

September 2021

Dear Parent/ Carer

Your son/daughter has expressed an interest in participating in the Duke of Edinburgh's Gold award this year. In this pack you will find a little information about what the Duke of Edinburgh's (DofE) award scheme is, what is involved at each of its three levels, and how your child may enrol if they wish.

This year Apex Expeditions Ltd will be taking over the running of the DofE expedition section for The Bourne Academy. Apex Expeditions are a Dorset based company who offer an amazing range of expeditions, especially for those involved in the DofE award. With over 20 years of combined expedition knowledge and experience, they will be delivering expeditions that range from the lowlands of the Purbecks to the river and lochs of Scotland.

What is the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme?

14–24 year olds can do a DofE programme at one of three progressive levels which, when successfully completed, leads to a Bronze, Silver or Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

There are four sections to complete at Bronze and Silver level and five at Gold. They involve helping the community/environment, becoming fitter, developing new skills, planning, training for and completing an expedition and, for Gold only, working with a team on a residential activity.

Any young person can do their DofE – regardless of ability, gender, background or location. Achieving an Award isn't a competition or about being first. It's all about setting personal challenges and pushing personal boundaries.

Through a DofE programme young people have fun, make friends, improve their self-esteem and build confidence. They gain essential skills and attributes for work and life such as resilience, problem-solving, team-working, communication and drive, enhancing CVs and university and job applications. Top employers recognise the work-ready skills Award holders bring to their business.

What is involved at each level?

There are three levels of programme you can do which, when you've successfully completed them, lead to a Bronze, Silver or Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award. The main differences

between them are the minimum length of time it takes to complete them, how challenging it is and the minimum age you can start. Students at The Bourne Academy can start the DofE award in Year 9 where they will begin with the Bronze award. Older students can do a direct entry award to Silver; however, most students usually prefer to start at Bronze and work upwards.

Activities for each DofE section take a minimum of one hour a week over a set period, so they can be fitted in around academic study, hobbies and social lives.

Gold Timescales (Year 12)

For Gold, your child will need to do their programme for at least 12 months if they've achieved their Silver Award, or 18 months if they're doing a direct entry starting at Gold level without having done their Silver – even if they have done Bronze. The big difference at Gold is they will also do a Residential section – staying away from home for five days and four nights doing a shared activity with people you don't know.

- Volunteering section: 12 months
- Physical and Skills sections: One section for 12 months and the other section for 6 months
- Expedition section: 4 days/3 nights
- Residential section: Undertake a shared activity in a residential setting away from home for 5 days and 4 nights.

If your child is a direct entry to Gold, they must undertake a further 6 months in either the Volunteering or the longer of the Physical or Skills sections.

The sections of DofE explained

There are four main sections of a DofE programme; Physical, Skills, Volunteering, and Expedition. At Gold participants will also complete a Residential section.

Below, find the requirements for each section, including information on what activities count and how long to do them.

Physical

For the physical activity your child will need to choose any sport, dance or fitness activity – in short, anything that requires a sustained level of energy and physical activity. For example, playing a sport regularly and showing personal improvement would count. However, learning to be a coach in the same sport would be a Skills section activity, whilst being a volunteer coach counts for the Volunteering section.

Skills

For the skills activity your child needs to choose an activity that will allow them to prove that they have broadened their understanding and increased their expertise in their chosen skill. It should not be a physical activity, for example horse riding, as this counts towards your Physical section, however, they could choose to learn about caring for horses.

Volunteering

Volunteering is simple. It's about choosing to give time to help people, the community or society, the environment or animals.

Volunteering must not be done for a business but can be undertaken for a charity or not-for-profit organisation. Where volunteering is in support of surplus generating work, for example a charity shop,

then some Local Authorities may require a work permit. The charity you are volunteering with should be aware of this and support you as required.

For the volunteering activity your child needs to choose to give time to do something useful without getting paid (apart from expenses).

They can also volunteer in a team, which might be an easier way to find an activity if they can identify a local need they can help with.

Expedition

The Expedition section, will need to be planned, trained for and be completed as an unaccompanied, self-reliant expedition with an agreed aim. Your child must do the correct training for their level, at least one practice expedition, a qualifying expedition (the one that is assessed) and a final presentation in order to complete the section.

Residential – Gold Award only

For the Residential section your child will need to undertake a shared activity or specific course with people they don't know, in a residential setting away from home and in an unfamiliar environment. Evenings are often as much a part of the experience as daytime activities.

This section offers a high degree of flexibility, but it must be done with an organised group, registered charity or Approved Activity Provider. Your child must join it individually and not with an existing group of friends or as part of a school or youth group trip. They will be staying away – anything from an activity centre or camp to a boat or barge – but they cannot stay with friends or relatives.

There are no age restrictions on who your child can do their residential activity with, for example, a conservation project has volunteers of all ages on it – they may even be the only person under 25 or doing DofE.

The activity can be anything that provides them with an opportunity for broadening their interests and experiences. It is ideal for trying something new or it can be related to existing interests or activities followed in other sections of your child's DofE programme.

How much will it cost?

The costings overleaf are for Apex Expeditions, practice and qualifying weekends. Training will be completed by The Bourne Academy. There may be additional fuel costs at Silver and Gold levels in order to transport the students in The Bourne Academy minibuses to locations such as the Lake District / Wales or Scotland. At Bronze level the students will be based locally and be arranging their own transport.

Apex Expeditions costings are based on a minimum of 28 participants for Bronze and silver & at gold it is based on a minimum of 14 participants. The cost may increase if these numbers are not met.

Award Prices

Gold SUP - £465 – Lake District & Scotland

When are the expedition dates?

Students will need to complete all expeditions. If they are unable to attend, they will need to be responsible for sourcing alternative arrangements in order to complete each stage of training, practice and qualifying.

Gold

Practice Paddleboard 30th April- 7th May 2022 (Lake District)

Qualifying Paddleboard 8th – 14th July 2022 (Scotland)

How can your child enrol?

If your child would like to enrol on to one of the DofE awards they will need to fill in the correct enrolment form (attached). They must return this form to me, Mr Harlowe, in the PE office by **Friday 22 October**. A **deposit of £150.00** (for Gold) must be paid using the Academy's online payment system, www.scopay.com by Friday 26 November. Payment plans for each level of the DofE awards are shown below:

Date payment due by:	Bronze	Silver	Gold
22 October 2021	£50.00	£50.00	£75.00
26 November 2021	£50.00	£50.00	£75.00
31 January 2022	£30.00	£40.00	£60.00
28 February 2022	£30.00	£40.00	£60.00
31 March 2022	£20.00	£30.00	£60.00
30 April 2022			£60.00
31 May 2022			£60.00
30 June 2022			£15.00

If your child is eligible for Free School Meals, or has been at any point in the last 6 six year, please contact the Finance Department for possible funding assistance.

What happens after my child enrolls?

Your child will receive their DofE information pack after a few weeks. This will include their log book, further information, discount cards for clothing and their eDofE log-in code to their online account. Your child will be able to manage their award i.e. recording their volunteering hours etc. by logging into their account and uploading their information. They will have complete control on their award 24/7, this is particularly useful if they miss a weekly meeting at school. It gives them the independence to be responsible for their award, keeping their log books up to date and ensuring that they are on track with their timescales. They will never be able to say that they don't know what to do as it is all on their account!

Your child will be attending meetings at school, these will be held on Wednesday's in STEM 21 room at 1:40 Initially these meetings will be to get the students logged on to their eDofE accounts, and to decide what they will be doing for each of their sections. After Christmas the students will be meeting to plan their expeditions.

If you would like further information, please refer to the DofE website www.dofe.org.uk. If you would like further information regarding costings or expedition details, please do not hesitate to contact me on Jamie.harlow@thebourneacademy.com.

Yours sincerely

Mr Jamie Harlowe
2nd In PE & DofE Coordinator

ENROLMENT FORM

Please print clearly in CAPITALS or type your details in. You must complete all the questions.

DofE Centre and group details (if you know them):

DofE Centre: The Bourne Academy	DofE group:
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DofE level:

Bronze <input type="checkbox"/> Silver <input type="checkbox"/> Gold <input type="checkbox"/>
Have you registered for any previous levels of the DofE? No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
If YES – please give the name of the DofE Centre you were registered at: eDofE ID number (if known) :

Personal details:

First name:	Last name:
Date of birth: / /	Gender:
Email address:	
Date you wish to start your DofE programme if known (enrolment date): 27 /09 /2021	

When you first sign in to eDofE you will be asked to record some personal details such as your contact details, ethnicity and personal circumstances along with details of any medical needs you may have. This data is used to enable your Leaders to support you doing your DofE programme and for the DofE's statistical and reporting purposes. You will always have a 'prefer not to say' option.

Student Declaration:

I agree to enrol as a participant on a DofE programme. I understand that I will be managing my programme using the online eDofE system. I acknowledge that this system has a set of terms and conditions that I agree to. These terms and conditions are available at www.eDofE.org

Print Name	Signature	Date
		/ /

Consent to enrol from parent or guardian (if applicant is under 18 years old).

I agree to my son / daughter / ward doing a DofE programme. I note that it is my responsibility to check that any activity my son / daughter / ward undertakes for their DofE programme is appropriately managed and insured, unless the activity is directly managed or organised by their DofE group, centre or Licensed Organisation.

Print Name	Signature	Date
		/ /

Note:

Data supplied on this form and in eDofE and information about DofE activities recorded in eDofE will be used by the DofE Charity, the Licensed Organisation and DofE centre to monitor and manage DofE participation and progress by young people and manage and support Leaders.

The DofE Charity will use personal data to communicate useful and relevant information to either help participants complete a DofE programme, Leaders/LOs to run DofE programmes more effectively or help the DofE Charity to improve the quality and breadth of its programmes.

We also send emails that contain information about the Charity, DofE negotiated privileged discounts and invites to events and other activities however if you would like to receive these emails you will need to opt in. Once you have opted-in to this you can opt out at any time by visiting www.dofe.org/preferences, or clicking the unsubscribe link that can be found at the bottom of all non-programme related email.

For Licensed Organisation/Centre administration only:

Date registered onto eDofE	/ /
Expected start date	/ /
Participant Fee received	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Username	
User ID number	