expedition weekends. These will be held at Blackland Farm Outdoor Centre, East Grinstead, RH19 4HP

- Training = Saturday 10 May to Sunday 11 May 2025
- Expedition = Saturday 21 June to Sunday 22 June 2025

### Stages:

- Please attend the Parents information evening on **Thursday 3 October 2024 at 6pm** in the main hall at Dorothy Stringer School. This evening will provide a valuable opportunity to meet the school DofE team, gain detailed information from our regional DofE Operations Officer and ask questions.
- Please enrol using the online form by **Friday 1 November 2024**
- Payments will appear on your account on **6 November 2024** if you have filled in the online reply slip.
- We will not enrol the students on the eDofE website until we have received the first payment.
- Please note, we cannot give refunds for students who no longer wish to do the award or who fail to complete sections. **This includes students who have not completed the required criteria needed to attend the expedition.**

If you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact one of the coordinators at [DofE@dorothy-stringer.co.uk](mailto:DofE@dorothy-stringer.co.uk), Please allow at least 48 hours for a response and avoid contacting form tutors or Heads of Year.

Yours sincerely

The DofE Team  
Dorothy Stringer School  
[DofE@dorothy-stringer.co.uk](mailto:DofE@dorothy-stringer.co.uk)

