

Our ref: 8759535

16 March 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

Re: Duke of Edinburgh's Award

I am pleased to let you know that South Hunsley School offers the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) to students in year 9.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award 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.

As the Duke of Edinburgh Manager, I wanted to send you some information about what a Duke of Edinburgh programme involves, the benefits for your child and how they can sign up.

About the Duke of Edinburgh Award

The Duke of Edinburgh is non-competitive and open to all young people – it is about setting personal challenges and pushing personal boundaries. There are three awards in the Duke of Edinburgh programme which, when successfully completed, lead to a Bronze, Silver and then Gold Award.

Through their Duke of Edinburgh, students will make friends and memories and build traits like confidence, resilience and self-esteem, which can benefit mental health. They will gain skills and attributes for work and life, such as problem-solving, team-working and self-motivation – and they will achieve an award that is recognised by top employers and can help them stand out when applying for university or jobs.

To achieve their Bronze Award, participants must complete four sections: Volunteering, Skills, Physical and their Expedition.

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

During and in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, participants who complete their Skills, Volunteering and Physical sections will also receive a DofE Certificate of Achievement, a formal recognition, by the Award, of their efforts at this extraordinary time.

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 (they do not have to tackle all activities at the same time). For more details about programmes and timescales please visit [Duke of Edinburgh.org/do](https://www.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 are fully prepared – before spending two days and one night in the countryside.

Ahead of this, they will take part in training sessions on a Wednesday evening, These are usually twice a month; in the season leading up to expedition, and may include longer sessions on a weekend. The training covers basic expedition principles and introduces them to expedition equipment. There will also be a number of training sessions in which your son/daughter and their group will plan their route. Participants will only be able to do their expedition if they attend the organised training.

The Duke of Edinburgh and COVID-19

Your child can still have the full DofE experience, safely and in line with Government guidance, during the COVID-19 outbreak. The motivation and focus the Duke of Edinburgh gives, and its positive impact on mental and physical health, can play an important role in helping your child navigate our 'new normal', safely expanding their world and giving them skills and experiences to open doors in the future.

As participants can choose and change their activities, they can pick ones that they can do while social distancing or from home. The Duke of Edinburgh programme has provided useful advice and information, including activity and volunteering ideas, at <https://www.dofe.org/dofewithadifference/activities/physical>

The Duke of Edinburgh programme has also introduced a number of flexibilities to allow expeditions to take place safely, in line with social distancing restrictions and Government guidance. While your son/daughter's expedition may look slightly different to those in previous years, they will be able to do theirs safely and with all the benefits and memories they would get at any other time.

eDuke of Edinburgh and the Duke of Edinburgh app

Participants can create their Duke of Edinburgh programme and record their progress using eDofE, the Duke of Edinburgh's digital system, available online at <https://edofe.org> and through the Duke of Edinburgh 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.

Signing up

The cost of taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh is £165 per participant. This covers your son/daughter's participation place and Welcome Pack, which will be sent to their home address and includes their personalised Duke of Edinburgh Discount Card.

If your son/daughter would like to take part, please complete and return the enclosed enrolment form to Mr Scott, or to Mr Chambers in the science prep room marked for the attention of Mr Scott, by Thursday 8 April 2021.

If the cost of taking part is prohibitive, please speak to me as there may be financial support available to you.

If you would like any further information in the meantime, please feel free to contact me.

Many thanks for your support and we look forward to helping your child to achieve through the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S Scott". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Steve Scott

DofE Manager

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