Dear parent / carer,

I'm pleased to let you know that Kings' School offers the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) to students in Year 9.

The DofE is a great chance for your child to broaden their horizons, discover new interests and talents, have fun with friends, develop essential skills for their future and achieve an internationally renowned Award.

As Kings' DofE Manager, I wanted to send you some information about what a DofE programme involves, the benefits for your child and how they can sign up.

About the DofE

The DofE is non-competitive and open to all young people – it's about setting personal challenges and pushing personal boundaries. There are three levels of DofE programme which, when successfully completed, lead to a Bronze, Silver or Gold Award.

Through their DofE, students will make friends and memories and build traits like confidence, resilience and self-esteem, which can benefit mental health. They'll gain skills and attributes for work and life, like problem-solving, team-working and self-motivation – and they'll achieve an Award that's recognised by top employers and can help them stand out when applying for university or jobs.

To achieve their Bronze Award, participants must complete four sections: Skill, Volunteering, Physical and their Expedition.

Every young person's DofE programme is personal to them – they can choose what they'd like to do for their Skills, Volunteering and Physical sections, and most activities can count. We will provide guidance and support, and students can either choose to continue an activity they already do or discover something completely new.

Activities for each section take a minimum of one hour a week over a set period of time, so they can fit around studying, hobbies and social lives. For more details about programmes and timescales please visit www.dofe.org/do .

About the Expedition

The Expedition section involves your child working as part of a small team to plan their expedition's aim.

Your child will need to attend a training expedition on Saturday 24th April to Sunday 25th April 2027 to learn how to read a map, navigation, putting up tents, and many other skills they will need for their qualifying expedition. This will take place on Saturday 15th May to Sunday 16th May 2027.

Your child will need to be available for both dates to pass their Expedition section.

eDofE and the DofE app

Participants can create their DofE programme and record their progress using eDofE, the DofE's digital system, available online at eDofE.org and through the DofE app – downloadable for free from Google Play and the App Store.

If your child decides to enrol, we will set up their eDofE account and they will receive details of how to sign in and get started. We will also hold an eDofE launch session in due course

Signing up

The cost of taking part in the DofE is £240 per participant. This covers your child's participation place, Welcome Pack, and eDofE login details, which will be sent to their home address and includes their personalised DofE Discount Card. This cost also includes the cost of both the training and qualifying expeditions, hire of the key equipment for the expeditions and the required training.

If your child would like to take part, please login to your myEVOLVE account https://evolve.edufocus.co.uk/myevolve/login.asp or use the myEVOLVE app

An initial non-refundable payment of £35 will need to be made to secure your child's place. You will also be required to complete a consent form via myEVOLVE.

Payment schedule

Initial deposit £35 – to be paid by Friday 16th October

1st instalment £105 to be paid by Friday 4th December 2026

2nd instalment £100 to be paid by Friday 5th February 2027

If your child is eligible for Pupil Premium Funding , **or anyone unable to access the myEVOLVE booking system should contact trips@kings-hants.com or the Main School office on 01962 861161, by Monday 12th October and someone will be in touch to help.**

We are holding a Parent information evening for both Bronze and Silver participants on Thursday 1st October from 5pm-6pm. If your child is interested or expecting to complete their award with Kings' please attend as there will be vital information.

If you have any further questions we will be running a booth at the Year 9 meet the tutor event on **Tuesday 6th October**, and please do not hesitate to get in touch with the email below.

Many thanks for your support and we look forward to helping your child to achieve through their DofE.

Yours faithfully,

Miss K. Scratchley

DofE Manager

DofE@kings-winchester.hants.sch.uk