



Dear Parent/Carer,

I am delighted to inform you that we will be offering the Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Bronze Award to Year 9 students. The Award will be run through an enrichment club, which will be every Tuesday from 3pm to 4pm in IT3. It must be stressed that students must commit 100% to the enrichment club. During this time, students will cover the content of the Award and develop the skills necessary to be successful during the expedition phase of the Award. The first enrichment club will take place on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2024.

To begin completing the Award, we are required to enroll the students onto the DofE online portal. This allows them to update all of their progress and create a profile for their DofE assessors to access and ensure they meet the criteria to gain the Bronze Award. **An initial enrolment fee of £35 is required per student. This can be made via ParentPay.** ParentPay will be opened this week and the deadline for the enrolment fee to be paid will be Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2024 at 3pm. We cannot accept any late enrolments after this deadline.

Willingdon Community School is unable to cover the full costs of the qualification, and we would require some parental contribution, particularly towards the expedition. When completing the expedition, students are required to spend 2 days hiking in the countryside and to camp overnight. We would also require the assistance of qualified assessors and insurance during the expedition. **A second payment of £55 per student to cover the expedition will be required by Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2025. This is also accessible via ParentPay and can be paid at any time in advance.** If payment is not received, your child will not be able to complete the expedition phase of the Award. Please be aware that some equipment will also need to be purchased for the expedition such as walking boots.

We have provisionally booked the expedition to take place on the following dates, and request that you save these dates in order to allow your child to complete the qualification:

- **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> and Friday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2025 (camping at Willingdon Community School)**

Further details of the expedition will be shared nearer the dates mentioned.

If you would like further information on the DofE Bronze Award, there will be an online parent/carer information evening on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November from 4.30-5pm. This will be held by myself and Katrina Gadsby-Clifford, our Operations Officer. If you would like to join this meeting to find out more, the link is: [Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 364 383 010 343

During this meeting, Katrina will give details on the four sections which students will have to pass to gain the qualification, these include the Physical section, Skill section, Volunteering section and Expedition.

I very much look forward to supporting the students through the course and am grateful for your continued support. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns regarding the DofE qualification.

Kind regards,

Miss Leonard  
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