

22 May 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award

I am writing to inform you that this week Year 9 received an assembly on the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award.

What is the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award (DofE)?

The Duke of Edinburgh award is a very well recognised award and over the years millions of young people have participated and enjoyed the benefits associated with it. DofE is a fantastic opportunity for young people to develop essential skills for life and work, such as team work, communication, application and resilience. DofE is recognised across the country by many employers and education settings as a significant mark of achievement.

What does the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award involve?

The Duke of Edinburgh award is split up into 4 sections: Volunteering, Physical, Skill and Expedition.

The Volunteering, Physical and Skill sections are completed by young people in their own time outside of school. Two sections require 1 hour a week for a period of 3 months, whilst one section must be completed for 1 hour a week over 6 months. These can be activities that the students already undertake, for example a football club, music lessons, helping out at Guides or Cubs among others. Before undertaking the sections, all activities need to be approved by a member of the DofE team to ensure it meets the criteria.

The final expedition weekend will be in the summer term of Year 10 when students will undertake a 2-day hike with overnight camping. Students are also required to attend two compulsory training sessions in the spring term: one 2 day-weekend, and 1 full day.

Participation in the expedition in the summer of Year 10 is dependent on full completion of the other 3 sections as this reflects a real commitment to the Award. Therefore, if the other sections are not completed before the expedition or training days then the expedition for that participant will be deferred to the following year.

To find out more, please visit the DofE website: <u>https://www.dofe.org/do/</u> or see the <u>Y9 assembly</u> <u>presentation.pdf</u> shown to students. Students can also come and speak to the teachers named below. - <u>DofE Frequently Asked Questions.pdf</u>

How much does it cost?

An initial registration of £40 will be required once your child has returned their form. This will be paid directly to DofE for their participation place. Further details regarding payment to follow. The overall cost is in the region of £220, this can be paid in instalments. Any concerns please contact Mrs L Mitchell or Miss F Elston.

How does my child sign up?

Registration forms were available at the end of the assembly. They can also be collected from student reception. These forms need to be returned to student reception by <u>Friday 6 June</u>. We have a maximum capacity and should this be exceeded then names will be randomly selected as the fairest solution.

Once we have received your child's registration form further information will come out with regards to payment, next steps and a parents information evening on **Tuesday 8 July.**

Yours faithfully,

L. M. Mitchell

F. Elston

Mrs L Mitchell Miss F Elston Coordinators of the Duke of Edinburgh Award The Weald School