



Friday 4 September 2026

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 develop the skills and attitudes they need to become more rounded, confident adults; qualities that are extremely attractive to colleges, universities and employers. Therefore, when you support your child's pursuit of their Duke of Edinburgh's Award, you are 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, 115 Year 9 students completed their Bronze award; 93 Year 10 students completed Silver and 42 Year 12 students completed their Gold award.

This means, 250 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 and better than most schools from Warwickshire and the neighbouring counties who have a longer history with DofE. As we move into next year, we are looking for similar numbers again and, if your child is in Year 9 (Bronze) or Year 10 (Silver), 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 17 September 2026 for the parents of any Year 9s who may wish to do the Bronze award and Thursday 1 October 2026 for the parents of any Year 10s who may wish to complete the Silver award. The evenings will each begin at 5.00pm in the theatre 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.



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 and even more comprehensive one can be found on our DLH:

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 17 September 2026 for Bronze and Thursday 1 October 2026 for Silver from 5.00 till 6.00pm.

Yours faithfully

Mr James Barrett

DofE Manager at North Leamington School

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