



BRANSTON COMMUNITY  
ACADEMY



10<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

### **Gold Duke of Edinburgh's (DofE) Award.**

I'm delighted to let you know that we are about to recruit students, who already hold the Silver Award onto their Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE). I'm the DofE Manager for the Academy and wanted to write to let you know more about what's involved.

### **Why do DofE?**

Doing their 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. Achieving a DofE Award is a great way to impress employers too. And it helps young people to see themselves differently 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.

The DofE is 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 their Award, your young person will need to complete five sections – Volunteering, Physical, Skills and the Expedition. Plus the addition of the Residential section at Gold.

The Gold Award is about progression from their Silver Award. So your child will participate in their sections for longer and they should be more challenging than those that they participated in at Bronze and Silver.

Young people 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 four days and three nights in the countryside. We provide comprehensive training beforehand to ensure everyone is fully prepared and has the best possible experience. There will be a two day navigation training in the Peak District in addition to a four day, three night practise expedition, followed by a four day, three night qualifying expedition. Currently we are unable to offer these in school, but hope to be able to from September 2025. If they are wanting to complete the expedition before this they would have to go through an Approved Activity Provider. The afterschool training sessions will be on a Tuesday.

## Next steps

We hope that as many of our young people will take this opportunity to get involved with DofE. The cost is £35 per person to register for the award. The expedition section will have an additional cost, we will calculate this and let you know in the Summer of 2025 if we have permission to run these inhouse. If your child is interested in taking part but the cost is prohibitive, please do speak to me as we may be able to signpost you to financial support for the expedition and residential section of the award. This cost does not include personal kit and equipment, although we do have some equipment group which can be lent out.

The expedition section at Branston Community Academy will involve weekly afterschool training sessions on a Tuesday 3.50-4.50; a day navigation training; a one day, one night training weekend; a two day navigation training in wild country; a three day, three night practise expedition; and a four day, three night qualifying expedition.

Your child has been given a presentation in a meeting at lunch on the 19th December telling them about the Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award. If you have any question, please feel free to contact me. The DofE website [dofe.org](http://dofe.org) - has a lot of useful information too. Thank you for your support. I hope you'll agree that the DofE is the perfect way for your young person to feel ready for anything.

To enrol your child onto their Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award, please complete the enrolment form on the link below, once you have done this, we will set up a payment link via Parent Pay for £35. There is no rush, your child can enrol onto the award when they have completed their Silver Award.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSetKKjMoVvkQPmwzYCzFLt4KDjvd80JHOzYsqxsa9SyK2Y9lw/viewform>

More information

You could also watch the following video in addition to looking at the DofE website or contact me with specific questions.

[Gold | Start your DofE](#)

Yours faithfully,

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