

9th September 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award

I spoke to Year 9 in assembly this week, about an exciting opportunity – the **Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award**. The Award is open to all Year 9 students (the year in which they turn 14) and provides a fantastic chance for them to develop new skills, build resilience, and gain valuable experiences outside the classroom.

What's involved?

To achieve the Bronze Award, students complete four sections:

- **Skill** – developing a new talent or improving an existing one.
- **Physical** – taking part in regular physical activity.
- **Volunteering** – giving time to help others in the community.
- **Expedition** – a two-day walking and camping challenge completed as a team.

All Year 9 students have been sent a **Google Form** to complete an initial expression of interest and to start considering what activities they may choose for each section. Please encourage them to complete this form as soon as possible.

Enrolment and fees

The **enrolment fee** for the DofE charity is **£31.00 (non-refundable)**. Once payment has been received, students will receive their eDofE login details via their school email address. If the payment presents a barrier, the school may be able to subsidise the cost; please contact the Finance Office at finance@nsg.northants.sch.uk for more information.

Expedition section

The expedition is organised by the school in partnership with our DofE Approved Activity Provider, **Badger Adventures**. All staff involved from Badger Adventures, are fully qualified mountain leaders.

Your child must attend a **compulsory training day** on **Saturday 7th March 2026**, followed by a **practice expedition** and then the **qualifying expedition**:

- **Practice expedition (training completion):** Saturday 16th – Sunday 17th May 2026
- **Qualifying expedition:** Saturday 12th – Sunday 13th September 2026



The entire expedition cost will be **no more than £250** (to be confirmed) in addition to the enrolment fee. This covers training, campsite fees, fuel, group kit, and the instructors/assessors from Badger Adventures. Students will need to provide their own food, as well as personal kit such as waterproofs, boots, and a sleeping bag. Full information about equipment will be given at the training day on 7th March 2026.

A separate letter will follow with details of the expedition package, payment arrangements, and an instalment plan. **All expedition fees must be paid by the end of April 2026.** Again, financial assistance may be available; please contact finance@nsg.northants.sch.uk if needed.

Please note that the expedition dates are fixed and cannot be changed, so ensure you put the dates in your diaries.

Support in school

Once enrolled, students are welcome to attend our weekly **DofE drop-in sessions**, held every **Friday lunchtime in SP03 (Blue Lagoon)**. These sessions are an opportunity to ask questions, get support with their eDofE account, discuss options for each section, support in removing barriers to completion and to share their progress.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is a truly rewarding programme that encourages independence, commitment, and teamwork. We hope that many of our Year 9 students will take part this year.

Next steps if interested

If your child would like to take part, please [click on this link to complete the google form to sign up for the DofE Bronze Award](#) by **Friday 19th September 2025**. The enrolment fee will then be added to ParentPay for you to make payment.

Following the deadline, we will arrange a **parents' information meeting** for Bronze Award participants. This meeting will go into more detail about the Award, explain how you can best support your child, and provide an opportunity to ask any questions.

If you have any questions regarding the award, then please contact me at the school. You can contact me by phone 01604 679540 or by email; DofEManager@nsg.northants.sch.uk

Yours faithfully



Mrs K Bright
Duke of Edinburgh Manager

