

December 2023

Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award

Dear Y10 students and parents/carers

I'm writing to you to inform you about the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Award here at Notre Dame. We run DofE Bronze as an enrichment opportunity for Y10 students with the aim of students completing the whole Award in the Autumn of Y11. It is always a very popular activity in school and is likely to be over-subscribed. If the award is something that is likely to interest you I would suggest students familiarise themselves with what the Award is about and the sections and commitment involved. Go to [DofE - The Duke of Edinburgh's Award](#) to find out more. You will discover that there are a number of sections of the whole Award. The expedition section is the part that we will deliver in school. The students need to be independent and arrange their own activities and placements for the other sections. It is important for parents to note that we have no part in the activities and locations the students do for their activities and cannot comment on the safeguarding procedures in place at various organisations.

I would like to emphasise that there is a large element of trust and responsibility on the expedition with staff supervising the expedition but not necessarily walking with students. As such all the meetings and training sessions are learning sessions and we would expect students to approach them as such. If behaviour or approach to learning (either in our sessions or in the wider school environment – lessons and social time) causes concerns we may find it necessary to withdraw a student from the Award. Any costs incurred up to that point (enrolment fees) are non-refundable. If you/your child would like to apply for a place on the Award this year I would like them to send a **short note/letter of application** into us outlining very briefly why they want to do the Award with us, what activities they might do for each section and where they might do these activities (there is no commitment to do these activities at this stage, merely to have a plan and understanding what the different sections involve). In the event of us receiving more applications than we can accommodate we will conduct a 'lucky dip' draw for the available places. Before applying we would ask that the students are available for the following dates and times please. As part of the expedition preparation we have to do a certain amount of training. This forms part of our risk assessment. There are certain criteria of the expedition which have to be met (such as campcraft and a presentation). As such these dates and times are compulsory for all students. **Please note** that that we will be using the enrichment days in the summer term and as such we ask that students **do not** commit to anything else on the enrichment days as we will not be able to accommodate you on the DofE Award this year. We have already met with students who have expressed an interest and outlined this to them.

DofE Bronze dates 2024

Optional drop-in sessions to introduce edofe - dates and times to be confirmed.

Training (after school – 15:45 to 17:45)

- Wednesday 12th June 2024

- Wednesday 19th June 2024
- Wednesday 26th June 2024

- Monday 8th & Tuesday 9th July 2024 (school enrichment days. NOT after school.)

- Route planning meeting Wednesday 11th September 2024 (after school – 15:45 to 17:45)
- Kit handout Wednesday 18th September 2024 (after school – 15:45 to 17:45)

Expedition – qualifying

Saturday 21st & Sunday 22nd September 2024

Peak District based. Likely start/finish is in/around Bakewell. Students need to make their own arrangements for travel to/from the start/finish points. This can be by lifts or public transport. More details closer to the time.

Kit return & presentations – Wednesday 2nd October 2024 (after school -15:45 – 17:30 approx). Reserve date Friday 4th October 2024 for any kit not returned.

If I could ask for all letters/notes expressing an interest to be emailed to dofe@notredame-high.co.uk by the **end of Thursday 18th January 2024**. Please do not send it to my own email account as it may get missed.

If your child is successful in being allocated a place I will send a letter about how to enrol and pay. I will organise an optional drop in for students to introduce the 'edofe' site for them to be able to start & log their activities. I will double check but I believe the national enrolment fee will be £25 and I would estimate the expedition costs to be in the region of £21-26 making a total of £45 - £50. This will include camping fees, loan of tents, stoves, maps, first aid kit etc but not suitable walking clothing or footwear. We do have a small supply of rucksacks & sleeping bags for loan. We always encourage students to borrow items such as rucksacks, eating utensils, plastic cups & bowls etc from friends/family wherever possible to reduce costs.

If you have any queries at this stage please do feel free to contact me at mpickup@notredame-high.co.uk.

Yours faithfully

Mr M Pickup

DofE Coordinator

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