



Sir Graham Balfour School

Member of Sir Graham Balfour Multi-Academy Trust

30th June 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Sir Graham Balfour School has been successfully running The Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) over the past couple of years and we are now in a position to be able to offer this exciting opportunity to all students who are going to be in Year 9 and 10.

DofE is a voluntary nationally recognised personal development programme for all young people aged 14-24 (not just fans of the great outdoors). DofE encourages teamwork, social interaction and helps young people to stand out from the crowd when applying for college, university and jobs.

The DofE Award has 3 levels – Bronze, Silver and Gold. Within each level of the Duke of Edinburgh Award there are 4 sections: Volunteering, Physical, Skills and Expedition. For your Physical, Skill and Volunteering sections could include any extra-curricular clubs which you partake in or activity you participate in outside of school. These activities will need to be completed for 1 hour a week for a determined period of time. For Bronze award your child will need to complete 2 sections for 1 hour a week for 3 months, and the third section for 1 hour a week for 6 months. Silver is 1 hour a week over 6 months.

For the Expedition Sections, the school enlists the support of outside agencies to ensure high quality provision. This ensures we are working within strict safety guidelines and that the young people are being supervised and taught by appropriately qualified outdoor instructors.

The Expedition section for Bronze will consist of a training weekend, and a 2-day and, 1 night camping qualifying weekend. For all the weekends students will need to carry all equipment/food they require for each weekend – a kit list will be provided closer to the Expedition weekends.

We will be conducting an information evening for the Duke of Edinburgh Award, on Wednesday 12th July 2023 in school. However, if you are unable to attend and would like to know more information, I have attached some more information. Additionally, there is more information at www.dofe.org or on our school website.

With the cost of the training provider, and the enrolment onto the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award, it will cost £155 and Silver is £255 (Silver is only available to students who have completed bronze). If you should require any further information or have any questions regarding the Duke of Edinburgh Award, please visit www.dofe.org. Alternatively, please contact Mr Tilsley at the following email address: dofe@sirgrahambalfour.staffs.sch.uk

If your child is interested in completing their DofE Award, please fill in the form <https://forms.office.com/e/PZXCdK4Zcs>, with a non-refundable deposit, via ParentPay, of £25 by 04th September 2023. Please note any dates on ParentPay are provisional and are subject to change.

Yours Faithfully

Mr T Tilsley
DofE Manager

Five steps to your Award

Are you ready to volunteer, get fit, learn and go on expedition?

The DofE is one amazing adventure you'll never forget. So, what are you waiting for?

1. Find a DofE group

- Talk to a DofE Leader or the person who gave you this leaflet.
- Find your local Licensed Organisation: DofE.org/takepart.
- Email us: info@DofE.org

2. Pick your level

Decide what level is right for you. Pay a small fee and register to do your DofE with a DofE group. You'll then receive your *Welcome Pack* from your DofE Leader and be emailed a link to your eDofE account.

3. Choose your activities

Start choosing the activities you want to do. Don't forget to chat with your DofE Leader to make sure the activities will count for the right sections. There are endless opportunities to choose from – see DofE.org/doing-your-DofE for some inspiration.

4. Do the activities

Get started. You'll record what you're going to do, and upload pictures, certificates etc. of what you do for each section into eDofE. Your Assessors will sign off each section as you complete them.

5. Achieve your Award

When you've finished all of your sections, submit your Award in eDofE to your DofE Leader. They'll arrange for your achievement to be confirmed – congratulations, you've achieved your Award and will receive a certificate and a badge! Then, you can continue onto the next level (if appropriate).

Local contact Mr. MARRINSON room 85
e-mail: - Amarrinson@SraGugnumBaltowa.Staff.Schuln

For more detailed information visit: DofE.org/do-your-DofE



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The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is a Registered Charity (No: 1075493), and in Scotland No: SC042616, and a Royal Charter Corporation No: RC000461. Registered Office: Gulliver House, Maidens Walk, Windsor, Berkshire SL4 1EU. Tel: 01753 639418

DofE.org



Developing young people
for life and work

Do your DofE

DofE.org

What's it all about?

The DofE is a life-changing adventure you don't want to miss. As Gold Award holder Jay puts it, *"My DofE has made me realise I can be whoever I want to be."*

If you're 14 to 23, you can take part in three levels of programmes leading to a Bronze, Silver or Gold DofE Award.

Choose from hundreds of activities – from canoeing to gymnastics, Diving to dog walking for an elderly neighbour – so there'll never be a dull moment. Plus, you'll pick up memories, friendships and skills that will stay with you forever.

And the added bonus? Having a DofE Award can really give you the edge when you're applying for jobs, college or university.

Fun, sociable, challenging plus great experiences you can put on your CV. The DofE. It's what you make it.

Watch our video to get a flavour of the DofE:
DofE.org/doyourDofE



Choose the level that's right for you

Depending on your age, you can start your DofE at any level – but most prefer to try for Bronze and then work their way up.

The higher the level, the more time and effort you'll need to put in. Check out the timescales at DofE.org/timescales.

Each activity takes at least one hour a week over this time, so you can

fit them in around your studies and social life.

You have until your 25th birthday to complete your programme and achieve your Award.

You keep track of your progress online, using eDofE. It's easy to record your goals, show your progress, upload pictures and more.

Bronze (Year 9+)			
Volunteering 3 months	Physical 3 months	Skills 3 months	Expedition 2 days 1 night

Plus a further 3 months in either the Volunteering, Physical or Skills section

Silver (Year 10+)

Volunteering	Physical	Skills	Expedition
6 months	6 or 3 months	6 or 3 months	3 days 2 nights

Physical and Skills sections: one section for 6 months and the other section for 3 months
If you didn't do Bronze, you must do a further 6 months in either the Volunteering or the longer of the Physical or Skills sections.

Gold (age 16+)

Volunteering	Physical	Skills	Expedition	Residential
12 months	12 or 6 months	12 or 6 months	4 days 3 nights	5 days 4 nights

Physical and Skills sections: one section for 12 months and the other section for 6 months
If you didn't do Silver, you must do a further 6 months in either the Volunteering or the longer of the Physical or Skills sections.

It's up to you

Whatever level you're doing, you'll create your own programme of activities with the help of your DofE Leader. Choose one activity for each section. Maybe you want to

try something new? Or get better at something you already do? Your DofE can be whatever you want it to be.
It's a good idea to choose activities you'll enjoy – it'll make them easier to stick at and you'll get more out of the experience.

Volunteering

This is all about getting out there and making a difference by helping others, the environment or your local community. Perhaps you're interested in animals, helping older people or raising money for a local charity.

Skills

Discover something that you're really good at. Maybe you can get better at something you already do, like playing a musical instrument, or learn something new like designing a website or cooking. The sky's the limit when it comes to skills.

Physical

This is a chance to focus on your health and fitness and have fun along the way. Improve your fitness, start climbing or have dance classes; it can be with a team or on your own. Set your own challenge and be the best you can be.

Expedition

As part of a small team, you'll have an unforgettable experience getting to grips with the great outdoors. You'll improve your communication and leadership skills and take a rucksack of memories home with you.

Residential (Gold level only)

Spend time away from home on a shared activity with people you've never met before. From learning to snowboard in Scotland to helping at a children's camp, there are lots of exciting possibilities for you to get involved with.