

9th September 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

The Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award was launched in an assembly this morning and your child has expressed an interest.

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 undertaken for six months. The Award requires independence and a high level of commitment on the part of the student. We provide support, however the 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, etc.

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: Practice expedition over a weekend in May 2025 and the assessed expedition in July 2025 (see below).

Following confirmation of their place on the DofE scheme, students will need to organise and begin their three activities. For whichever activity the pupil chooses for their volunteering, physical and skill, the pupils will need to ask a coach, teacher, form tutor, neighbour or family friend if they can assess them (to sign off that the activity was completed at the end of the 3-month or 6-month time period). **Assessors cannot be family members.**

The walking expedition section is now offered by OceanRock Adventure <https://www.oceanrockadventure.co.uk/ora/>. They have been running our walking and paddling expeditions for a number of years. They are extremely experienced and provide expeditions for many other schools in the area.

- 1) **Walking Expedition** - We are able to subsidise the cost to £204.00 for the 2-day practice expedition and 2-day assessed expedition. Locations to be confirmed, however the practice expeditions and assessed expeditions will take place in Lambourn, Berkshire or the Marlborough Downs;
- 2) Dates for the 2-day and 1-night practice expedition – 17th – 18th May 2025;
- 3) Dates for the 2-day and 1-night assessed expedition – 10th - 11th July 2025;
- 4) Parents information evening run by OceanRock – Wednesday 19th March 2025 at 5pm at Thomas Keble School.

Things to be aware of:

- Thomas Keble School **will not** provide transport to or from the practice or assessed expeditions. **Parents will transport** their son/daughter to the start of the expedition and will pick them up at the end of the expedition;
- On the practice and assessed expeditions, **there will be no Thomas Keble Staff present**. The practice and assessed expeditions will be led by very experienced instructors from OceanRock;
- There are two initial payments to secure your child on the Bronze DofE Award and only once both are paid will the place be confirmed. The initial cost is £75.50;
- £25.50 of this initial payment goes straight to the Duke of Edinburgh as an admin fee (**non-refundable**). The remaining £50 is a deposit to secure your child a place on the Bronze Award and will go towards the final cost of £204.00 (refundable if pupil decides not to continue);
- Overall total cost for pupils participating in the DofE Bronze Award is £204.00 (expedition fee) plus eDofE admin fee (£25.50) is **£229.50**;
- OceanRock **will not** run in-school expedition training, this would have added to the overall cost per pupil; trained Thomas Keble staff will run in-school training to prepare pupils for the expeditions;
- OceanRock will provide all the tents, stoves, fuel for the stoves and navigation maps. This is all included in the £204.00 cost. Pupils will need to provide all their personal kit such as walking boots, waterproof jackets and expedition rucksacks. OceanRock do hire out some of the personal equipment as well, at an additional cost.

Checklist of next steps:

1. Complete online Microsoft Form application form – **QR code is below. Link is here:** <https://forms.office.com/e/QyduEwaVjh> **Closing date: Tuesday 24th September:**
2. **Pay the £75.50 through the School Gateway to secure place. Closing date: Tuesday 24th September:**
3. **Please return the attached medical/consent form;**
4. **You will receive confirmation of a place in the next month via a letter home with next steps and a payment schedule.**

Payment can be made via the School Gateway App.

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.

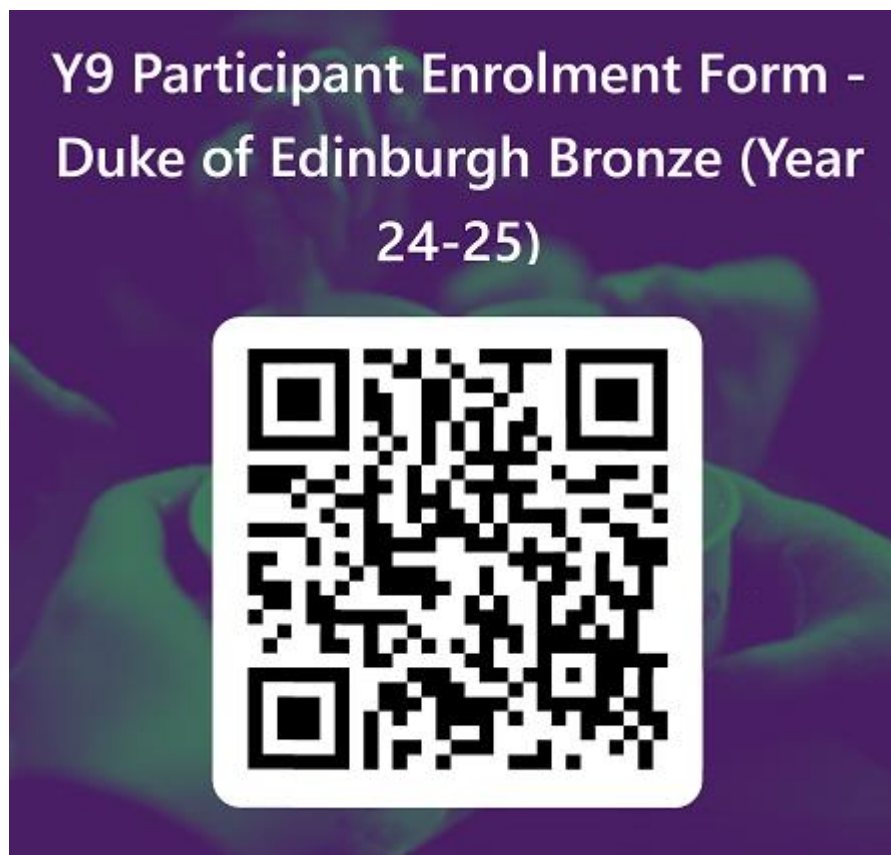
If you any queries regarding the payment, please contact the Finance Office: finance@thomaskeble.gloucs.sch.uk
Queries regarding the expedition itself can be sent to me: pacton@thomaskeble.gloucs.sch.uk

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.

Yours sincerely

Paul Acton
DofE Award Training Manager

QR Code to complete the online application form:



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

Volunteering	Physical	Skill
Helping older people. E.g. Completing a weekly food shop, walking their dog once a week	Football	Learning a language – can use Duolingo
Helping coach a sports team. For example, under 9s football/hockey team	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	Blogging
Animal welfare	Cricket	Playing a musical instrument
Young Carer	Hockey	Stamp collecting
Helping children to read	Tennis	Bird watching

To: School Office

Re: Year 9 Bronze DofE – Summer Term 2025

Pupil name:..... Tutor group:.....

I am happy for my child to take part in the above trip

I have made a payment of £75.50 (initial cost to secure my child's place) via the School Gateway

Signature:..... Parent/Carer

**THOMAS KEBLE SCHOOL
EDUCATIONAL VISITS MEDICAL INFORMATION FORM**

In order to comply with Thomas Keble's Health and Safety and Visits policies, please complete the attached medical information form for your son / daughter.

As medical needs often change, we require that all parents return a completed medical form for their child / children regardless of whether the information has been previously supplied. Please note that students who do not return a medical information form will be unable to participate on any proposed excursion.

STUDENT NAME:

TUTOR GROUP:

TRIP TITLE:

Any Existing Medical Conditions	Medication of Action Required	Staff Support Required. Please Include Dosage / Timing Information
<i>Example 1: Asthma</i>	<i>Blue Inhaler</i>	<i>Inhaler to be carried by XXX who knows how to use it.</i>

I confirm that all medical conditions and medical needs are outlined above. I accept that actions requested in column 3 is a service that the school is not required to undertake.

I also undertake to provide the school with a completed medical care plan or managing medicines form if required. I note these are available from the school.

Signed:..... Date:.....

**PLEASE NOTE:
IF THIS FORM IS NOT RETURNED TO SCHOOL, YOUR CHILD WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ATTEND THE TRIP**