

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to offer your child the exciting opportunity of participating in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. This is an internationally recognised programme designed to allow young people to get recognition for what they are doing in their communities for themselves and for others. It is also a great opportunity to get young people to try new things.

At Sheldon we offer students the chance to complete their bronze, silver and gold awards. As your child is now in Year 9, they are able to start their bronze award.

The award, at all levels, requires those taking part to complete 4 sections:

- Volunteering (one hour a week)
- Physical (one hour a week)
- Skill (one hour a week)
- Expedition (2-day hike with an overnight camp)

### **Volunteering, Physical and Skill sections**

These sections require a regular commitment; with two of these sections to be completed over three months (13 weeks) and one over six months (26 weeks). Students will be assisted in their selection of appropriate activities and monitored by staff throughout the delivery of the award programme. However, completion of these sections will primarily be the responsibility of the students taking part.

To give you a flavour of the range of activities your child can do, you can see a list of ideas from the DofE website [here](#). It is important to note that they cannot use, for any of the sections, an activity that they or you receive payment for or benefits in kind. It is really important that students ensure the activities they choose are in the correct section. If students are unsure, they should check with me before they start. They will need to have an adult, not related to them, to write an assessor's report at the end of each section to confirm it has been completed.

Students are encouraged to have these three sections completed by the time of the qualifying expedition, especially if they wish to go on to do their silver award in Year 10.

### **Expedition section**

In order for us to provide the award to the large numbers we have seen in recent years, we use an external expedition provider to deliver this section. We have worked with H5 Adventure for a number of years now and they provide an excellent level of training, equipment and all-round experience to Sheldon students.

To complete the Expedition section, students **must** attend the expedition training day and complete both expeditions.

|                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Expedition provider (AAP)</b>   | H5 Adventure   |
| <b>Expedition provider website</b> | <a href="http://www.h5adventure.com">www.h5adventure.com</a>       |
| <b>Training Day</b>                | Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March 2025                                  |
| <b>Practice Expedition</b>         | Saturday 17 <sup>th</sup> May – Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> May 2025   |
| <b>Qualifying Expedition</b>       | Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup> June – Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> June 2025 |

Students will be expected to have their own personal kit. Tents, maps, compasses and cooking equipment will be provided. We do have a limited number of individual items (sleeping bags/sleeping mats/rucksacks/waterproofs) that students can borrow for the events. Walking boots will be the main purchase required. Kit requirements will be covered on the training day in March. Students receive a discount card for a range of outdoor retailers when they sign up to the award.

## Duke of Edinburgh's Award meetings

There will be initial meetings to introduce students to the online eDofE programme, and follow up meetings to track students' progress through the sections and in the run up to the training day and expeditions. Students must ensure they attend all meetings.

## Cost of enrolment and expeditions

The major costs associated with the award are for the joining materials and expedition expenses, although every effort has been made to keep these to a minimum. The cost this year will be £273. This includes the DofE registration fee, registration on eDofE, a welcome pack, 5 days of training/expedition with H5 Adventure (a DofE approved activity provider (AAP)), camping fees, insurance and the certificate and badge (on completion).

| Instalment | Date to be received by                | Value | Refund eligibility  |
|------------|---------------------------------------|-------|---|
| 1          | Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> October 2024  | £60   | Non-refundable  |
| 2          | Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> November 2024 | £70   | Refundable prior to training day only   |
| 3          | Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> March 2025     | £70   | Refundable up to 7 days prior to the expedition when accompanied by a medical certificate |
| 4          | Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> April 2025    | £73   | Refundable up to 7 days prior to the expedition when accompanied by a medical certificate |

If your child would like to participate in the Bronze DofE Award, please **make payment of the non-refundable deposit of £60 by Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October**. Payment for this should be made online using ParentPay or please contact the Finance Office for alternative payment methods. The remaining balance can be paid via ParentPay at any time and for any amount as long as the payment deadlines above are met. Alongside this payment, please complete the online enrolment form by using the link at the bottom of the page.

I do not wish the cost of DofE to be a barrier to your child completing this fantastic award. If the school receives a pupil premium payment for your child, or you are in receipt of certain benefits, the school may be able to offer assistance towards the cost of the trip. Please contact me if you wish to discuss this further.

To provide further information and answer any questions you may have to help decide if this is something your child would like to commit to, I will be holding a **parent information evening on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October** for all levels of the award in the school hall at 6pm. Please use the link at the bottom of the letter to confirm your attendance to this meeting.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award website is an excellent resource and has more details on the scheme (<http://www.dofe.org>); please encourage your child to have a look to help them decide whether to undertake this challenge. We are also developing the school DofE website page, which can be found [here](#).

Online Forms to complete:

[Parent Information Evening Enrolment Form](#)

Yours faithfully

**Emma Langdon**

Duke of Edinburgh Award Leader  
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