



13th January 2023

Dear parent / carer,

I'm pleased to inform you that Forest Way School will be introducing the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) as part of our KS4/Post16 curriculum. We have identified students that we feel will benefit from accessing the award and they will be starting the qualification this term. Our school curriculum is very broad and life skills are a key focus throughout. For this reason, students will be able to gain the qualification using the majority of their schoolwork. There may be occasions where additional tweaks are required but everything that is needed to complete the award will be delivered in school.

The DofE is a great chance for your child to broaden their horizons, discover new interests and talents, have fun with friends, develop essential skills for their future and achieve an internationally renowned Award. Students who participate in activities outside of school may be able to use this as evidence for their award.

Traditionally one of the sections of this award requires students to complete a two-day expedition which includes an overnight camp. Since the pandemic there is not a necessity to complete the expedition section although we hope that almost all of our students will be able to do so. In the case of an expedition not being possible for the student they still able to achieve a Duke of Edinburgh certificate of achievement, just not the full award.

Unless we hear from you, your child will be enrolled on the Duke of Edinburgh course and will be supported at all times by their teacher to ensure that able to complete this course. We will be speaking to the students about this course in the next few weeks. Fortunately, we have at least one post 16 student who has completed her Bronze award outside of school and she will be able to talk to the students about her journey and much she enjoyed completing it.

There will be no cost to our students to sign up and complete the course, school were able to obtain a grant from DofE to support with enrolment cost and licence fees. I have included further information about the DofE programme on the back of this letter and an additional flyer. Many thanks for your support, we look forward to helping your child to achieve through their DofE. If you require any further information, please give us a call.

Yours Sincerely



Sarah Wallace

Deputy Headteacher

About the DofE

The DofE is non-competitive and open to all young people – it's about setting personal challenges and pushing personal boundaries. There are three levels of DofE programme which, when successfully completed, lead to a Bronze, Silver or Gold Award.

Through their DofE, students will make friends and memories and build traits like confidence, resilience and self-esteem, which can benefit mental health. They'll gain skills and attributes for life and work, such as problem-solving, team-working and self-motivation and self help skills. They'll achieve an Award that's widely recognised by employers and nationwide.

To achieve their Bronze Award, participants must complete four sections: Skills, Volunteering, Physical and their Expedition, although if the Expedition is not completed your child will still be receive a DofE certificate of achievement just not the full award.

Every young person's DofE programme is personal to them – they can choose what they'd like to do for their Skills, Volunteering and Physical sections, and most activities can count. We will provide guidance and support, and students can either choose to continue an activity they already do or discover something completely new.

Activities for each section take a minimum of one hour a week over a set period of time, so they can fit around studying, hobbies and social lives. Students at Forest way school we be fully supported to complete all of their sections within school. For more details about programmes and timescales [see the enclosed leaflet / visit DofE.org/do].

About the expedition

The Expedition section involves your child working as part of a small team to plan their expedition's aim, choose a location and do some training to make sure they're fully prepared – before spending two days and one night in the countryside, school grounds can be used if this is deemed more suitable.

Ahead of this, they will take part in several training sessions within the school to cover basic expedition principles and introducing them to expedition equipment. Fortunately, the majority of our students have participated in Forest Schools and will be have a real advantage on this section.

eDofE and the DofE app (optional)

Participants can create their DofE programme and record their progress using eDofE, the DofE's digital system, available online at eDofE.org and through the DofE app – downloadable for free from Google Play and the App Store.

If your child decides to enrol, we will set up their eDofE account and they will receive details of how to sign in and get started. It is not essential that your child enrolls on the app as school will be able to log all of their evidence for them.