

15th January 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

Duke of Edinburgh Award 2026 – Year 9

I am delighted to let you know that we are launching the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) for Year 9. As the DofE Coordinator for the school, I wanted to take this opportunity to share more information about what the award involves.

Why take part in DofE?

The DofE Award is a brilliant way for young people to discover just how much they are capable of and gives them the chance to make new friends, follow their passions, learn new skills and make a difference in our community. The DofE Award is also well recognised by employers and helps young people to stand out. We often say that completing your DofE Award helps you feel prepared to face whatever challenges life may bring. The DofE is non-competitive and provides every young person, regardless of background, interests, or ability, with a powerful opportunity to build confidence and self-belief.

How it works

There are three levels of DofE Award – Bronze, Silver and Gold. To achieve their Bronze Award, your young person will need to complete the four mandatory sections: Volunteering, Physical, Skills and the Expedition. Young people 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 Expedition involves spending two days and one night in the countryside. We provide comprehensive training beforehand to ensure everyone is fully prepared and has the best possible experience.

Pricing

The cost of the course will be **£224**. This is paid as an initial **£35** sign-up fee to DofE, where you will receive your welcome pack and access to DofE to start logging your participation in the volunteering/skill/physical aspect of the course. **The £35 must be paid by 22nd February 2026.** The expedition aspect of the course will cost **£189** this will include a full day's training session in school and 2 expeditions (1 training, 1 assessed). This is run by an external company who specialise in DofE expeditions. **This must be paid by 12th April 2026.**



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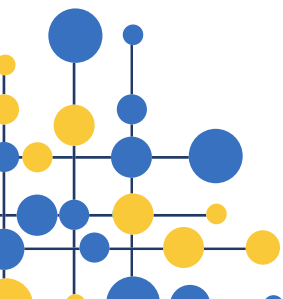
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The expeditions will take place on the below dates; therefore, students should ensure that they are available to successfully complete the course:

24th April 2026 – In School Training
5th & 6th June 2026 - Training Expedition
26th & 27th June 2026 - Assessed Expedition

There will also be the additional cost of any necessary kit, whilst all camping equipment is provided, students must have their own rucksack/waterproofs/walking boots etc. A full list of equipment needed will be provided prior to the expeditions. School do have some of these items that we can lend to students should they wish to borrow.

Should you have concerns regarding the cost of the award, please be aware that limited funding support may be available and will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Please indicate this when completing the expression of interest form and I will contact you confidentially to discuss any support that may be available.

Next steps

If you would like to register your child(ren) for the course, please complete the declaration of interest form by following the link below or scanning the QR code by **Friday 30th January 2026**. We will then contact you by email to confirm if your child has been accepted on the course, along with a link to make payment.

[Duke of Edinburgh 2026 Expression of Interest Form – Fill in form](#)



Behaviour expectations of all our students remain high, therefore if any students do not meet our expectations, we reserve the right to remove them from the award. If students are removed from the award, we will be unable to refund any monies paid. Students should be reminded that they will be representing our school during their award, we must be able to trust students to behave appropriately, particularly when in public.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at benn.raynor@sharemat.co.uk. You can also find lots of helpful information on the DofE website at www.dofe.org.

Thank you for your support. I hope you'll agree that the Duke of Edinburgh Award offers a valuable opportunity for young people to develop skills and resilience for the future.

Yours faithfully,

Mr B Raynor
DofE Coordinator