

19 November 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

I am pleased to let you know that we are introducing the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award which we are able to offer to our Year 9 students.

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 Stour Valley Community School's DofE Manager, 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 is 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 will gain skills and attributes for work and life, like problem-solving, team-working and self-motivation – and they will achieve an award that is 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 would 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/do

About the expedition

The Expedition section involves your child working as part of a small team to plan their expedition's aim, choose a location and do some training to make sure they are fully prepared – before spending two days and one night in the countryside.

Ahead of this, they will take part in a practise walk at a weekend covering basic expedition principles and introducing them to expedition equipment.

There will also be a number of training sessions which will take place during the school day, in which your child and their group will plan their route and prepare. Participants will only be able to do their expedition if they attend the organised training.

Provisionally, the practise expedition is planned for Saturday 13 September 2025 with the expedition to follow on Saturday 20 and Sunday 21 September, which includes camping overnight.

We will be able to provide tents and cooking equipment, but a full guide to the equipment required for the expedition can be found using the link below:

[DofE Expedition Kit List - The Duke of Edinburgh's Award \(DofE\) Shop](#)

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 enrol, we will set up their eDofE account and they will receive details of how to sign in and get started. We will also hold an eDofE launch session in school to support participants in completing the sign up and start to develop their plans.

Signing up

Normally, the Duke of Edinburgh Award has an enrolment fee of £27.50 per student but we are in the fortunate position to be able to offer 40 places without this cost for each of the next 2 years. The DofE have also funded half of our centre licensing fee for each of the next 2 years which will allow us to offer this at a lower rate than we would have otherwise have been able to hope for.

The total cost of completing the Bronze Award will be £70. This will cover the cost of equipment and administration required to run the course. To secure a place we are asking for an initial £40 payable via ParentPay by the end of Friday 13 December. Additionally, I would ask that the attached enrolment form be completed and returned to me in school before that date.

Yours faithfully

Nathan Sims

DofE Manager

nsims@stourvalley.org