

Dear Parent / Carer,

I am excited to inform you of the plan for Outwood Academy Ormesby to offer our Year 10 students the opportunity to take part in the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) scheme.

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 Outwood Academy Ormesby's DofE Manager, I wanted to inform you of what a DofE programme involves, the benefits for your child and how they can sign up as I am confident you will be keen to ensure your child benefits from this World renown scheme.

About the DofE

The DofE is non-competitive and open to all young people – it's about setting personal challenges and pushing personal boundaries. In our school we will focus on the Bronze 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 uni or jobs.

To achieve their Bronze Award, participants must complete four sections: Skills, 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 please visit the website:- 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, choose a location and do some training to make sure they're fully prepared – before spending two days and one night in the countryside. Prior to this, they will take part in a weekend training day in school covering basic expedition principles and introducing them to expedition equipment.

There will also be a number of training sessions on Thursday as part of the Enrichment offer from school in which your child and their group will plan their route and prepare. Participants will only be able to do their expedition if they attend the organised training.

Signing up

The cost of taking part in the DofE is **zero** per participant. Please do not worry about the cost of equipment as the scheme itself will loan equipment where necessary.

Today we introduced the scheme to all Year 10 students. If your child is interested in joining they must complete the sign-up form and return to me by **Friday 23rd of September 2022**. I will then invite interested students and parents to a further information evening to share our plans in more detail and answer any questions.

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

Yours faithfully,

Mr J Mitchell

DofE Manager

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