



12<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

I'm pleased to let you know that Oasis Academy Wintringham offers the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) to students in Year 9. We are now ready to offer places for our Year 9 students to begin their Bronze award with us. This letter and the attachments will help to explain what you can expect and everything that the award has to offer.

Doing a DofE Award is a great chance for your child to broaden their horizons, discover new interests and talents, have fun with friends, develop essential skills for their future and achieve an internationally renowned Award.

### About the DofE

DofE is non-competitive and open to all young people – it's about setting personal challenges and pushing personal boundaries. There are three levels of DofE programme which, when successfully completed, lead to a Bronze, Silver or Gold Award. At Wintringham we offer the Bronze award, and there are opportunities beyond school to take this further and complete their Silver and Gold Award.

Through their DofE, students will make friends and memories and build traits like confidence, resilience, and self-esteem, which can benefit mental health. They'll gain skills and attributes for work and life, like problem-solving, team-working, and self-motivation – and they'll achieve an Award that's recognised by top employers and can help them stand out when applying for university or jobs.

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

Every young person's DofE programme is personal to them – they can choose what they'd like to do for their Skills, Volunteering and Physical sections, and most activities can count. We will provide guidance and support, and students can either choose to continue an activity they already do or discover something completely new.

Activities for each section take a minimum of one hour a week over a set period of time, so they can fit around studying, hobbies and social lives. For more details about programmes and timescales visit [DofE.org/do](https://DofE.org/do).

**Believe, Achieve, Succeed**

 @OAWintringham #proudtobeOAW

 OasisWintringham

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### **About the expedition**

The Expedition section involves your child working as part of a small team to plan their expedition's aim, choose a location and complete expedition training to make sure they're fully prepared – before spending two days and one night in the countryside.

Ahead of this, they will take part in an overnight stay camping at the Academy as well as local excursions, covering basic expedition principles and introducing them to expedition equipment.

There will be training sessions leading up to the expedition which will take place afterschool in which your child and their group will learn the skills and knowledge necessary to be successful and safe when completing their expedition. Participants will only be able to do their expedition if they attend the organised training.

The qualifying expedition is expected to take place in July and a practice expedition will take place in April to prepare students for their qualifier. Further information on the dates and times will be released prior to the trips taking place.

### **eDofE and creating a programme**

Participants can create their DofE programme and record their progress using eDofE, the DofE's digital system, available online at [eDofE.org](http://eDofE.org).

Students will input their activities for their physical, skill and volunteering sections and choose their aims for each activity. They will need to complete 3 months of each activity and choose one activity to compete for 6 months.

If your child decides to enrol, we will set up their eDofE account and they will receive details of how to sign in and get started.

### **Kit**

Students will require kit to safely and comfortably participate in the expedition section of their programme. We strongly recommend that all students have their own essential items but understand that this may not always be possible. Please see the DofE website for the full list of gear both recommended and optional.

[DofE Expedition Kit List - The Duke of Edinburgh's Award \(DofE\) Shopping](#)

We are in a position to provide teams with tents and a portable cooker which they will be taught how to use as a part of their training. If for any reason you feel that acquiring the kit may be a barrier to accessing DofE please contact the school. We strongly believe that DofE should be accessible for all and we will work with you to find a way to make this possible.

### **Signing up**

The booking system is now live and will work on a first come first served basis. We will have a waiting list as we have found this to be a fair way to offer places if they arise at a later date. I would strongly recommend that you read through the information carefully to ensure that you and your child understand the time this will take to complete and the requirements for completing a Bronze award.

The Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award has proven to be hugely popular and last year these places were filled very quickly. However, where students did drop out it was often due to misconceptions surrounding what the award would involve. Please see the student program sections for more information on this. In addition to completing an expedition, students will also have to attend a practice expedition and expedition training after school to prepare and gain the knowledge and skills needed to complete this section successfully. In addition to this they will need to dedicate an hour each week to each of the following sections of a Skill, Physical and

Volunteering. Evidence is gathered and submitted to be approved and signed off in order to help students achieve their awards.

The full cost for the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh course will be £100, this will include the cost of enrolment, the cost of the expeditions and training. The £25 charge for enrolling participants on the DofE course will give you access to the DofE site and discounts in certain stores. We are asking that to secure your child's place, you are able to pay the deposit which will cover this charge. On confirmation of a participation place, your child will receive a Welcome Pack, which will be sent to their home address which will include their personalised DofE Discount Card.

After the deposit installments will be taken on the following dates:

5<sup>th</sup> November £15

5<sup>th</sup> December £15

5<sup>th</sup> January £15

5<sup>th</sup> February £15

5<sup>th</sup> March £15

Unfortunately once money has been paid it is non-refundable as the money received is used to secure places and pay suppliers allowing us to provide this opportunity for our students. If you would like any further information, please feel free to contact me via email as detailed below.

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[elisa.oldershaw@oasiswintringham.org](mailto:elisa.oldershaw@oasiswintringham.org)

Yours sincerely

*Elisa Oldershaw*

**DofE Manager**