

Dear parent / carer,

I'm pleased to inform you that Newsome Academy offers the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) to students in year 9.

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 Newsome Academy's DofE Manager, I wanted to send 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'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.

Through their DofE, students will make friends and memories and build traits such as confidence, resilience and self-esteem, which can benefit mental health. They'll gain skills and attributes for work and life such as problem-solving, team-working and self-motivation – and they'll achieve an Award that is 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 per week over a set period, so they can fit around studying, hobbies and social lives.

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're fully prepared – before spending two days and one night in the countryside.

Ahead of this, they will take part in sessions 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 and have completed their Voluntary, Physical and Skill sections.

The expedition date is still to be confirmed, and details about pre-expedition training will also follow.

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 and through the DofE app – downloadable for free from Google Play and the App Store.

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.

Signing up

The cost of taking part in the DofE is £100 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. The cost will also include use of camping equipment such as tents, rucksacks, cooking equipment, navigation equipment and overnight camping fees.

You are receiving this letter as your child would like to take part; please complete and return the expression of interest slip. Once your child's place is confirmed, you will be informed, and payment details will be added to ParentPay. If the cost of taking part is prohibitive, please speak to me as there may be financial support available to you.

If you would like any further information in the meantime, please feel free to contact either Mr Earnshaw or Mr Darlington via email.

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

Yours faithfully,

G Earnshaw Gearshaw@newsomeacademy.co.uk

J Darlington Jdarlington@newsomeacademy.co.uk

DofE Leaders

If your child wishes to take part in DofE, please return this slip as an expression of interest. As there are only a limited number of places, students will be chosen on a first come, first serve basis.

Student: _____ Date: _____ Interested: Yes/No