



WALLINGTON COUNTY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) 2025-26

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS and PARTICIPANTS

Welcome to the Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) programme for 2025-26! This guide provides all the essential information you need to enrol and participate in the Bronze, Silver, and Gold award levels. The DofE Award is a fantastic opportunity for young people to develop new skills, engage in physical activities, volunteer, and embark on adventurous expeditions.

Google Classroom Codes (participants only):

BRONZE cz42emvd

SILVER b6pl55bi

GOLD oyam3j4o

Key Contacts:

- DofE Managers: Mr Connor and Miss Dimond
- Email: <mailto:dofe@wcgschool.co.uk>
- Webpage: wcgs-sutton.co.uk/dofe

Information Evening

Tuesday, September 23rd, 2025, at 18:00: via Google Meet with a representative from DofE London and our expedition partners, ActivAdventures.

Note that only wcgschool Google accounts can access this meeting.

Enrolment Form

<https://forms.gle/LxyqEDLcWKjryEBg6>

Important Note:

- All queries about a participant's award must come from the participant in person, not via email from parents/carers.

Award Sections: The DofE Award consists of four main sections (five for Gold, including a residential):

1. *Volunteering*
2. *Physical*
3. *Skills*
4. *Expedition*
5. *Residential (Gold only)*

Participants must complete all sections to earn their award. Enrolment costs are payable through ParentPay, and there are additional fees for the expedition section.

Attendance Requirement:

- Students must attend school the day after any weekend expeditions, regardless of tiredness.

Setting Goals for Each Section: Each section of the DofE Award requires a goal to complete. Here are some examples of goals for each section to help guide participants in setting their own:

Volunteering:

- Volunteering at a local charity for 1 hour every week to organise community events.
- Volunteering at a local food bank to organise and distribute donations.
- Volunteering at a youth centre to mentor younger students.

Physical:

- Improving fitness by running 5km in under 30 minutes.
- Increasing stamina by swimming 500 meters in 20 minutes.
- Improving strength by participating in a weight training programme.

Skills:

- Learning to play a musical instrument and performing at a school event.
- Developing baking skills by preparing a variety of baked goods.
- Enhancing public speaking skills by joining a debate club.

Residential (Gold only):

- Attending a week-long residential course to learn new skills in a chosen field.
- Participating in a conservation project away from home for five days.
- Joining a leadership camp to develop team-building and leadership skills.

KEY DATES

23rd September 2025	First Bronze session during Clubs & Societies
23rd September 2025	DofE/ActivAdventures Google Meet
30th September 2025	First Silver and Gold sessions during Clubs & Societies
15th October 2025	Enrolment Google Form to be completed by Parents/Carers
15th October 2025	A3 Planner to be submitted to DCR or JDI by all participants
10th December 2025	Bronze participants to submit signed log sheets to DCR or JDI to check commitment to the award
23rd February 2026	ActivAdventures training day in school (INSET day)
16th/17th May 2026	Bronze Practice Expedition
20th /21st/22nd June 2026	Silver Practice Expedition
30th June 2026	Bronze sections complete deadline
30th June 2026	Silver sections complete deadline
8th/9th July 2026	Bronze Qualifying expedition
8th/9th/10th July 2026	Silver Qualifying expedition
31st October 2026	Direct to Silver sections complete deadline

Enrolment and Starting the **Bronze** Award

Eligibility:

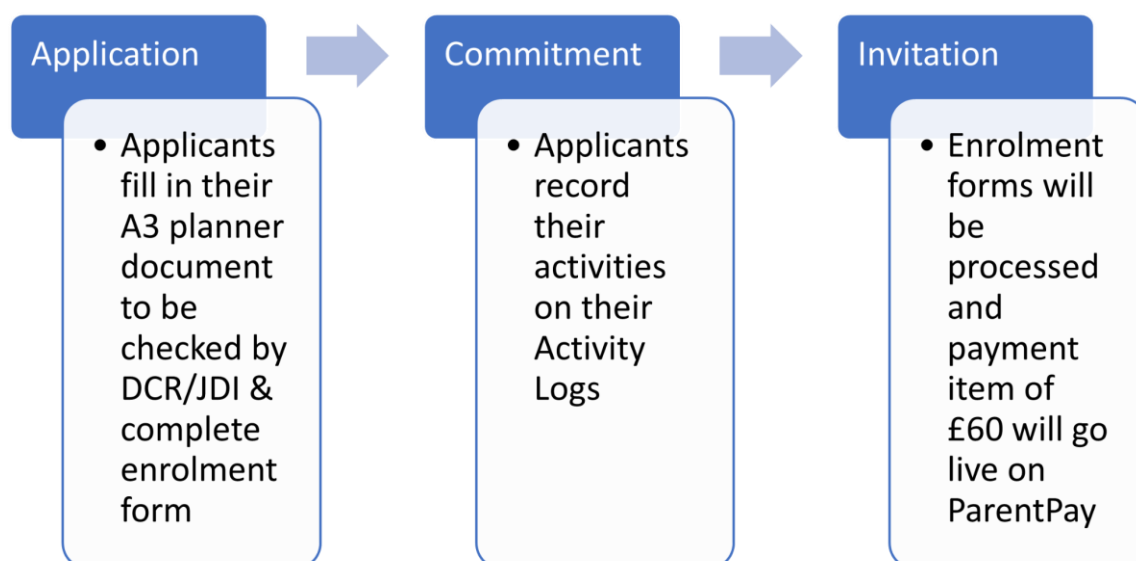
- Must be in **Year 9** or above as of 1st September 2025.

Steps to Enrol:

1. **Complete the DofE Enrolment Google Form by 15th October 2025.**
2. **Attend the first DofE Session** during Clubs & Societies on **Tuesday, 23rd September 2025.**
3. **Complete the A3 Programme Planner** for the Volunteering, Physical, and Skills sections.
Deadline: **15th October 2025.**

Programme Planner Details: The A3 Programme Planner is a critical document that helps participants plan their activities for each section of the DofE Award. During the initial DofE session, participants will receive this planner and guidance on how to fill it out. For each section (Volunteering, Physical, Skills), participants need to:

- Specify what activity they will undertake.
 - Set a measurable goal to achieve by the end of the section.
 - Identify an appropriate assessor who will monitor and verify their progress. The assessor must be a responsible adult (aged 18+) and cannot be a family member.
 - Outline the time commitment required to meet the section's requirements.
4. Commit to the Award by attending all required sessions during Clubs & Societies announced on the Google Classroom and recording activities in their activity logs.
 5. Show Commitment: Only those who show commitment to the Award will have their enrolment forms processed.



6. **Pay the Enrolment Fee (£60)** via ParentPay after demonstrating commitment.

Post-Enrolment:

- Students will receive eDofE login details in January 2026 to access their accounts and complete address details for receiving Welcome Packs. After the first sign-in to eDofE, Welcome Packs will be sent to the participant's home address.

Activity Completion Requirements:

- Volunteering, Physical, and Skills: Each section requires 3 months (13 weeks x 1 hour/week). One of these sections must be extended to 6 months (26 weeks x 1 hour/week). We expect all sections to be completed by **30th June 2026**.

Volunteering Requirements: Volunteering may only take place at non-business organisations. Students can ask a relevant teacher (e.g., form tutor) to write references for placements where required. Please do not name either DofE Manager as a referee. Students must ask staff in advance before giving their information to organisations.

Expedition Details:

- Estimated cost **£260 + travel costs**
- Training Day: 23rd February 2026 (INSET day)
- Practice Expedition: 16th/17th May 2026
- Qualifying Expedition: 8th/9th July 2026 (Activities Week)

Assessor Report Process: Once an activity has finished, each student must ask their assessor to complete the assessor form, which can be removed from the Welcome Pack or completed online at dofe.org/assessor. Reports must include the start and end dates.

Financial Assistance: We understand that financial challenges can be a barrier to participation. Students who are facing financial difficulties or receiving Free School Meals can access additional support. The school offers expedition kits for borrowing, ensuring that all students have the opportunity to participate fully. Please get in touch with us to discuss your specific needs confidentially and discuss how we can assist you.

How to enrol and start the **Silver** Award

Eligibility:

- Must be in **Year 10** or above as of 1st September 2025.

Steps to Enrol:

1. **Complete the DofE Enrolment Google Form** by **15th October 2025**.
2. **Attend the first DofE Session** during Clubs & Societies on **Tuesday, 30th September 2025**.
3. **Complete the A3 Programme Planner** for the Volunteering, Physical, and Skills sections.
Deadline: **15th October 2025**.

Programme Planner Details: The A3 Programme Planner is a critical document that helps participants plan their activities for each section of the DofE Award. During the initial DofE session, participants will receive this planner and guidance on how to fill it out. For each section (Volunteering, Physical, Skills), participants need to:

- Specify what activity they will undertake.
 - Set a measurable goal to achieve by the end of the section.
 - Identify an appropriate assessor who will monitor and verify their progress. The assessor must be a responsible adult (aged 18+) and cannot be a family member.
 - Outline the time commitment required to meet the section's requirements.
4. **Pay the Enrolment Fee (£60)** via ParentPay.

Post-Enrolment:

- Students will receive eDofE login details before the end of November 2025 to access their accounts and complete address details for receiving Welcome Packs. Direct entrants will receive their Welcome Packs after the first sign-in. If you have already completed the Bronze level, the Welcome Pack will be sent once the Silver level is added to your eDofE account.

Activity Completion Requirements:

- **Volunteering:** 6 months (26 weeks x 1 hour/week)
- **Physical and Skills:** One section for 6 months (26 weeks x 1 hour/week) and the other section for 3 months (13 weeks x 1 hour/week).
- For direct entrants, one of the 6 month sections must be extended to 12 months (52 weeks x 1 hour/week).

Expedition Details:

- Estimated cost **£345 + travel costs**
- **Training Day:** 23rd February 2026 (INSET day)
- **Practice Expedition:** 20th/21st/22nd June 2026
- **Qualifying Expedition:** 8th/9th/10th July 2026 (Activities Week)

Assessor Report Process: Once an activity has finished, each student must ask their assessor to complete the assessor form, which can be removed from the Welcome Pack or completed online at dofe.org/assessor. Reports must include the start and end dates.

We expect those students already possessing the Bronze award to have completed all of their Silver sections by **30th June 2026**. We expect those who joined DofE at Silver level to have completed all of their sections by **31st October 2026**.

Volunteering Requirements: Volunteering may only take place at non-business organisations. Students can ask a relevant teacher (e.g., form tutor) to write references for placements where required. Please do not name either DofE Manager as a referee. Students must ask staff in advance before giving their information to organisations.

Financial Assistance: We understand that financial challenges can be a barrier to participation. Students who are facing financial difficulties or receiving Free School Meals can access additional support. The school offers expedition kits for borrowing, ensuring that all students have the opportunity to participate fully. Please get in touch with us to discuss your specific needs confidentially and discuss how we can assist you.

How to enrol and start the **Gold** Award

Eligibility:

- Must be at least 16 years old but can apply now and begin the award as and when you turn 16.

Steps to Enrol:

1. **Complete the DofE Enrolment Google Form by 15th October 2025.**
2. **Attend the first DofE Session** during Clubs & Societies on **Tuesday, 30th September 2025.**
3. **Complete the A3 Programme Planner** for the Volunteering, Physical, Skills, and Residential sections. Deadline: **15th October 2025.**

Programme Planner Details: The A3 Programme Planner is a critical document that helps participants plan their activities for each section of the DofE Award. During the initial DofE session, participants will receive this planner and guidance on how to fill it out. For each section (Volunteering, Physical, Skills, and Residential for Gold), participants need to:

- Specify what activity they will undertake.
 - Set a measurable goal to achieve by the end of the section.
 - Identify an appropriate assessor who will monitor and verify their progress. The assessor must be a responsible adult (aged 18+) and cannot be a family member.
 - Outline the time commitment required to meet the section's requirements.
4. **Pay the Enrolment Fee (£37.50)** via ParentPay.

Post-Enrolment:

- Students will receive eDofE login details before the end of November 2025 to access their accounts and complete address details for receiving Welcome Packs. Direct entrants will receive their Welcome Packs after the first sign-in. If you have already completed the Silver level, the Welcome Pack will be sent once the Gold level is added to your eDofE account.

Activity Completion Requirements:

- **Volunteering:** 12 months (52 weeks x 1 hour/week)
- **Physical and Skills:** One section for 12 months (52 weeks x 1 hour/week) and the other section for 6 months (26 weeks x 1 hour/week). For direct entrants, one of these sections must be extended to 18 months (78 weeks x 1 hour/week).

Residential:

- Participate in a residential project away from home for 5 days and 4 nights. This must be approved by a leader before the residential takes place.

Expedition Details:

- Gold participants are currently responsible for organising and resourcing their own expedition section. If you are in Year 11, you will do the expedition section in Sixth Form.

Assessor Report Process: Once an activity has finished, each student must ask their assessor to complete the assessor form, which can be removed from the Welcome Pack or completed online at dofe.org/assessor. Reports must include the start and end dates.

Volunteering Requirements: Volunteering may only take place at non-business organisations. Students can ask a relevant teacher (e.g., form tutor) to write references for placements where required. Please do not name either DofE Manager as a referee. Students must ask staff in advance before giving their information to organisations.

Financial Assistance: We understand that financial challenges can be a barrier to participation. Students who are facing financial difficulties or receiving Free School Meals can access additional support. The school offers expedition kits for borrowing, ensuring that all students have the opportunity to participate fully. Please get in touch with us to discuss your specific needs confidentially and discuss how we can assist you.

Expedition

For all expeditions, students need a 65-litre rucksack. We have a fixed number of rucksacks available to loan from the school on a first-come first-served basis. More information regarding costs and procedures will be released nearer to the expeditions. Note that, due to higher numbers, Bronze participants will get priority over Silver & Gold.



Should you be facing financial challenges or are currently receiving Free School Meals, we would like to inform you that the school has additional expedition kit available for borrowing. Please do not hesitate to contact us to discuss this further.