

08 July 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

This week we are launching recruitment for the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) for our current year 8s and 9s to begin in September 2024.

### **Why do DofE?**

Doing DofE is a brilliant way for young people to discover just how much they are capable of. It gives people the chance to make new friends, follow their passions, learn new skills and make a difference in our community. Gaining a DofE Award is a great way to impress employers too.

It's also non-competitive and a powerful way for every young person to build belief in themselves, whatever their background, interests and abilities.

### **How it works**

To achieve the Bronze award, students will need to complete four sections – Volunteering, Physical, Skills and the Expedition. Students can choose what they would like to do for the first three sections, and we will provide all the guidance and support they need. The following link will take you to a video that explains more about DofE ([Welcome to DofE](#)).

The Expedition involves spending two days and one night in the countryside, and again we'll make sure that our young people are fully prepared for it. Our 2024 Expedition was been run by Haven Banks and was very successful. They provide qualified staff, quality training sessions, transport and equipment and we will use them again in 2025.

## Next steps

We hope many of our students will take this opportunity to get involved with DofE.

- The cost to sign up to the scheme is **£30 per person** – please do so on **Parent Pay**. **The final deadline to sign up with TCS will be Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September.**
- There is an **additional cost to do the Expedition run by Haven Banks** which will take place on a weekend in June or July 2025. **This year it cost £189pp** and I anticipate that the price will be similar for next year.

If your child is interested in taking part but the cost is prohibitive, please do speak to me as we may be able to help in some way.

- **Please also complete the Enrolment Form** (<https://forms.office.com/e/j27u0zkPX8>) on Microsoft Forms by clicking the link and filling in the boxes. If this is not possible then get in touch and I can email you the details we need. Again, the **deadline is Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September.**
- Consider activities for the Skills, Volunteering and Physical sections. **At Bronze level, it is typical for activities to be weekly and participants need to average an hour a week for each section.** Students need to do one of their Volunteering, Physical or Skills sections for 6 months, the others for 3. It's their choice which one and, though they can change their mind later, they should decide which section they want to do for longer at the beginning. Knowing how long they're going to do it for will help students to choose their activity and set their goals for each section. Help with planning sections can be found here - <https://www.dofe.org/do/programmeplanners/>
- Attend the **first DofE session on 1<sup>st</sup> October at 3.15 in U8**

This week I am delivering assemblies to years 8 and 9 but if you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me. The DofE website – <https://www.dofe.org/> - has a lot of useful information too.

It would be great to get a big group of students together to make the most of this opportunity.

I hope you'll agree that the DofE is the perfect way for your child to feel ready for anything.

Many thanks,

Mr Cross