

14 October 2022



Dear Parent / Carer

I'm pleased to let you know that Kingsmeadow Community School offers the Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) to students in Year 12/13. This award has been introduced this week to pupils, through an assembly by myself and resources shared by tutors this week.

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 Kingsmeadow'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 like confidence, resilience and self-esteem, which can benefit mental health. They'll gain skills and attributes for work and life, like problem-solving, team-working and self-motivation – and they'll achieve an Award that's recognised by top employers and can help them stand out when applying for uni or jobs.

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 a week over a set period of time, so they can fit around studying, hobbies and social lives. For more details about programmes and timescales visit [DofE.org/do](http://DofE.org/do)

**PTO**

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## **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 three days and two nights in the countryside.

Ahead of this, they will take part in a practice qualifier covering basic expedition principles and introducing them to expedition equipment. More details on these expeditions will follow in due course, with the expedition not taking place until the summer term.

There will also be a number of training sessions mapped into the school year during lunchtimes/after school 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.

## **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.dofe.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. We will also hold an eDofE launch session for all pupils once signed up.

## **Signing up**

The cost of taking part in the DofE is being funded by the school. 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.

For the expedition element as shown in the kit list:

<https://www.dofe.org/shopping/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/DofE-Expedition-Kit-List-September-2022.pdf>

The school will be able to provide all of the group kit and will have options available for any parts of the personal/clothing kit that may be needed upon request.

If your child would like to take part, please complete and return the enclosed enrolment form.

If you would like any further information in the meantime, please feel free to contact me.

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

Yours faithfully

[Mr P Robertson](#)

**DofE Manager**

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