



**HEDINGHAM SCHOOL
AND SIXTH FORM**
ACHIEVEMENT & EXCELLENCE

Official

18 December 2024

Dear Parent/Guardian

Year 9 – Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme

I am writing to offer your child a place on the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh scheme for this academic year.

DofE is a nationally recognised award which encourages students to develop a number of essential life skills. The key areas that we aim to develop among those students taking part in the scheme are team work, communication and confidence, which are important soft skills valued by employers and colleges. We also hope to teach them practical skills such as camp craft, map reading and navigation.

The award is split into four sections at Bronze Level. For the Volunteering, Skill and Physical sections, students will need to organise their own suitable activities. These need to be outside normal school activities but after school clubs are a great way to achieve these. Students are expected to complete these activities for between 3 and 6 months and as far as possible this needs to be done by them, but please feel free to support them with ideas and encouragement. Students will also take part in two expeditions run by the school. The expeditions last two days, with one overnight camp for which after school training sessions will be provided.

There will be a cost of £57.00 per participant which includes the cost of joining the DofE programme, record packs, transport, equipment use and campsite accommodation etc. We do not wish anyone to be put off by the cost of the programme and would ask any parents who may find it difficult to afford the full cost to contact us as there is help available through the Earls Colne Trust.

- The initial deposit of £17.00 will be due on 14 February 2025
- With the remaining to be paid by 23 May 2025

If the school receives additional Pupil Premium funding for your child, we are able to contribute £30.00 towards the total cost and ask you to only pay the initial £17.00 deposit. Please indicate on the reply slip if you wish to take up this offer. If you have questions about this, please contact me direct at: hed.wincotte@hedingham.essex.sch.uk

If there are any issues with any of the payment dates the Finance Office may be able to arrange an alternative payment plan.

The Duke of Edinburgh award is run by me, and any questions or queries should be directed to myself: hed.wincotte@hedingham.essex.sch.uk. However, for those new to DofE, I would like to take this opportunity to advertise the website where you will find the answer to a number of questions you may have – www.dofe.org

Expeditions and Enrolment

In order for pupils to take part in the expedition there will be two mandatory training dates, these will be afterschool and will run from 3.15-5pm. The two dates are:

- Wednesday 14 May 2025
- Wednesday 21 May 2025

If there are any issues with these dates, please contact me.

There will be further letters outlining equipment, expectations, medical information, locations and routes (with emergency contact numbers) nearer to the expedition dates. There will also be messages passed to parents directly from the students – this is part of the scheme, and we are trying to encourage organisation on their part. If you feel you have not received information, please do email me and I will be happy to forward on any relevant details. During the training, and whilst on the Duke of Edinburgh programme, participants will be sorted into smaller groups. This is to enable us to give the best possible experience to the participants.

By signing the electronic form below, you acknowledge that the assessed expedition, and to a lesser extent any practice expeditions, will be remotely supervised by staff. There will be staff close by at all times, but due to the nature of the scheme, the students have to complete these tasks by themselves.

Enrolment link: <https://forms.office.com/e/paaMeJzBKs>

Please complete the above online enrolment form by **Monday 10 February 2025**. Please ensure you tick the box to confirm you will pay the deposit on **“iPayimpact”** (our new payment app - letter to follow). Students whose forms are received after this may miss the opportunity to participate and their place may be passed onto someone else on the reserve list.

As a final note, any student who does not complete requested tasks or fails to conduct themselves properly during training, may be removed from the scheme.

Yours sincerely



Mr E Wincott
Duke of Edinburgh Award Leader

Headteacher • Paul Finch BSc (Hons) PGCE NPQH

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Approved
Centre

