



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 at Bronze).

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

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

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

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

Is DofE for me?

It is really important that you do DofE because YOU want to do it and 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. **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. Places are limited (112), 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 see the registration form for more details.

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

What happens next? Timescale for completing your Bronze Award

- 22 June 2021: Online student assembly.
- By 5th July 2021: **Return registration form and make payment.**
- By 15th July 2021: Official registration with the DofE Award; you can now start working towards your 3 activity sections (Skills, Volunteering and Physical). There are lots of ideas on the DofE website: www.dofe.org/dofewithadifference/activities
- Autumn term 2021: **Training weekend** for the Expedition section.
- Spring 2022: **Completion of Volunteering, Skills and Physical sections.**
- Late Spring/Early Summer 2022: **Assessed Expedition (2 days, 1 overnight camp). In order for participants to take part, all other sections of the award must be complete and submitted online.**
- Summer 2022: **Award completion.**

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 teams' 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