



**YOUTH
WITHOUT
LIMITS**

15th January 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

I'm delighted to let you know that Arnold Hill Spencer Academy will be offering the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) to students in Year 9.

Doing DofE is a great way for your child to discover just how much they are capable of. It gives young people the chance to broaden their horizons, have fun with friends, follow their passions, learn new skills and make a difference in our community. Gaining a DofE Award is a great way to impress employers too.

In this letter you will find some information about what the DofE programme involves and what the next steps are.

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

Participants can choose what they'd like to do for their Skill, Volunteering and Physical sections, and most activities can count. Activities for each section take a minimum of one hour a week over a set period of time (6 months for one section and three months for the other two), so they can fit around studying, hobbies and social lives.

The Expedition section involves your child working as part of a small team of 7 students to plan their expedition's aim, choose a route and do some training to make sure they're fully prepared – before spending two days and one night in the countryside. We outsource this element of the DofE program to the company Wayahead Training. There will be an in-school training day on Saturday 13th September, followed by a training walk on Sunday 14th September. This training walk will be in Nottinghamshire and parental transport will be required. The final expedition will be in Derbyshire on Friday 26th September and Saturday 27th September. This will be two days of walking, with an overnight camp. Transport is not included in the cost; parents will need to make their own arrangements. If this is problematical then we can look at organizing transport for any that need it, but there would be an additional cost involved.

The total cost of taking part in the Bronze DofE will be **£220**, and this will cover the participation place and Welcome Pack as well as the costs for the training days and final expedition. Students in receipt of Pupil Premium funding may be able to access some financial support for equipment costs.

The initial deposit is **£30**, and this needs to be paid on Scopay by **Monday 24th February**. This deposit covers the initial registration fee and Welcome Pack and is non-refundable. The remaining balance will be split into two payments of **£95**, with the first of these payments due on **Monday 28th April** and the final payment will be due on **Monday 7th July**; a reminder will follow once your child's place is confirmed and nearer to the due dates.

Once registered on eDofE (the DofE website) students will be able to start their Skill, Volunteering and Physical sections. It is essential that students start all sections as soon as possible, as we expect both of the 3-month sections to have been completed prior to the expedition and the 6-month section started. Further information will be sent out about how to register, how to enter a programme planner and how to upload an assessor's report once the section is complete. We will only confirm a student's place on the expedition when both 3-month sections have been completed. We need to confirm numbers with Wayahead Training at



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the end of June, so it is important that students work towards this deadline for section completion. At this point students will also be asked to organize themselves into expedition groups.

There is further information on the academy website ([Arnold Hill Spencer Academy – Curriculum – Duke of Edinburgh](#)) including a Powerpoint. If you would still like any further information, then please feel free to contact me at the email address below or go to www.DofE.org.

There will be a meeting after February half-term for students who are participating, to explain further how and what they need to complete, I will also be able to answer any questions or concerns they may have.

There are a limited number of places available due to the maximum capacity of the training team, so it will be important to get your replies in as soon as possible, on the consent form below.

Once the initial deposit has been paid via the Scopay, I will send another letter to confirm your child's place on Bronze DofE and to give further details about the next steps.

There will be a Parents' Evening before the end of this academic year, to give out more information about the training, the equipment required and to answer any queries that you may have.

Yours faithfully,

Ross Hatfield

DofE Assistant Manager

DoEBronze@arnoldhillspencer.org.uk

Consent Form Link - <https://forms.office.com/e/D8XTDtddBd>