

02/02/2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

I'm pleased to let you know that Archbishop Sentamu Academy now offers the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) to students in Years 10 and 12.

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 Archbishop Sentamu Academy'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.

To achieve their Bronze Award, participants must complete four sections: Skills, Volunteering, Physical and their Expedition.

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

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 two days and one night in the countryside.

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Ahead of this, they will take part in a set of sessions after school covering basic expedition principles and introducing them to expedition equipment.

There will also be a number of training sessions 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 D of E's digital system, available online at eDofE.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.

Signing up

The cost of taking part in the DofE is this year covered by the school. The registration covers your child's participation place and Welcome Pack, which will be sent to their home address and includes their personalised DofE Discount Card. We are also in the position to supply all the major equipment for the expeditions, however there may be some costs to cover items such as food or warm clothing. This will vary for every child however if you have any concerns regarding this please do not hesitate to contact me.

If you are willing to allow your child to join the program can you please complete the attached consent slip. We will give further information out as the course progresses.

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,

David Greenough
DofE Manager
d.greenough@asa.hslt.academy



1. I have discussed the program with my child. I understand that whilst the school will be supplying any big equipment (Tents, sleeping bags etc) there may still be other costs involved as they go through the course (Warm clothing, food for expeditions etc). There will be letters for parents sent out at a later date confirming what equipment will be needed.
2. There will be a lot of after school sessions. This will include training for your child's expectations. Dates and times to be confirmed.
3. Expeditions will be held towards the end of Y11 and for staffing purposes may be carried out after their final exams. We cannot run additional expeditions just for 1 or 2 people if they miss the agreed dates.
4. There will also be some parts that your child will need to complete out of school in order to complete their award.
5. The expedition is a supervised part of the award. Staff are there to observe students and ensure their safety and will only get involved if needed. As part of that safety, we need to ensure that students will be sensible and support one another. Any serious behaviour issues will be monitored within school before the expeditions and may result in your child not being able to attend and complete their award.

Student name:.....Tutor Group.....

Parent / guardian name:.....

Contact email address:.....

Signed Date:.....