



**Dear Parent/Guardian,**

I'm delighted to let you know that we have launched our recruitment for the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) for the next academic year. The Bronze Award is open to all Year 9 as of 01 September 2022.

## **Why do DofE?**

Doing DofE 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. Gaining a DofE Award is a great way to impress employers too. It's also non-competitive and a powerful way for every young person to build belief in themselves, whatever their background, interests and abilities.

## **How it works**

There are three levels of DofE Award – Bronze, Silver and Gold. To achieve the awards, your child will need to complete four sections – Volunteering, Physical, Skills and the Expedition [add Residential for Gold].

Students can choose what they would like to do for the first three sections, and we will provide all the guidance and support they need. The Expedition involves spending two days and one night in the countryside, and again we'll make sure that our young people are fully prepared for it.

## **Expedition**

Here at Pate's we are now running our expeditions based on the open expedition model. Inclusivity is an essential part of the school and DofE ethos and we have implemented this change so that each student can choose the dates that suits them without the stress of finding a group. We hope that this will also encourage them to make new friends and build confidence in working with new people.

It is important to note that it is not mandatory for our students to complete their expedition with us. So if they cannot make any of our advertised dates then they can use an outside activity provider, details can be found on the dofe website. [www.dofe.org](http://www.dofe.org)

***Please note whilst attending training there will be no exceptions made for you to attend sports/other commitments at the same time so, please check your diaries and with the PE staff to ensure there is no conflict between events.***

[Expedition dates are on page 2](#)

## **Next steps**

We hope many of our students will take this opportunity to get involved with DofE. The cost for registration is £65 per person, and applications will close on 30 September 2022.

Registration is via our website [www.patesgsdofe.org/getting-started](http://www.patesgsdofe.org/getting-started)



Full information including guides for parents/carers on the Bronze Award can be found at [www.patesgsdofe.org/bronze](http://www.patesgsdofe.org/bronze)

Once you have paid it may take up to 14 days for you to receive your log on details for edofe, please let us know if you have any issues on:

OED Manager: Jane Jowett email: [Jane.Jowett@patesgs.org](mailto:Jane.Jowett@patesgs.org)

OED Deputy Manager: Natalie Berry email: [Natalie.Berry@patesgs.org](mailto:Natalie.Berry@patesgs.org)

## **Expedition Dates**

All students must complete 1 each of the following:

Core Skills Training (non-residential):

1. 14-15 January 2023
2. 28-29 January 2023
3. 11-12 February 2023

Planning Session (3.5 hours):

1. 04 March 2023 AM
2. 04 March 2023 PM
3. 05 March 2023 AM
4. 05 March 2023 PM

Practice Expedition Day:

1. 11 March 2023
2. 12 March 2023
3. 18 March 2023
4. 19 March 2023

Assessment Expedition:

1. 29-30 April 2023
2. 06-07 May 2023
3. 13-14 May 2023

**There will be a maximum number of 40 students per event please book early to avoid disappointment.**

All bookings are to be made via the website: <https://www.patesgsdofe.org/bronze-events>

Yours sincerely,

*Outdoor Education Department*  
*Pate's Grammar School, Princess Elizabeth Way, Cheltenham. GL51 0HG*