October 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

Year 9 Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award – 2026/27

I am delighted to announce the launch of the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE). I am the DofE Manager for Nidderdale High School and wanted to write to let you know more about what's involved.

Why do DofE?
Doing their DofE is a brilliant way for your young person to discover just how much they are capable of. It gives young people the chance to make new friends, follow their passions, learn new skills, and make a difference in our community. Achieving a DofE Award is a great way to impress employers too. And it helps young people to see themselves differently and gain a new level of confidence. We always say that after taking on your DofE, you know that whatever life throws at you, you're ready to deal with it.

The DofE is non-competitive and a powerful way for every young person to build belief in themselves, whatever their background, interests, and abilities.

To achieve the Award, students must complete a personal programme of activities in four sections: volunteering, physical, skills and an expedition. The Award is designed to enable young people to help others in the community, get fitter, develop skills, and go on an expedition. The Award is internationally recognised and is looked at favourably by employers, colleges, and universities.

Young people can choose what they would like to do for the first three sections, and we will provide all the guidance and support they need. The Expedition involves spending two days and one night in the countryside. We provide comprehensive training beforehand to ensure everyone is fully prepared and has the best possible experience.

As a school we deliver the expedition section of the Award and support students with the other sections. However, it will be the student's responsibility to organise and complete the other three sections on their own.

Next steps

I have attached the relevant information to this letter via a PowerPoint and a Key Information Word document. If you cannot access the PowerPoint, please let school know and we will issue your son/daughter a hard copy of all the key information.

We hope lots of our young people will take this opportunity to get involved with DofE. The cost is £100 per person (If your child receives Free School Meals then the cost will be £50.) This is payable in 3 instalments and £30 of this will be the deposit to secure your child's place. (If your child is interested in taking part but the cost is prohibitive, please do speak to me as we may be able to arrange financial support.) The fee will cover logbooks, maps, expedition training and final expedition, instruction, equipment, and insurance. Please be aware that some equipment and all food, will also need to be paid for by the participants.

There will be a compulsory afterschool information session until 4.15 for students who are interested/wanting to take part on Thursday 19th November.

All sessions are compulsory as they form an essential part of the expedition training and our health and safety risk assessments. I have listed several dates on the PowerPoint and key information letter. Non-attendance or significant behavioural concerns may mean forfeiting their place on the program. Please be aware, some of these dates may have to be altered nearer the time due to unforeseen circumstances.

There is a substantial time commitment to the Award therefore, if unsure, we advise that you consider your son/daughter's priorities and seek guidance from their Form Tutors, myself or Miss Tuffs. There is also an expectation for you to support your son/daughter during the Award and communicate with school as and when required.

As a school we have run DofE successfully for many years now. It is an Award which encourages independence, confidence, resilience, and teamwork. We welcome all applications for this Award as it is such a valuable course to complete. If your son/daughter would like to take part in the scheme and you would like more information, please do not hesitate to contact me at school. For additional information please visit http://dofe.org/.

If your son/daughter would like to participate in this exciting programme, please click here to fill in the enrolment and consent form.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Couldwell
DofE Manager