



THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

Bronze Award: General Information pre-registration

What is DofE?

- A DofE programme is a real adventure from beginning to end. DofE provides the perfect opportunity for you to take on new challenges, build skills and friendships, and contribute to the wider community. It doesn't matter who you are or where you're from. You just need to be aged between 13 and 24 and realise there's more to life than sitting on a sofa watching life pass you by!
- You can do DofE programmes at three levels: Bronze (aged 13+), Silver (aged 15+) and Gold (aged 16+).
- You achieve an award by completing a personal programme of activities in four sections:

Volunteering: undertaking service to individuals or the community (3 months).

Physical: improving in an area of sport, dance or fitness activities (3 months).

Skills: developing practical and social skills and personal interests (3 months).

All participants must undertake a further 3 months in one of the above sections.

Expedition: planning, training for and completion of an adventurous journey in the UK (1 practice and 1 assessed expedition each of 2 days, 1 overnight camp in duration).

Is DofE for me?

It is really important that you do DofE because YOU want to do it. Not because your parents or friends want you to do it! DofE is a lot of fun, but it takes time, commitment and determination in order to complete an award. Attendance at after school sessions during the 11 week training programme is a must. You will not necessarily be put in a team with your friends. DofE is a great opportunity to get to know new people!

Costs

The DofE Bronze Training Programme costs £135. (Cheques made payable to Vandyke Upper School). Payment to be brought to the Finance office along with your registration form after the Parent Information Evening in the spring. Places are limited, and offered on a first-come, first-served basis. Support may be available for those in difficult financial circumstances from the Vandyke Opportunities Fund. Please contact Mrs Green, DofE Manager, for information.

Payment covers DofE registration fees and insurance, training, campsite fees, equipment, fuel and assessor fees.

What happens next? Timescale for completing your Bronze award

- January 2018: Student assembly, followed by Parent Information Evening.
- By 29th March 2018: **Registration**.
- Summer term 2018: **Training programme** for Expedition section, duration 10 weeks.
- September - October 2018: **Practice Expedition** (2 days, 1 overnight camp at Milton Bryan).
- Summer 2018 - Spring 2019: **Completion of Volunteering, Skills and Physical sections**. Drop-in after school sessions will be held during this time so you can submit information and evidence to your online DofE account, plus gain advice and support from DofE leaders.
- March 2019: **Planning for Assessed Expedition. In order for participants to take part, all other sections of the award must be complete and submitted online.**
- Summer 2019: **Assessed Expedition** (2 days, 1 overnight camp) and **award completion**.

Accessing Information

Information regarding expedition dates and timings, kit lists etc can be found on the school website in the drop-down 'Students' section under DofE Award. With the exception of a consent and medical form, before each expedition, DofE Vandyke operates on a paper-free basis. Communication is via email, so please provide an email address you access regularly.

For general queries, the official DofE site provides a wealth of information: www.dofe.org.uk

Participants can access all of the presentations used during the training programme on the school's intranet in the DofE folder.

Kit and Equipment

The following equipment is provided by DofE Vandyke: tents, cooking stoves, maps, map cases, compasses and first aid kits. Items are signed out to teams prior to expeditions. It is each team's responsibility to look after kit and return items complete and clean (tents dried out) after each expedition.

A complete kit list is available on the Vandyke website, please refer to this rather than the list provided on the DofE website as we have reduced the number of items needed. Where possible, costs are kept to a minimum at Bronze level. Well-fitting boots with ankle support and a waterproof jacket are essential kit. Many other items can be borrowed or you may already own.

Any other questions?

Contact Mrs F Green (DofE Manager) via phone: 01525 636700 or email: greenf@vandyke.cbeds.co.uk