



July 2025

Dear Parent/Student

DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S BRONZE AWARD ENROLMENT 2025-26

As part of the school's extracurricular provision, Waddesdon has for many years given students the opportunity to participate in The Duke of Edinburgh's Award. The aim of DofE is to present students with a challenge that encourages personal discovery and growth, self-reliance, perseverance, responsibility for themselves and service to the community. To gain an Award, participants must complete four sections: Volunteering, Physical, Skill and Expedition (for the Gold Award an additional Residential Project section must also be completed). Details of these sections are available on the Duke of Edinburgh's Award website www.dofe.org

Students must be 13 years of age before they can embark on the Bronze Award, making those in Year 9 eligible to participate. In theory, students have until their 25th birthday to complete their Duke of Edinburgh's Award(s), providing flexibility where necessary.

DofE prides itself on its inclusivity and is open to all backgrounds, cultures and abilities. While much of DofE is completed and organised by individual students in their own time, there are usually some opportunities within school, for example to improve proficiency with a musical instrument as part of the Skill section or to participate in after-school team sports as part of the Physical section. The school also facilitates the Expedition section of the Award, either in-house or via an external organisation. Our in-house Expedition programme includes training, practice and assessment of camp-craft, navigation, country code, safety and working in a team; it involves classroom sessions, as well as the practical aspects of successfully completing an Expedition. Expeditions are undertaken in the immediate locality, as well as in the Chiltern Hills.

In order to give participating students the very best chance of completing their Bronze Award, we strongly encourage them to have completed and signed off at least two of the three independent sections of the Award (Volunteering, Physical, Skill) before they embark on their assessed Expedition next June.

The cost of starting Bronze DofE through the school is £40, (£30.50 is paid directly to DofE as the enrolment fee) plus an additional cost associated with each of the two Expeditions (typically around £75 each visit, depending on the venue). The DofE is able to financially support students in receipt of free school meals.

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As in previous years, it will be necessary to restrict the numbers that the school can take on Expedition due to the limited availability of resources, such as equipment, minibuses, and trained and qualified staff, etc. We have the facilities for 30 participants and will prioritise places for disadvantaged applicants and applicants with specific needs, to ensure those needs are met. After that, any remaining names will be drawn at random. However, all students who wish to, will have the opportunity to take part in DofE through our school.

Those who are not selected for our in-house Expedition programme will still be able to undertake this section of DofE with an Approved Activity Provider. The cost of this varies, depending on the provider, but Action4Youth, who have a long-standing relationship with Waddesdon and work on a non-profit basis, have indicated that they should be able to match our costs for a Training, Practice and Assessed Expedition bundle, as long as we can refer at least two walking teams to them.

I am attaching an informative PowerPoint presentation for the perusal of parents and students who are interested in joining. I am also attaching a document, outlining the relationship that DofE, participating schools and the pupil premium scheme share.

If your son/daughter is interested in participating in DofE, please pay the enrolment fee of £40 on ParentPay by Monday, 8 September at the latest. By registering for DofE and paying the enrolment fee, you agree to abide by the regulations of the award and enter into the spirit of the scheme.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Caswell
DofE Manager