



September 2024

Dear Parent / Carer

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme was designed to challenge young people between the ages of 14-24 to attain standards of achievement and endeavour in a wide variety of active interests – to serve their communities, experience adventure and to develop and learn outside the classroom. When your child does their DofE programme they'll develop the skills and attitudes they need to become more rounded, confident adults. Qualities to which colleges, universities and employers are attracted. So, when you support your child's pursuit of their Duke of Edinburgh's Award, you're investing in their future.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award has been run at North Leamington School for a number of years and has grown significantly over the last couple, so much so that, this year, 97 Year 9 students completed their Bronze award; 57 Year 10 students completed Silver and 19 Year 12 students completed their Gold award.

This means, 173 students achieved their award at one of the three levels. That not only means that our students completed their expeditions, the iconic element of DofE, but that they have contributed over 5,000 hours of volunteering to our local community; have developed themselves by spending over 3, 500 hours learning new skills and have partaken in an additional 2,500 hours of physical activities as part of their awards.

These are phenomenal numbers. As we move into this academic year, we are looking to increase our numbers again and, if your child is in Year 9 (Bronze) or Year 10 (Silver) currently (September 2024), I would ask you to seriously consider the benefits that undertaking DofE can provide to young people.

To provide you with more information, we are holding two Parental Engagement evenings on **Thursday 12th September 2024** for the parents of any **Year 10s** who may wish to do the **Silver award** and **Thursday 19th September 2024** for the parents of any **Year 9s** who may wish to complete the **Bronze award**. The evenings will each begin at 5.00pm and run for about an hour. They will provide you, the parents and carers of our students, with all of the information that you will need in order to allow your child to complete the awards.

Briefly, the following infographics demonstrate what your child will need to do in order to complete the award at each level.

BRONZE		<i>PLUS a further 3 months in the Volunteering, Physical or Skills section.</i>
Volunteering 3 months		
Physical 3 months		
Skills 3 months		
Expedition 2 days 1 night		
		
SILVER		<i>Plus an extra 6 months in the Volunteering, or the longer of the Physical or Skills sections if you haven't got Bronze.</i>
Volunteering 6 months		
Physical	one section for 6 months, the other for 3 months	
Skills		
Expedition 3 days 2 nights		
		

For the expedition section, there will be one weekend of training for each of the awards and these will be detailed to you on the Parental Engagement Evenings. At these, the students will learn how to navigate, read maps, pack their kit, set up their tents and cook using the fuel burners so that they are ready to do this all for themselves, whilst out on expedition.

Because we understand that expedition kit can be expensive, at North Leamington School we provide for students the following kit: 65lt rucksack, tent (shared between 2 or 3), cooking stove & fuel, roll mat, first aid kit, map (1 per walking group), map pocket and compass. All other expedition kit, including sleeping bag, utensils, and food will need to be supplied by home.

Pupils may use their own rucksack provided it is a minimum of 65lt and tent so long as it is 2-3 person

A full list of other kit that is required is supplied below:

Walking boots, waterproofs, sleeping bag, a change of clothes for camp, trainers/flipflops, packed lunch, dinner to be cooked on a Trangia (e.g. dry pasta, boil-in-a-bag meal), breakfast (hot chocolate, porridge pot), water bottle, plastic bag for litter, utensils, medication, sun cream, sun hat, wristwatch, sweets & snacks.

If you want to learn more, please email me at jbarrett@northleamington.co.uk look at the DofE website <https://www.dofe.org> and please do come along to our Parental Engagement evenings on Thursday 12th September 2024 for Silver and Thursday 19th September 2024 for Bronze.

Yours faithfully



Mr James Barrett

DofE Manager at North Leamington School

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