

Wednesday 20th May 2025

Re: Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Bronze Award

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am really pleased to be able to launch the Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Bronze Award to your child. The DofE awards are a series of internationally recognised awards that allow young people to develop and demonstrate many key skills for life whilst providing a great opportunity for students to make memories and 'get outside their comfort zone'.

The Bronze Award consists of 4 elements which are Volunteering, Physical, Skill and Expedition.

Stage 1 of the Award at OSCA focuses on the Volunteering, Physical and Skill sections.

Students need to complete 1 hour per week of each activity for a minimum of 3 months (one activity of the three must be for 6 months) logging them from September onwards. These could be activities they already take part in e.g. Football Teams, Music lessons or completely new activities they start for the award. Students will have the ability to complete all of these sections at OSCA if they wish, however they have to be completed as extra-curricular activities. As long as students have 3 months of each activity completed by the end of the January 2026 they will progress onto Stage 2.

Stage 2 includes the final 3 months of 1 activity and the expedition training. Expedition training will take place every week on a Wednesday (occasional sessions might be on different days). Most sessions will be 1 hour; however some sessions e.g. First Aid will last longer. Students will be working in groups of between 4-7 people. These sessions will allow your child to plan and be suitably trained ready to complete the expedition stage. By the end of Stage 2, the remaining 3 months of the last activity should be completed. A minimum of 80% attendance to sessions is required to continue onto stage 3.

Stage 3 are the expeditions themselves. The provisional dates are:

Practice Expedition 29th April – 1st May 2027 – Lickey & Waseley Hills
Assessed Expedition 20th – 21st May 2027 – Kinver

On these expeditions, students will carry out 6 hours of activity each day (mostly walking) in groups. They will navigate from a start point to a campsite, carrying all the equipment/food they need for the 2 days. They will cook a meal and camp overnight before completing another 6 hours of activity on the second day. They will be directly supervised/trained on the first day of the Practice Expedition and then remotely supervised on Day-2 and the Assessed Expedition. OSCA has Rucksacks, Tents, Cookers, Sleeping Bags and other specialist equipment to keep the awards as accessible as possible. Your child will need some suitable footwear e.g., walking boots and a good waterproof coat (waterproof trousers are also recommended).

Students will only progress to the next stage of the award if they complete the previous stage. If they do not complete the previous stage, they will be deferred to the following year.

To support students participating in the award, we have split the payments into 3 stages.

Total Payment is **£190** which includes Membership, License Fee, Training Resources, Expedition Costs and Equipment Maintenance.

All payments will be **non-refundable** as the money will be spent e.g. to DofE for membership and license fee.

Payment 1 - £60 ASAP – Secures the place and registration

Payment 2 - £60 by 31st January 2027

Payment 3 - £70 by 30th April 2027

What to do next?

- 1) Speak to your child – do they want to do DofE? DofE is a commitment, students can gain a lot from it, but they must commit to the sessions e.g. Wednesday Training Sessions
- 2) Reserve a place through ParentPay – Places are limited to 42. The initial payment of £60 will reserve a place for your child and pay the registration fee.
- 3) Help your child decide the activities they are going to do. The DofE website is very useful for researching activity ideas – alternatively, I will be able to help.
- 4) Get working on the first 3 sections. Students can begin to work on the 3 sections from September – this can be backlogged.
- 5) Your child will be invited to Registration meetings to introduce them to the EDofE online portal. They may wish to download the DofE app in advance of these sessions.

Thank you in anticipation of your support of the award. It is a big commitment, but it also receives a lot of recognition. It is a real opportunity for our students to challenge themselves, gain some skills and make some great memories. This year's Bronzes have had a fantastic year and I cannot wait to see the new cohort come through and do the same, making some amazing memories along the way.

If your child is registered as Pupil Premium, you may also be able to receive a reduced price – please speak to Mr. Round if that is the case.

If you have any questions/queries then please email me at roundj@ormistonsandwell.org.uk

Many Thanks and Kindest Regards,

Mr J Round