

Dear Parent/Carer,

I'm delighted to let you know that we are about to launch the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award (DofE) to students in Year 9. The DofE Award is non-competitive and a powerful way for every young person to build belief in themselves, whatever their background, interests and abilities. Completing the Duke of Edinburgh Award will help students to develop essential skills whilst completing an internationally accredited Award.

Why do DofE?

Completing the DofE Award is a brilliant way for your young person to discover just how much they are capable of. It gives young people the chance to make new friends, follow their passions, learn new skills and make a difference in our community. Achieving a DofE Award is a great way to impress employers too, additionally, it helps young people to see themselves in a positive light and gain a new level of confidence. We always say that after taking on your DofE, you know that whatever life throws at you, you're ready to deal with it.

Volunteering, Physical and Skill sections

There are three levels of DofE Award – Bronze, Silver and Gold. To achieve the Bronze Award, your young person will need to evidence progress in four different sections – Volunteering, Physical, Skills and the Expedition. It will be the responsibility of each student to keep up to date with recording their own evidence to show they are working towards each of these sections on their eDofE account. Login details will be sent to each student after they have enrolled on the award. All of these sections **must be completed in the participants own time**, whether it be after school or at weekends. This will involve a commitment over the period of a year, while the student is participating in the Award. This is an exciting and rewarding opportunity for self-starting students to develop their organisational skills, please ensure your child fully understands the commitment required to complete the award. Additionally, participants are more likely to be successful in these areas with support from parents. Further support with evidence logging will be provided for students through intermittent meetings from the UCC DofE team throughout the academic year. Selecting appropriate and relevant activities for the sections is vitally important. For further information on timescales and suitable activities, please visit www.dofe.org.

The Expedition Section

The expedition section involves your child working as part of a small team to plan and execute a two day expedition for the Bronze Award and 3 day expedition for the Silver Award. Students will complete the expedition section through an Approved Activity Provider (AAP). AAP's hold Open Award Expeditions throughout the academic year and parents are expected to book students on to the expeditions directly with the providers. Open Award Expeditions are a series of walking expeditions that are open to all and take place throughout the DofE expedition season. These are a great way to meet new, like-minded people and share the sense of achievement that comes from completing this part of your award together. A list of AAP's in the local area can be accessed via Opportunity Finder on the DofE website. We advise

getting in touch with the Approved Activity Providers as soon as the students have been enrolled and have received their welcome packs. ***Please note, Uppingham Community College have no responsibility over the expedition section of the award.*** On these expeditions students will apply the skills they have developed on training walks and practice expeditions to ensure they are both competent and safe enough to participate in an assessed expedition under remote supervision. Students will be assessed on training walks and practice expeditions against a criteria to ensure competence and safety for their final assessed expedition.

Next steps

We hope lots of our young people will take this opportunity to get involved with DofE. The cost to register is £35 per person. This covers your child's participation place and welcome pack which will be sent to their home address. If your child would like to take part, please complete the attached form and return it to myself by the end of the school day on Wednesday 13th October 2021. An opportunity will then be communicated for you to pay via WisePay. ***Please note, we will be unable to take any entries after this time.***

Regrettably, at this time we are unable to offer an information event evening in person for parents or carers to attend. However, on the link below you will find a video with all the information you need to know about the Bronze Award, which we strongly recommend you watch so you are up to date with all the relevant material required for the course <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GuZMfKbMW6M>. If you have any questions in the meantime, please feel free to contact me on laywood_d@ucc.rutland.sch.uk or visit www.dofe.org.

Thank you for your support

Yours faithfully,

Danny Laywood

Duke of Edinburgh Manager

