Dear Parent/Carer,

I'm delighted to let you know we are about to launch the Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) scheme for this academic year, which your child may be interested in.

Why do DofE?

Doing DofE is a brilliant way for a young person to discover just how much they are capable of. It gives young people the chance to make new friends, follow their passions, learn new skills and make a difference in the community. Achieving a DofE Award is a great way to impress employers too, this is a national award that will enhance any CV or personal statement. It also helps young people to see themselves differently and gain a new level of confidence. The DofE is non-competitive and a powerful way for every young person to build belief in themselves, whatever their background, interests and abilities.

If your child enjoyed completing their Bronze award, undertaking the Silver award is a great way to continue to develop skills, confidence and exceptional character. However, all Bronze Award sections must be completed and signed off *before* the Silver award sign up deadline.

If your child has not completed the Bronze award, there are some places available for direct entry to the Silver award.

How it works

To achieve their Award, your young person will need to complete four sections – Volunteering, Physical, Skills and the Expedition. Young people can choose their activities for the first three sections, to tailor the award to their interests. Pupils that have already completed Bronze can choose whether they want to continue with the same activities (although they should aim to work towards a more ambitious goal) or can decide to switch to new activities for their Silver award. Ideas for each section can be found on the DofE website. Do DofE - The Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

Skill: programme_ideas_-_skills.pdf

Physical: programme-ideas-Physical-1.pdf

Volunteering programme_ideas_-_volunteering.pdf

Each activity should be undertaken for a minimum of an hour a week. We will be here to support and guide pupils through these sections.

Timescales

Bronze award holders:

Volunteering: 6 months

Skill and Physical: one for 6 months and one for 3 months.

Direct Silver entry:

If you did not do the Bronze award, you must undertake a further 6 months in either the Volunteering or the longer of the Physical or Skills sections. This means that your award will take 12 months to complete in total.

Expedition

The Expedition runs over two events, a training expedition and a qualifying expedition. Both involve spending three days and two nights in the countryside. The training expedition, where pupils will receive training on navigation and campcraft, must be attended prior to going on the qualifying expedition. There will also be occasional afterschool meetings to help pupils prepare. Our school uses an approved external provider to facilitate the expedition section of the award, BXM Expeditions.

Expedition dates

Training Expedition, New Forrest: 2nd – 4th of July 2026.

Qualifying Expedition, West Dorset: 16th - 18th of July 2026

Please ensure your young person is available on both weekends.

Cost

The total cost is **£340 per person**. This price includes the booking of campsites; DofE instructors and assessors; use of tents and camping stoves; travel to both expeditions (pupils will need to be collected at the end of both expeditions) and eDofE admin charges. You may also need to purchase some additional pieces of kit for the expeditions, although most of the Bronze equipment can be reused. Each participant will receive a DofE discount card which can be used in a variety of outdoor shops to help towards the cost of these items.

The cost is split into three instalments:

16th October 2026 - Deposit: £35.

5th February 2027 - Expedition instalment 1: £150.00.

12th April 2027 Expedition instalment 2: £155.00.

You can pay any instalments prior to the deadline.

To sign up for the award

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 deposit 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.

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 has not done the Bronze Award please attend as there will be vital information.

Volunteering Opportunity

I am also looking for two DofE Young Leaders to support this year's Bronze Cohort. This is an official role that is recognised by the Duke of Edinburgh's award. Some responsibilities would include, helping year 9s with their eDofE admin one lunchtime a week; creating materials to promote DofE or pass on tips, attending and speaking at information evenings. This could be used for your volunteering section and would be a great opportunity to develop leadership skills. If you are interested, please email Mr Moore at the address below with why you are interested and what you can bring to the role.

Getting in touch

Please use the DofE website for further information or contact me using the email address below.

Best wishes,

Mr C. Moore

DofE Manager

DofE@kings-winchester.hants.sch.uk