

## **Duke of Edinburgh FAQs**

### **How old do you have to be to start the D of E Award?**

For Bronze, you must be in at least Year 9, for Silver you must be 15 and for Gold you must be 16.

### **How do I move up a level?**

To move onto your Silver Award, we ask that Bronze students complete their Award by Christmas of Year 10. For Silver students wishing to move onto Gold we ask that they complete their Award by Christmas of Year 11, or their 16<sup>th</sup> birthday.

### **What fees can I be expected to pay?**

Currently, each student has to pay £30 to get a license for each level and camp fees cost around £60. This covers both camps that participants will take part in. These fees can be paid in instalments if you so wish and we can offer financial support to students who may require it. We do hire out a small number of kit for Expedition at a minimal fee, but some kit will need to be bought by students. This can come in a range of prices and participants will attend a meeting to find out what is suitable and what prices can be expected. Prices for Gold can vary greatly as there is a vast range of activities that they may wish to complete.

### **What do I need to do to complete the award?**

Each participant must choose a volunteering, skill and physical activity to take part in for either a 3 or 6-month period. They must also complete 2 camping weekends and are expected to attend after school training sessions.

### **How are the Expedition weekends insured?**

Our Expedition weekends come under the same insurance as any other school trip.

### **How are participants selected?**

Any Year 9 or above student who wishes to take part on D of E needs to write a letter of application outlining why they want to do the Award and what they might get out of it. We have a large number of trained staff meaning we expect to be able to accept all students who apply onto the Scheme. We do expect the highest of standards of all our participants, and students who are repeatedly logged for behaviour issues in school will be removed from the Scheme until this improves. Participants are remotely supervised on their Expedition weekends and we have to be able to trust them to work together and stay safe at all times.

### **I've handed my letter in, what now?**

Keep an eye on the D of E noticeboard, located by the Hall next to the RE rooms, for training dates. You will receive a license form - please return this with your registration fee as soon as possible so we can set up your online account.

**What is edofe?**

Edofe is your online account where you keep track of your sections – Volunteering, Physical, Skills and Expedition. For each section you can upload the information for your activity, add evidence to show what you have done and an assessor comment to show what you have achieved. Once this is complete for each section you can submit it. You will have a training session to show you how this can all be done.

**Who do I put for my assessor?**

Your assessor is someone who leads the activity you are completing. For example, if your physical activity was to take part with a football team your assessor would be your coach. Your assessor CANNOT be a member of your family. If you are struggling to find an assessor for one of your activities, then see a member of the D of E staff at school who will try to help find something suitable.

**What do I do if I can't attend a training session?**

The dates for every training session in the year are posted on the D of E noticeboard so we expect participants to plan around these dates. Please let us know in advance of the session if it is unavoidable for you to miss it. In this situation we will give you the information you will miss and will catch up with you later to ensure you understand the session fully.

Obviously, if you are ill then you cannot attend a training session. If this is the case, please find us as soon as you are back so we can go over anything you missed.

Dates for writing route cards and your pre-expedition check are compulsory and cannot be changed to suit individual participants. They are part of your assessment, must be completed with your team, and you cannot pass the Award if you do not complete these sessions.

**Do I get to pick my own team?**

All participants will choose who they wish to share a tent with. Tents will either be 2-person or 3-person. D of E staff then allocate teams based on tent teams. This means everyone will be in a team with someone they know but will also be working with people that they might not necessarily know very well. We will only change teams in extreme circumstances.

**Can I bring my phone on Expedition?**

Yes, however school accepts no responsibility for your phone. Also, there is nowhere to charge it and very often there is little signal.

**I don't know when the next training session is, how can I find out?**

If you don't know when a meeting is your first port of call will be to check the D of E noticeboard. All dates for the year are posted on the board in September so make note of these and check regularly for any updates. You will be told at the end of each session when the next meeting is so make sure you write it down to help remind you. Training dates and general information is also posted on our Twitter page (@HodgsonDofE) so if you or a

parent/carer has Twitter you can follow us. We expect you to be responsible for yourself and this includes organising your time to ensure you attend all necessary sessions.

**I don't know...what to do for my physical section/what to bring on Expedition/what I have left to do on edofe, etc...**

We hope to cover everything you need to know over the course of the year through your training sessions. However, if you're still unsure of anything or have any other questions then just ask! Mrs Wade and Miss Wade are always around to try and answer any questions you have. There is also a large number of other staff with plenty D of E experience who would be able to help too. You will meet them during your training sessions so you'll know who to go to.