

Dear Parents and Carers,

Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award 2026 - 2027

It is with great pleasure that I am writing to inform you that we are once again offering your child the opportunity to participate in The Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award at Hartford Church of England High School. As a School we have been running the DofE programme for over 15 years and have seen many students gain more than just their Award. This programme will take a minimum of 6 months to complete but we expect to complete over their time as a Year 9 student.

As many of you will be aware, the Award offers unique opportunities to develop new skills, make new friends and learn about themselves in challenging and adventurous environments. To achieve the Award students must complete four sections: learning a new skill, volunteering, engaging in physical activity and attending both practice and an assessed expedition. The Award allows each participant to create their own personalised set of activities to contribute towards their achievement. They may already do many of these activities or they could try something new that they had always wanted to do. Either way, it is fun and highly regarded nationally. Please view the promotional video and the main DofE website to find out more about the award: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yN7wTcxK408>

The Award helps to build on all the soft skills that will make your son/daughter stand out from the crowd in this ever-competitive world and should help them to achieve the success that they aspire to. If you wish for your child to participate in The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, please complete the linked enrolment form with initial payment on Scopay by **Friday 23 October 2026**. The initial cost to sign up for DofE will be **£40**. This fee includes the DofE enrolment fee, DofE welcome pack, eDofE (online portal) membership and full certification and badge on completion of the award. Once enrolled this payment will be non-refundable.

After the enrolment there will be a remaining payment of **£30** which will cover the cost of training and full delivery of the expedition section. This expedition section will be run by our experienced and qualified DofE school team. This fee is paid and will cover full instruction for the expedition training of campcraft, first aid and a practice expedition, and finally the qualifier expedition. It also includes the use of group equipment on the expeditions (tent, rucksack, roll mat, campsite fees, stove, fuel, compasses, maps etc.). The expeditions are planned for the summer term with the qualifying expedition to take place during 'activities week'.

Whilst we do not expect this to occur, we do need to inform you that a student's participation may be withdrawn if their behaviour raises any safeguarding concerns that would mean they are a risk to the future involvement. Please be aware that the behaviour of all children who wish to partake will continually be monitored throughout the school year. In addition, if the full payment is not received by the payment deadline, your child will not be able to attend the expedition section and will not be eligible for the full accredited certificate. If either of these events occur, we cannot guarantee a full refund. We do hope that you fully encourage your child to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh Award, and we wish them every success in their efforts to achieve it.

Yours faithfully

Mr P Marklove
Duke of Edinburgh Award Centre Manager



HARTFORD
CHURCH OF ENGLAND
HIGH SCHOOL

The Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award – Key information

DofE Sections

Students are required to complete their three activity sections, Volunteering, Skill and Physical as set out in the table below:

Bronze (Year 9+)	Volunteering Section 3 months	Physical Section 3 months	Skills Section 3 months	Expedition Section 1 night
	Plus, a further 3 months in either the Volunteering, Physical or Skills section			



Activity sections must be completed with a minimum commitment of 1 hour per week for a consecutive period of 12-13 weeks (3 months). The student also chooses one section that they will carry on for a further 12-13 weeks (6 months).

There are lots of opportunities to complete these activities at school, but other places to look for activities are:

- **Volunteering:** Charities, sports clubs, local ParkRun, Primary or secondary schools, places of worship, A2B campaigning, school library assistant, school council etc. **Volunteering must not be working for a business or a substitute for someone's paid job. Some activities that WILL NOT get approval.** Always check before committing you time to these activities.
- **Physical:** Local sports clubs, school extra-curricular clubs, tennis lessons, dance, horse riding, running, and walking etc.
- **Skills:** At school there are lots of skill activities such as learning a new language, playing a musical instrument, art club etc. You can also complete FREE activities at home like cooking, keeping of pets, collecting, photography and many more.

For a much more extensive list of activities that count towards each section please look on our school website or the main DofE website.

Students should let the person supervising/assessing them on each activity know at the start that they are doing it towards their DofE and at the end they need to ask them to write a report about their time with them which then counts as proof of completion of that section.

An assessor cannot be a close member of the family.

Price Breakdown and Deadlines:

Payment Type	Payment Deadlines	Cost	Payment Allocation
Enrolment	Friday 23 October 2026	£40	Enrolment (DofE Award – Non-refundable)
Expedition Instalment	Friday 5 February 2027	£30	Training and Practice Expedition & Qualifying Expedition