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Headteacher: Mrs Emma Anderson
Chair of Governors: Mr Steve Chew

Our ref: SR/EB

13 October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Duke of Edinburgh Award

I am pleased to let you know that Newfield School offers the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) to students in Years 9 and 10.

The DofE 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.

As Newfield School's DofE Manager, I would like to give you some information about what a DofE programme involves, the benefits for your child and how they can sign up.

About the DofE

The DofE is non-competitive and open to all young people – it is 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.

Through their DofE, students will make friends and memories and build traits like confidence, resilience and self-esteem, which can benefit mental health. They will gain skills and attributes for work and life, like problem-solving, team-working and self-motivation – and they will achieve an Award that is recognised by top employers and can help them stand out when applying for post 16 courses, university or jobs. It really does set them apart from the crowd.

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

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Every young person's DofE programme is personal to them – they can choose what they would 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. It is in line with Newfield's values that all pupils have a hobby which allows them to learn outside of the classroom and grow in confidence, as this adds to the individual character of all pupils.

Activities for each section take a minimum of one hour a week over 3 months, but they need to choose one section (skill, physical or volunteering) to do for 6 months, so 48 hours in total. This is so they can fit around studying, hobbies and social lives. For more details about programmes and timescales see the leaflet uploaded to the Edulink Noticeboard (titled 13.10.21 DofE leaflet) / [/visit DofE.org/do](https://www.dofe.org/do), or the Newfield school website, but your child will also be provided with a range of sports clubs and extracurricular activities that they can sign up to after school, details of which can be found at the bottom of this letter. I will run a drop-in lunch time club on Tuesdays in M13 for pupils who may want to volunteer online, or who have any questions about the award.

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 do some training to make sure they are fully prepared – before spending two days and one night in the countryside.

Ahead of this, they will take part in a series of lunch time training sessions during the summer term, covering basic expedition principles and introducing them to expedition equipment.

There will also be a number of training sessions in which your child and their group will plan their route and prepare. Participants will only be able to do their expedition if they attend the organised training.

The expedition will take place over one weekend in June, and details about pre-expedition training will follow. There will also be a fee for the expedition, but this will come later provided your child completes their skill, volunteering and physical sections.

The DofE and COVID-19

Your child can still have the full DofE experience, safely and in line with Government guidance, during the COVID-19 outbreak. The motivation and focus the DofE gives, and its positive impact on mental and physical health, can play an important role in helping your child navigate our 'new normal', safely expanding their world and giving them skills and experiences to open doors in the future. As most of DofE is also outside, the risks of spreading COVID-19 are minimal and will be mitigated as much as possible through the measures put in place within school such as increased hygiene.

As participants can choose and change their activities, they can pick ones that they can do while social distancing or from home. The DofE has provided useful advice and information, including activity and volunteering ideas, at [DofE.org/DofEWithADifference](https://www.dofe.org/DofEWithADifference).

eDofE and the DofE app

Participants can create their DofE programme and record their progress using eDofE, the DofE's digital system, available online at [eDofE.org](https://www.edofe.org) and through the DofE app – downloadable for free from Google Play and the App Store. Remember if your child does not have a computer or phone, they can come to the lunch time club where I can support them in accessing eDofE.

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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. We will also hold an eDofE launch on Monday 18 October with a narrated PowerPoint on Edulink, and on Monday 15 November I will run a drop in on Edulink to answer any questions you might have about how to support your child.

Signing up

The cost of taking part in the DofE is £11.50 per participant. This covers your child's participation place and Welcome Pack, which will be sent to their home address and includes their personalised DofE Discount Card, with which they can get discounts at participating outdoor shops.

This amount will not cover their expedition as they will need to complete their skills, physical and volunteering sections before payment is required for the expedition and we would not wish to financially burden families before the cost is necessary. There will be a small fee to cover costs of the expedition, coach travel, camp fees etc, and that will be required in June 2022, dependent on completion of the skills, volunteering and physical sections. It is estimated the expedition could cost between £15.00 and £20.00, depending on how many pupils sign up.

If applicable: If the cost of taking part is an issue then please speak to me as there may be financial support available to you.

If you would like any further information, please feel free to contact me directly on the email address below. The deadline to sign up will be Friday 5 November, by which time your child needs to fill in an application form (given to them in form time) which needs to be accepted before payment is made.

Many thanks for your support and we look forward to helping your child to achieve through their DofE.

Yours faithfully



Miss S Renwick

DofE Manager

srenwick@newfield.sheffield.sch.uk



Day	Club	Year	Where?	When?	Staff?	Any equipment?
Monday	Cricket	All years	PE	Lunchtime	PE department	PE kit (only if you have PE that day)
	Creative writing	Y7 and Y8	U1	2.45-3.45pm	Miss Pearce	None
	Homework Club	All years	LRC	2.45-3.45pm	Alan Carnall	None
	Eco committee	Y7 and Y8	U10	Lunchtime	Mr Thornley and Ms Hannaford	None
	(every 2 weeks)	Film club	Y7 and Y8	M9	3-5pm	Mr Faulkner
	French Club	Y7 and Y8	G8	2.45-3.45pm	Mrs King	None
	Football	Y8 and Y9	PE	3-4pm	PE department	PE kit
Tuesday	School show rehearsals	All years	Drama	2.45-3.45pm	Mrs Warren and Mrs Pritchard	None
	Trampolining	All years	PE	Lunchtime	PE department	PE kit (only if you have PE that day)
	Netball	Y7 and Y8	PE	3-4pm	PE department	PE kit
	iDea computing code club	Y7 and Y8	G2	Lunchtime	Ms Mcerlaine	None
	Homework Club	All years	LRC	2.45-3.45pm	Alan Carnall	None
	Girls Fitness	Y10 and Y11	PE	3-4pm	PE department	PE kit
Wednesdays	School show rehearsals	All years	Drama	2.45-3.45pm	Mrs Warren and Mrs Pritchard	None
	Stem Club	Y8 and Y9	M15	3-4pm	Mrs Barker and Mrs Wooley	None
	Gardening club	All years	M8	2.45-3.45pm	Mrs Thompson	None
	Homework Club	All years	LRC	2.45-3.45pm	Alan Carnall	None
	Eco committee	Y9 and Y10	U11	Lunchtime	Mr Quatermaine, Miss Brown and Ms Renwick	None
	Trampolining	All years	PE	Lunchtime	PE department	PE kit (only if you have PE that day)
	Running Club	All years	PE	2.45-3.45pm	PE department	PE kit
	Rugby	All years	PE	3-4pm	PE department	PE kit
Thursday	Drum club	Y7, Y8 and Y9	Music	3-4pm	Mr Hunt	None
	Basketball	Y10 and Y11	PE	3-4pm	PE department	PE kit
	Homework Club	All years	LRC	2.45-3.45pm	Alan Carnall	None
Friday	Cricket	All years	PE	Lunchtime	PE department	PE kit (only if you have PE that day)
	Netball	Y9, Y10 and Y11	PE	3-4pm	PE department	PE kit

*I have highlighted the clubs for Y9 and Y10 in yellow for you.