

September 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

Launch of DofE Bronze Award

Students in Year 9 are offered the opportunity to complete their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award. In registration this morning, we explained how the scheme works and your son/daughter expressed interest in the scheme.

The scheme is made up of three sections, Volunteering, Physical and Skill, plus the Expedition section. Each section is undertaken for at least three months, with one section being undertaken for six months. The Award requires independence and a high level of commitment on the part of the student. We provide support, but organisation of activities, apart from the expedition, is done by the student. The link to the below website can help provide some ideas for each of the three sections:

<https://www.dofe.org/do/sections/>

Here are some *suggestions*:

Volunteering: This involves helping younger children, the elderly, disabled or a charity. Some opportunities are available in school e.g. helping with sports clubs, other students help at cubs/brownies or at their primary school. Note: babysitting or walking a neighbour's dog, for someone who is able to walk it themselves, doesn't count. The pupil cannot work in a business as this doesn't count as volunteering. E.g. Not in a florist, village shop, at horse stables.

Skill: This could be playing a musical instrument, developing cooking skills, learning a language using duolingo or arts and crafts at home.

Physical: Usually playing a sport and/or attending a regular club (in or outside school). Remember a Physical activity should raise a sweat, a skill won't!

Expedition: Training will consist of an after-school kit session, a day walk in March, followed by a practice expedition over a weekend in April/May 2024, first aid training and the assessed expedition in July 2024. There will be a charge of approximately £70.00, which will cover all of the sessions relating to the expedition such as campsite costs and minibus fuel.

Following confirmation of their place on the DOE scheme, students will need to organise and begin their three activities. For whichever activity the pupil chooses for their volunteering, physical and skills, the pupils will need to ask a coach, teacher, form tutor, neighbour, or family friend if they can assess them (sign off that they completed the activity at the end of the 3 month or 6 month time period).

Assessors cannot be family members.

What happens next:

- You need to complete the online Microsoft Forms eDofE enrolment form. Link here plus an email was sent out via Schoolcomms to all parents/carers or scan the QR code on the next page.
<https://forms.office.com/e/ThAE5EcD2V>
- Please complete the enrolment form and pay the initial fee of £25.00 for their eDofE online account. Payment can be made via the School Gateway App.
- We are very keen for everyone to have the opportunity to participate in DofE if they would like to. If the eDofE fee is a problem, please do email us at pacton@thomaskeble.gloucs.sch.uk

Download the app: If you have a smartphone, please download School Gateway from your app store (Android or iPhone).

OR

Visit the website: www.schoolgateway.com and click on 'New User'. You'll receive a text message with a PIN number. Use this PIN to log in to School Gateway.

If you any queries regarding the payment please contact the finance office:

finance@thomaskeble.gloucs.sch.uk

DEADLINE: The online Microsoft Forms enrolment application form and the initial £25 payment must be completed by 3:05pm on Wednesday 20th September.

Please note, places on off-site activities are privileges and as such, any student who is placed at Stage 3 of the school discipline code or higher, will automatically lose their place on the trip and any monies paid will be non-refundable. This is to ensure the highest standards of behaviour from anyone taking part in such an enrichment activity.

If you need further information please look at the Award website www.dofe.org which is very helpful.

Yours sincerely,



Paul Acton
DofE Training Manager

Participant Enrolment Form - Duke of Edinburgh Bronze - Thomas Keble School



Below are examples of possible activities that your son/daughter could take part in. They need to be completing at least one hour of each activity once a week.

Volunteering	Physical	Skills
Helping older people. E.g. Completing a weekly food shop, walking their dog once a week	Football	Learning a language – can use Duolingo.
Raising awareness for road safety	Running	Singing
Working at an animal rescue centre.	Rugby	Website design
Working in a charity shop	Rounders	Dog training
Music Tuition	Ju Jitsu	Horse care
Tutoring a younger pupil.	Badminton	Cookery – Learning to cook a meal once a week
Helping people with special needs.	Line dancing	Chess
Litter picking	Cycling	Fishing
Refereeing a youth football, netball, hockey match, etc	Netball	Plant growing
Being a volunteer lifeguard	BMX	Knitting
Leading a voluntary organisation group, cubs, Brownies, etc	Skiing	Sewing
Neighbourhood watch	Karate	Criminology
Rural conservation	Cheerleading	Textiles
Fundraising for charity	Orienteering	Woodwork
Serving a faith community	Trampolining	Ceramics
Zoo/farm/nature reserve work	Canoeing	Reading
Dance leadership	Swimming	Bloggng
Animal welfare	Cricket	Playing a musical instrument
Young Carer	Hockey	Stamp collecting
Helping children to read.	Tennis	Bird watching