

Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award

Thank you for showing an interest in doing the Bronze Award – it is good to see your interest in taking part in this award. The PowerPoint from the assembly will be put on the school website for you and your parents to look at together so you are fully aware of what you are signing up for.

The first thing to emphasize is that there are 4 sections to the scheme, and we expect students to complete all 4 of them – if you are simply interested in the expedition then there are cheaper ways of going walking / camping in the Peak District. We expect you to have submitted all 3 programme planners and have completed the 2 x 3month sections by the end of June. If that is not the case then your place will be withdrawn.

The three ongoing sections...

- volunteering / physical / skill
- you need to do 3 months on two of them, and six months on the third – your choice
- you need to spend roughly one hour per week for the duration of the activity
- you need to submit a programme planner for approval, i.e. what you intend to do
- you need to find someone who will assess you, i.e. supervise your progress and write a report at the end; this CANNOT be a family member
- there can be some overlap between the three sections e.g. a sports club where you do both physical (your own development) and volunteering (supporting younger children at the club)... but you shouldn't do the same thing for all three sections

Volunteering

- charity work e.g. shop or animal centre (may be an age limit)
- conservation work e.g. a nature reserve
- working with younger children, including sports coaching / tutoring
- support within your community e.g. an older neighbor
- fund-raising for a charity (check that you can spend an hour per week doing this)
- leadership – the CCF counts for this
- being involved with a faith / religious group

Physical

- fitness e.g. couch to 5k, online yoga (will still need an assessor's report)
- continue with a sport that you already do
- learn a new sport

Skill

- cookery
- creative writing
- music
- arts and crafts
- photography
- learn a new language (MFL lessons in school don't count!)
- first aid

The expedition....

- you will do two consecutive training days in September – the Saturday will be teaching you all of the basic skills that you need; the Sunday will be putting these into practice with a local walk (no overnight stay)
- you will then do a final expedition in Derbyshire at the end of September, which will be two days of walking, with an overnight camp
- if you don't do both days of the training weekend, you will not be able to do the final expedition
- you will need to organize yourselves into groups of 7 – this is better if done as single sex, although can be done as mixed groups... but on the campsite there will be separate camping areas for boys and girls
- you can also put your names forward in smaller groups and we will then combine these eg a group of 3 and a group of 4
- we can't have smaller groups as we are limited to 12 groups, so we need to have the maximum of 7 in each to allow as many students as possible to take part
- the company will provide group kit (tents, stoves etc), but you will need to provide all personal kit – this includes sleeping bags, rucksacks, waterproofs and boots
- rucksacks need to be of an appropriate size, so check with us if you are intending to buy one (we do have some that can be lent out)
- boots need to be worn in, but don't buy too soon if there is a chance that you will outgrow them by September!
- ask friends / family if they have any kit that you can borrow, before rushing out and buying everything from new
- we will try to support PP / FSM students
- all kit needs to be ready for inspection for the first training weekend

Support

- speak to older siblings who may have done it
- use the DofE website / app
- use the DofE email address with any queries DoEBronze@arnoldhillspencer.org.uk
- find staff for a chat – Mr Hatfield / Mr Houston

Finally... as said at the beginning, we are delighted to see your interest. You do need to appreciate that you are signing up for the whole package – we do not want students who are just interested in the expedition. We also reserve the right to exclude any students who do not demonstrate a suitable attitude to all activities, and respect to all staff who deliver it. Behavior in school will also be taken into account.

Next steps... an introduction letter will go out to parents, on here will be the link to the sign-up form and scopay to pay the deposit. Once we have received the form and deposit payment, we will register you with DofE and then you will receive a DofE welcome pack, and be set up with an online account, so can start thinking about those three activities.

At the end of 2025 we will hold a presentation event for all students who have achieved their Bronze Award.

Mr Hatfield

Duke Of Edinburgh

Assistant Manager

Arnold Hill Spencer Academy