



Tuesday 21 May 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

Duke of Edinburgh's Award - Bronze Level

Your daughter recently had an assembly to introduce the Duke of Edinburgh's Award and to invite them to take part. If your daughter is interested in participating, we will ask her to discuss this with you. Your support and encouragement will be important, not least in helping your daughter to decide whether she wishes to commit herself to the Award. We hope that you will also help us to ensure that she meets deadlines as they arise.

If your daughter wishes to do the award, please register her on ParentMail by Monday 3 June. The cost of registration is £48.

There are four sections to the Bronze Award.

- Volunteering: helping people and the community
- Skill: working at a hobby or interest, or discovering a new one
- Physical: a sporting or other physical activity
- Expedition: an adventurous journey as part of a team

The Award is a challenge to your daughter to use her leisure time in a purposeful and constructive way, and we are sure that she will benefit from it greatly if she chooses to go ahead. Further information is available on [the DofE Award website](#).

The expedition programme will be run by a DofE Approved Activity Provider, [Expeditions Wales](#). We have worked with Expeditions Wales for a number of years to deliver our Gold expedition programme. Their staff are highly qualified and will be working with AHS staff to deliver the Bronze expedition programme, as well as our Silver and Gold expedition programme.

The Bronze expedition programme consists of three parts: first aid training, navigation and campcraft training and the qualifying expedition as follows:

1. **First aid training. In school, 3.45-5.45.** A choice of dates before and after the Easter holidays.
Cost: £30. If your daughter already holds an up to date first aid certificate, she will not need to attend this training.
2. **One training weekend from Friday evening until Sunday afternoon. Approximate cost: £125.**
Choice of dates as follows:
 - a. Training Weekend 1 Friday 2 May to Sunday 4 May 2025
 - b. Training Weekend 2 Friday 16 May to Sunday 18 May 2025

3. **One qualifying expedition Saturday morning until Sunday afternoon. Approximate cost: £125.**

Choice of dates as follows:

- a. Saturday 7 to Sunday 8 June 2025
- b. Saturday 14 to Sunday 15 June 2025

The cost of each training and practice activity covers staffing, the camping fees, group equipment and training materials. We provide each group with sufficient tents, cooking stoves and gas, maps, and a group first aid kit. Other individual expedition kit will need to be purchased closer to the time and you will receive details next year about this. Your daughter's DofE Welcome Pack will contain a DofE discount voucher, which entitles her to either a 10 or 15% discount at a number of outdoor retailers. Please note we stock a supply of rucksacks, walking boots, sleeping bags, mats, and waterproofs to lend to students who need them.

Your daughter cannot proceed until she has registered. In order to register for the award, please ensure you have made the payment on ParentMail, **£48 by Monday 3 June.**

We would not want anyone to be unable to take part because of financial circumstances. If you would like to apply for financial support (whether or not your daughter is eligible for Pupil Premium Funding), please complete the [confidential on-line form](#) which can also be accessed via the Parents' section of the website. If you would like any further information about this before then, please do not hesitate to contact Miss Blakeman or Mrs Ali in confidence. Their email addresses are kblakeman@ahs.bucks.sch.uk and yali@ahs.bucks.sch.uk.

Once the registration payment has been made, your daughter will be invited to join the Bronze DofE 2024-25 Google Classroom. Here she will find plenty of material with further information about the Award.

It is important your daughter gets into the habit of checking this Google Classroom regularly, as updates and notices will be posted here. Upon joining the Google Classroom, she will be asked to fill out a Google Form indicating her planned activities for each section, so that her form tutor can check they will meet DofE requirements. After that, an account will be made for her on the DofE electronic logging system, eDofE, which is also available as a mobile app. She will receive instructions during her L4L lessons about how to log into this account for the first time, and how to register and log activities for her different sections on eDofE. Her form tutor and other school staff will be checking this regularly and are there to support your daughter through her Award.

There may be costs involved in carrying out the activities your daughter chooses for the Volunteering, Skill, and Physical sections, these will depend on the programme she selects.

Expeditions are organised by Open Award Centres and Approved Activity Providers (usually outdoor activity centres), and AHS organises expeditions with Expeditions Wales in the summer term of 2025. Students wishing to take part in the AHS expeditions with the school must have **completed the Volunteering, Physical and Skill sections by Friday 14 March 2025.**

If you have any questions or require further information, please contact me at the school. lsowah@ahs.bucks.sch.uk

Yours faithfully

Ms Lucy Sowah
DofE Manager