



18th September 2023

Dear parent/carers

SUBJECT: Year 9 Introductory Letter to the DofE Bronze Award

Last week, your child was introduced to the **Duke of Edinburgh's (DofE) Bronze Award** in assembly and offered the opportunity to take part.

The DofE scheme is highly regarded by colleges, universities and employers because young people who are successful in completing the awards programme have shown themselves to be committed and independent. It encourages teamwork, a greater sense of responsibility and the willingness to learn new skills and persevere.

The DofE award comprises four sections:

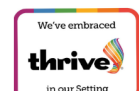
- Volunteering
- Physical
- Skills
- Expedition

The first three sections are intended to take three months each, with one of them continuing for 6 months.

The DofE group will meet regularly in school to monitor the progress in each section and offer advice and guidance. We will also train for the final section which can only be completed from Easter to October – the expedition! This will involve the pupils planning a route and navigating to an overnight campsite, and they must be entirely self-sufficient. Pupils will be required to give up a weekend for the practice expedition and also a weekend when they will be assessed. We are able to provide tents and stoves for the pupils to use on their expedition, and we have a few rucksacks to lend out, but pupils will need their own pair of walking boots, a sleeping bag and a mat, and will need to bring their own food for the expeditions.

The practice expedition will usually take place at the end of May and the qualifying expedition in June, dates to be confirmed. At the bronze level, the expedition is 2 days with an overnight stay in a tent.

Each pupil will need to be highly motivated to achieve their bronze award, but it is also important for them to have your support, e.g. you may be able to help them secure a suitable place to volunteer for 3 months or support them in the development of their chosen skill or physical activity. They must also keep detailed records of their progress in all areas by way of an eDofE app, and it will also be very helpful if you 'encourage' them to keep on top of this.





RISEDALE
A family of learners

RISEDALE SCHOOL

Headteacher: Colin D Scott BEd NPQH

Hipswell, Catterick Garrison, North Yorkshire. DL9 4BD

Tel: 01748 833501 | Email: enquiries@risedale.org.uk

www.risedale.org.uk | [@RisedaleSchool](https://www.instagram.com/RisedaleSchool) [@RisedaleFamily](https://www.facebook.com/RisedaleFamily)

Cost

There is a cost of £60 involved in joining the scheme at Risedale, which includes an eDofE account, limited personal accident insurance, an electronic copy of their achievement pack on completion, and a certificate and badge upon approved achievement of their award. It also covers the cost of the campsite fees for the expedition and the practice.

The staff at Risedale all give up their time voluntarily, which helps us to keep the costs down as much as possible.

If you would be happy for your child to take part in the scheme, I would be grateful if you could pay a minimum of £30 using [ParentPay](#) by the end of October (this is non-refundable once the pupil is enrolled), and £30 by the end of January. This will be added to ParentPay for all Year 9 shortly. **Please discuss this with your child before signing them up for the award.**

When we have received the first payment, your child will receive information about logging in and beginning the award, please just ignore it. If your child is keen to take part in the programme but you have financial concerns, please contact Mrs Hailwood or your child's tutor in complete confidence, either by phoning the school or using the email address below.

Nearer to the expedition dates, you will receive more information about all the important details and you will be sent an email requesting that you complete a consent form on Evolve.

More information

In order to answer any questions you may have, there will be a short meeting for parents and pupils on **Thursday 21st September in the school library, from 3.30 - 4pm**. Alternatively, if you require any further information, but are unable to attend please do not hesitate to contact me at hailwood.j@risedale.org.uk or visit the [DofE website](#).

Yours sincerely,

Jane Hailwood

(Senior Teacher, Head of Science Faculty & DofE Manager)

