



KINGS' SCHOOL, WINCHESTER

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Dear Parents/Guardians,

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Programme at Kings' school

2021 - 2022

Welcome to DofE at Kings'. Kings' is proud to have one of the most established and successful Duke of Edinburgh's Award Programmes in the South of England, with consistently one of the highest rates of successful award achievement. We have a large and highly experienced team of volunteers who take out over a dozen teams of pupils a year and guide them through the Bronze and Silver Awards Programmes. We can't offer Gold, that's for College, but we regularly hear from Gold groups that the pupils who have gone through the Bronze and Silver Awards at Kings' are some of the best prepared they ever get.

Over the past eighteen months we have moved from being run under the auspices of the local council to operating directly through the school, which is allowing us to be far more flexible in how we offer the Award Programmes, but we've also had to adapt a little due to Covid and its restrictions. Here we'll tell you a little more about how the DofE Programme at Kings' will operate from now on.

Getting Started

Any Kings' pupils in years 9/10/11 will be able to register and sign up for eDofE, the online portal of DofE, and undertake the three non-Expedition sections of the DofE programme: Skills, Physical and Volunteering. This is very much led by the individual pupils with online support from a DofE leader and will include an open evening, plus (covid permitting and where needed) an additional support session during the year.

The fourth section is obviously the Expedition, which at Kings' can be done in year 10/11. Signing up to the eDofE through Kings' does not require participants to do their Expedition here too; other clubs and organisations offer Expeditions too, including Scouts, Cadets etc, but the sections completed at Kings' are fully transferrable and the Award can be completed at any time before the individual is 24 years old. For those who do want to complete their DofE award at Kings' we are hoping to build our volunteer base to allow us to offer the Expedition element to every Kings' pupil who wants to do it.

What is required for BRONZE?

Non-Expedition

Participants signing up for the Bronze Award will need to complete two periods of three months each and one of six months (3/3/6) in their choice of a Skill, a Physical activity and Volunteering. It's up to them which one they do for six months. In each case they need to take part for at least an hour each week, be assessed by a suitable person and, in the Skill and Physical sections, show progress.

We offer and encourage pupils in year 9 the option to sign up for Bronze to get these sections underway and to get a strong start on the award programme, avoiding having so much to do in year 10. However, if pupils prefer they can sign up for Bronze in year 10 or 11 and can do the whole thing in one year, including the Expedition.

Expedition

The Expedition Programme is the most extensive and demanding section in DofE and what most people know it for. At Bronze level it is available for anyone in year 10 or 11, with priority given to those who have already signed up to eDofE and completed or made a good start on the other sections in year 9. The Expedition Programme consists of several training evenings spread throughout the year as well as a skills weekend, 4 weekend day-walks, a practice weekend (2 days of walking, one night camping) and the final expedition (2 days of walking, one night camping) on forest or downs terrain, such as the New Forest or South Downs. The participants will typically be split into groups of 7 and have two leaders assigned to their group.

All participants are expected to commit to their team and to attend all meetings and walks. We do understand that students often have busy extra-curricular lives, and this can cause diary clashes, and therefore DofE is not for everyone.

What is required for SILVER?

Non-Expedition

Participants signing up for the Silver award after completing their Bronze award will need to undertake an additional 6 months of Volunteering, plus three months and six months of a Skill and a Physical activity, it's their choice as to which they undertake for six months.

Pupils can undertake the Silver award directly, without completing their Bronze award, but will be required to undertake an additional six months of one of their two six month activities, effectively making the spread 3/6/12 months.

Silver is open to anyone in year 10 and 11 however we do strongly recommend the participants undertake the Bronze award first, and if places are limited, those who have completed their Bronze award will be given priority.

Expedition

The Silver Expedition programme is also open to all year 10 and 11 students, with priority given to those who have completed the Bronze award and who have already started the non-Expedition sections. Like with the Bronze award, the programme consists of several training evenings spread throughout the year as well as a skills weekend, 4 weekend day-walks, a practice weekend (3 days of walking, two nights camping) and the final expedition (3 days of walking, two nights camping) typically on hills or moorland such as Exmoor or Dartmoor. Both

the practice and final expeditions are typically held on Bank Holiday weekends or during vacation time. The participants will typically be split into groups of 7 and have two leaders assigned to their group.

As with the Bronze Award all participants are expected to commit to their team and to attend all meetings and walks. As with the Bronze Award we do understand that pupils often have busy extra-curricular lives, and this can cause diary clashes, more so with the Silver Award since the practice and final expedition weekends are often when families would usually take holidays. Please consider this carefully before signing up as missing training sessions or walks is only permitted for medical emergencies and missing either the practice or final expedition will mean that the student does not get their award.

Costs

Registration to eDofE (all participants): £35

Bronze Expedition Programme: £195

Silver Expedition Programme: £395

Final Words

The Duke of Edinburgh himself said that the Award was the proudest achievement of his full and remarkable life. We are proud to offer the pupils of Kings' the opportunity to take part and experience all it has to offer. It is an experience many cite as the most memorable and enjoyable of their school careers and former pupils frequently come back and comment that it had a fundamental and beneficial influence on their lives. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award teaches resilience, self-reliance, teamwork and a great deal more. We hope to see you getting involved.

Please click [here](#) to complete the online DofE Application Form for 2021 -2022

If you need further assistance please contact us via email doe@kings-winchester.hants.sch.uk

Yours faithfully

Kings' Duke of Edinburgh Team