

Duke of Edinburgh's Award Information Letter

Y10 students and families 2021-22

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) is an internationally recognised youth programme that has been running since 1956. It operates in 144 countries around the world and has touched the lives of around 8 million young people. At Hope Valley College, the award scheme was first run in 2005 and has built a very strong reputation in the school with around 60-70% of students taking part during their Y10-11.

There are three award levels (bronze, silver and, gold) open to young people up to the age of 25. At Hope Valley College we just do bronze level, and many students will continue their award journey at sixth form, university or as independent young adults.

There are four sections to each level. These include a **skills** section, a **physical activity** section, a **volunteering** section and an **expedition** section.

Initial registration onto the award is done through College. The first three sections must be organised and completed independently by the young people, with support from family. These first three sections require at least a three-month commitment each (at least 1 hour per week equivalent of time), with one requiring a six-month commitment. The final (expedition) section is all completed within College but needs family input in terms of transport and providing some equipment.

To take part in the award at Hope Valley College you will first need to check some important dates with your family calendar. These dates cannot be missed, and they cannot be moved. The dates to check are as follows...

First Aid training	30th Jan 2022
Practice expedition	7-8th May 2022
Final (assessed) expedition	17-18th Sept 2022

If those dates can be confirmed for the student and, you as a family feel the whole award is achievable and worthwhile, then the young person needs to be registered. This can be done using an online link that will be emailed to all interested families. This will confirm attendance on the dates above, give consent for activities and expeditions and, include a plan for completing the three sections of the award (skill, physical activity and, volunteering) not provided by College.

The online link will also include a request for an initial (non-refundable) fee of £65. This first payment covers a DofE welcome pack, registration on the award scheme until the age of 25 and, First Aid training. If this fee is prohibitive, please contact Mrs Jones (headteacher) directly. The College does not want cost to be a barrier to any young person taking part in the award scheme.

If you want to register interest or you have any other questions, the DofE manager at College is Mr Fitton and his email address is mfitton@chorustrust.org. Alternatively, young people may speak to Mr Fitton directly at College.

Timeline

Week beginning 18th Oct 2021

Introduction letter, and meeting for students.
Introduction video available on College website (DofE link) for families

5th Nov 2021 – Deadline for registration onto DofE College award scheme and first payment

26th Nov 2021 – Deadline for at least two sections to have started and a good plan for all three

1st Dec 2021 – Weekly, after-school training for students starts in preparation for expedition

30th Jan 2022 – First aid training half day in College for students

18th March 2022 – Deadline for at least two sections to have been completed. Second payment required to continue onto expedition section

7th-8th May 2022 – Practice expedition in Peak District

17th-18th Sept 2022 – Final (assessed) expedition in Peak District

Celebration evening for graduating Y11s (date tbc) – certificates and pins awarded, and achievements recognised

After registering on the scheme, completing all the consent forms and, making the initial payment, the young people will have around 5 months to complete as much of the first three sections as possible. To support young people, Mr Fitton and staff volunteers will offer advice on starting the first three sections. They will also start expedition training at College (once a week, immediately after College). The First Aid training will also take place during this time.

If, by the 18th March 2022, the young person has started all of the first three sections (skill, physical and volunteering) and finished at least two of them, then they will be accepted onto the expedition section. If this has not happened, the young person will have to keep working on the first three sections and complete their expedition with another institution at another time, up until the age of 25.

All families of young people who are continuing onto their expedition section will be sent a second payment request of around £25 to cover campsite fees, equipment hire and the cost of external freelance instructors. This cost will not be known exactly until we can confirm how many young people are going on to the expedition section. However, it will not be significantly different from the cost quoted above.

Before committing to the award, please think carefully about the time and energy that will be required, including support from family. If the first three sections of the award have not been started and two have not been completed by the 18th March deadline, the young person will not be able to continue onto the expedition section with Hope Valley College.

If, having watched the introduction video on the College website, you have any further questions, please contact Mr Fitton using the email mentioned earlier.

We look forward to getting started on the award very soon. Kind regards

Mr M Fitton (DofE manager)