



June 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

At Durham Johnston Comprehensive school, all students are invited to apply to enrol with the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme. In the academic year 2023-2024, we are accepting applications for the Bronze award programme from students in Year 9.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award programme has been running since 1956 and offers young people the opportunity to develop a range of skills and build self-confidence. It requires high levels of commitment and dedication, over four sections, each with a distinct aim:

- Physical – To inspire young people to achieve greater physical fitness and a healthy lifestyle through participation and improvement in physical activity.
- Skills – To inspire young people to develop practical and social skills and personal interests.
- Volunteering – To inspire young people to make a difference within their communities or to an individual's life and develop compassion by giving service to others.
- Expedition – To inspire young people to develop initiative and a spirit of adventure and discovery, by planning, training for and completing an adventurous journey as part of a team.

The Physical, Skill and Volunteering sections are predominantly managed by the students and are overseen by an assessor of their choosing and an award leader. The students record their activities on the eDofE website. These three sections **must** be completed before a student can take part in the expedition section.

For the expedition section, the training programme consists of three elements. Completing the training programme is a key requirement of the expedition section.

1. Weekly training sessions

These sessions will happen in school, from 4pm-5pm, giving the participants time to take part in other extra-curricular activities beforehand. The students will be put into groups and will be expected to attend training every other week. The groups and dates to attend will be published on the DofE Noticeboard as well as on the DofE 2023 Teams account. These sessions will run throughout the academic year, and students will be expected to maintain a good level of attendance.

2. Training walk and overnight camp

Students will be in school as normal on the Thursday, dressed in their expedition kit. They will meet at the end of the school day, walk in groups to our campsite, cook and eat together, then camp overnight. On the Friday, they will pack up their campsite and walk back to school, putting into practice some of the navigation techniques the learnt on the Thursday.

3. First Aid Course

The students will take part in a 4-hour first aid course, in school from 3pm-7pm. This will take place in the January term.



Headteacher:

A J O'Sullivan BA, MA

Director of Resources: H Charlton BA, MBA

Deputy Heads:

J Bell BSc, MA
R McFadden MEng
M J Wright BA

Assistant Heads:

A Lennon BA
S A F McArdle BSc
N Weaver BA



Final Expedition

For their final expedition, the students will plan their route, menu, and activities, during the weekly training session. They will work in groups of between 5 and 7 to walk their planned route, cook and eat their planned menu, camp, and then return on their second day route.

Further information about the final expedition will be available nearer the time.

The Duke of Edinburgh's award requires commitment from students in all four different areas, of which the expedition is the culmination. For this reason, students will need to meet various deadlines for starting and completing their activity sections. Starting these sections as soon as the students are registered gives them more than enough time to complete these sections.

The cost of the programme is currently estimated to be approximately £200, but this may increase due to the current financial climate. The cost covers registration into the scheme, the training programme, group equipment and accommodation on expeditions. Food for the final expedition and personal equipment for the expeditions is not included. To prevent students paying for activities in which they do not take part, this can be payable in either a lump sum or in four £50 instalments. Students are encouraged to raise funds themselves to take part in the programme; advice and support with this will be available in school. If the cost of the award presents a financial barrier to taking part, there is some discretionary funding available, please speak to Mrs Gibb through the school office.

Places on the award scheme are limited, therefore we are asking all students who are interested in taking part in the award to complete an application form. This should be returned to Mrs Gibb in Sc4 by **Friday 30th June** If there are more applicants than places available places will be allocated based on the application form.

Successful applicants will be informed via Teams and the DofE notice board. Students will then need to pay the initial deposit of £50 via parent-pay and return the enrolment form by Thursday 13th July to take part in the award programme.

Taking part in the Bronze award does not guarantee a place on the Silver or Gold programmes. The opportunity to take part in the DofE award through Durham Johnston School is only available to students at Durham Johnston School. Students leaving the school to continue their education with other providers will need to explore other opportunities to complete the Silver and Gold awards, if they so wish.

If your child wishes to take part in the award programme, please complete and return the application form attached to Mrs Gibb in Sc4 by **Friday 30th June**

Further information about the award can be found at <http://www.dofe.org/>. If you have any queries, please contact either Mrs I Gibb through the school office.

Yours sincerely

Mrs I Gibb

Durham Johnston DofE Manager

Bronze DofE 2023-24 – Key Information

Application Form Deadline– Friday 30th June

Registration Form – Thursday 13th July.

Key Dates - Expeditions

1. Bronze training walk 1 – Thursday 28th September - Friday 29th September
2. Bronze training walk 2 – Thursday 5th October - Friday 6th October
3. Bronze expedition 1 - Monday 10th June - Tuesday 11th June.
4. Bronze expedition 2 - Thursday 13th June - Friday 14th June.

Key Dates – Activity Sections

1. All sections to have plans submitted on eDofE - Friday 22nd September 2023
2. One section to be completed, and signed off on eDofE - 31st December 2023
3. All three sections to be completed and signed off on eDofE - Friday 31st March 2024

Key Dates – Payments

1. Initial deposit – £50 - Thursday 13th July 2023
2. Instalment 2 – £50 - Friday 31st October 2023
3. Instalment 3 – £50 - Friday 27th January 2024
4. Instalment 4 – £50 - Friday 31st March 2024