



VANDYKE UPPER SCHOOL

Bronze Award: General Information pre-registration

What is the DofE Award?

- 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 £100. Places are limited to 112. If over-subscribed, names will be picked from a hat to join a waiting list. Support may be available for those in difficult financial circumstances from the Vandyke Opportunities Fund and for PP students it is fully funded. Please see the registration form given out at the Information Evening for more details.

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

What happens next - timescale for completing the Bronze Award

- **Start of January 2025:** Student assemblies.
- **Wednesday 22nd January 2025:** Parent/student Information Evening in the Vandyke theatre at 6.00pm.
- **Thursday 23rd – Wednesday 29th January 2025:** Return enrolment form, one signed agreement form and the bitesize planner to the Finance Department.
- **Payment of £28 registration fee from Monday 3rd February – Wednesday 12th February 2025.** This is non-refundable as it goes directly to the DofE award organisation.
- **Monday 3rd March 2025: Official registration with the DofE Award provided the £28 has been paid;** participants can now start working towards the 3 activity sections (Skills, Volunteering and Physical).
- **Remainder of fee (£72.00) to be paid in a lump sum or instalments by Monday 30th June 2025.**
- **Friday 26th to Saturday 27th September or Sunday 28th to Monday 29th September 2025:** Training/Practice Expedition at Vandyke. Day 1: Carousel of expedition training stations and camping overnight on the school field. Day 2: One day walk in local area.
- **Saturday 10th January 2026:** Assessed Expedition route planning session in the morning.
- **February 2026:** Completion of Volunteering, Skills and Physical activity sections.
- **Friday 20th to Saturday 21st or Sunday 22nd to Monday 23rd March 2026:** Assessed Expedition (2 days walking, 1 overnight camp in the local area).
- **Summer 2026:** Award completion and Awards Evening to celebrate.

Please note: no other expedition dates will be offered.

Kit and Equipment

The following equipment is provided by DofE Vandyke: tents, cooking stoves, fuel, maps, map cases, 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 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, a 65L rucksack and waterproof jacket and trousers are essential kit. Many other items can be borrowed or you may already own.

Any other questions?

Contact Miss H Gibbs, DofE Award Assistant Manager by email: gibbsh@vandyke.cbeds.co.uk or Mrs F Green, DofE Award Manager by email: greenf@vandyke.cbeds.co.uk