

16th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award Launch Enrolment and Expedition Package 2026/2027

Today myself and our School President, Milly Knight, spoke to Year 9 students in assembly about an exciting opportunity to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh's (DofE) Bronze Award.

The Bronze Award is open to all Year 9 students (the year in which they turn 14) and offers a fantastic opportunity to develop new skills, build resilience, gain confidence and enjoy new 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 expedition completed as part of a team.

All Year 9 students have been sent a Google Form to register their initial interest and begin thinking about activities they may choose for each section. Please encourage your child to complete this as soon as possible.

Enrolment

The DofE enrolment fee is **£33.50** (non-refundable). Once payment has been received, students will receive their eDofE login details via their school email account.

If the enrolment fee presents a financial barrier, the school may be able to provide support. Please contact the Finance Office at finance@nsg.northants.sch.uk for further information.

Enrolment deadline: Friday 2nd October 2026

Enrolment fee payment deadline: Friday 30th October 2026

Bronze Expedition Package

The expedition package is delivered in partnership with **Limitless Outdoors**. Their instructors are fully qualified Mountain Leaders, hold enhanced DBS clearance and have extensive experience delivering Duke of Edinburgh



expeditions. Since moving to this provider, our students have been extremely positive about both the quality of instruction and the overall experience.

Expedition Package Dates

- **Training Day:** Saturday 6 March 2027
- **Practice Expedition:** Saturday 24 - Sunday 25 April 2027
- **Qualifying Expedition:** Saturday 22 - Sunday 23 May 2027

Training Day – Saturday 6 March 2027

Attendance at the training day (approximately 9.00am-4.00pm) is compulsory before students can take part in either expedition.

During the day students will receive practical training in:

- Map reading
- Route planning
- Campcraft
- Camp cooking
- First aid
- Menu planning
- Rucksack packing

Students will also receive a detailed expedition kit list.

Practice Expedition – 24-25 April 2027

The practice expedition allows students to apply their training before the assessed expedition. During the weekend they will:

- Pitch tents and establish camp
- Complete a supervised training walk
- Cook their own meals
- Camp overnight
- Complete a full day's walk while being regularly supported and monitored by instructors

Qualifying Expedition – 22-23 May 2027

Provided students have demonstrated the required standard during the practice expedition, they will take part in their assessed qualifying expedition.

This is the final expedition section of the Bronze Award, where students demonstrate the navigation, teamwork and campcraft skills they have developed throughout their training.

Further information, including locations, transport arrangements, timings and kit requirements, will be shared nearer the time.

Expedition Groups

Expedition teams consist of **7 students**.



During November 2026 I will ask participants to organise themselves into friendship groups. Whilst I cannot guarantee that every request can be accommodated, I will do my best to place students with those they wish to walk with. Final expedition groups will be confirmed in January 2027.

Cost of the Expedition Package

The expedition package costs **£125** (non-refundable), in addition to the DofE enrolment fee.

This includes:

- Training day
- Practice and qualifying expeditions
- Campsite fees
- Fuel and transport costs
- Group equipment
- Qualified instructors and expedition assessors

Students are responsible for providing:

- Food for both expedition weekends
- Personal equipment, including walking boots, waterproof clothing and a sleeping bag

Group equipment, including tents, stoves, gas and maps, is provided.

Payment Schedule

A **£25 non-refundable deposit** is due at the same time as the enrolment fee by **Friday 30th October 2026**.

The remaining **£100** can then be paid by either:

- **Option 1:** £34 by 30 November 2026, followed by two instalments of **£33** during January and February 2027; or
- **Option 2:** A single payment of **£100** by 28 February 2027.

Payments should be made through ParentPay.

If the cost presents a financial barrier, please contact the Finance Office (finance@nsg.northants.sch.uk). We do not want cost to prevent students from participating in the Award.

Medical and Consent Form

A medical and consent form will be sent separately. Once shared, this must be by 31st January 2027.

Support in School

Once enrolled, students are welcome to attend the weekly DofE drop-in sessions.

They are also welcome to visit me in my office at breaktime or after school, Monday to Friday, for support with:

- eDofE
- Choosing activities



- Expedition preparation
- Award queries
- Removing barriers to participation
- Recording progress

Next Steps

If your child would like to take part, please complete the [DofE Bronze Sign Up Form](#) by **Friday 2nd October 2026**.

Once the form has been received, the DofE enrolment fee and expedition deposit will be added to ParentPay.

I will also arrange a parents' information evening for all Bronze Award participants. During this session I will explain the Award in more detail, outline how parents and carers can best support their child throughout the programme, and answer any questions you may have.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is an extremely rewarding programme that develops confidence, resilience, independence and teamwork. We hope many of our Year 9 students will take advantage of this fantastic opportunity.

Yours faithfully



Mrs K Bright
Duke of Edinburgh Manager

