



12 September 2023



Dear Parent/Carer

DofE Information and Enrolment Letter

I'm pleased to advise you, that once again, Thistley Hough Academy will be offering the Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) to students in Year 9 and Year 10.

The DofE Award is a great chance for your child to broaden their horizons, discover new interests and talents, have fun, develop essential skills for their future and achieve an internationally renowned award.

As Thistley Hough Academy's DofE Manager, I wanted to send you some information about what a DofE programme involves, the benefits for your child and how they can sign up.

About the DofE

The DofE is non-competitive and open to all young people – it's about setting personal challenges and pushing personal boundaries. There are three levels of DofE programme which, when successfully completed, lead to a Bronze, Silver or Gold Award.

Through their DofE, students will make friends and memories and build traits such as confidence, resilience and self-esteem, which can benefit their mental health. They'll gain skills and attributes for work and life, which include problem-solving, team-working, and self-motivation – and they'll achieve an award that's recognised by top employers and can help them to stand out when applying for university or jobs.

To achieve their Bronze or Silver Award, participants must complete four sections: Skills, Volunteering, Physical and their Expedition.

Every young person's DofE programme is personal to them – they can choose what they'd like to do for their skills, volunteering and physical sections, and most activities can count. We will provide guidance and support, and students can either choose to continue an activity they already do or discover something completely new.



Activities for each section take a minimum of one hour a week over a set period of time, so they can fit around studying, hobbies and social lives. For more details about programmes and timescales visit <https://www.dofe.org/do>

About the Expedition

The expedition section involves your child working as part of a small team to plan and organise a route in a suitable location, choose an expedition aim and train to make sure they're fully prepared – before spending two/three days journeying and one/two nights camping in the countryside.

Ahead of this, they will take part in a training weekend at Gradbach Scout Camp covering basic expedition principles and introducing them to expedition equipment.

There will also be several training sessions after school usually on a Tuesday in which your child and their group will plan their route and prepare. Participants will only be able to do their expedition if they attend the organised training.

The expedition training, practice and qualifier will take place between March and July. Details will follow once confirmed.

eDofE and the DofE app

Participants can create their DofE programme and record their progress using eDofE, the DofE's digital system, available online at eDofE.org and through the DofE app – downloadable for free from Google Play and the App Store.

If your child decides to enrol, we will set up their eDofE account and they will receive details of how to sign in and get started. We will also be holding an eDofE launch session (date to be confirmed).

Signing up

The cost of taking part in the DofE is £25.00 per participant. This covers your child's place and welcome pack, which will be sent to their home address and includes their personalised DofE Discount Card. There will be additional costs towards campsite fees and personal equipment, but we aim to keep these costs to a minimum.

If your child would like to take part, please complete and return the enclosed enrolment form for the attention of Ms Julie Bennett and make the payment of £25.00 via ParentPay by 2nd October 2023.

If the cost of taking part is prohibitive, please speak to me as there may be financial support available to you.

We will hold an information event for parents/carers and students in October at the Academy (details to follow once participants have enrolled). If you would like any further information in the meantime, please feel free to contact me.



Many thanks for your support and we look forward to helping your child to achieve through their DofE Award.

Yours sincerely

Julie Bennett

Ms J Bennett

DofE Manager

Julie.bennett@thistleyhoughacademy.org.uk





DofE Participant Enrolment Form

Please print clearly in CAPITALS or type your details in. You must complete all of the questions.

DofE Centre and group details (if you know them):

DofE Centre:	DofE group:
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DofE level:

Bronze <input type="checkbox"/> Silver <input type="checkbox"/> Gold <input type="checkbox"/>
Have you registered for any previous levels of the DofE? No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
If YES – please give the name of the DofE Centre you were registered at: eDofE ID number (if known) :

Personal details:

First name:	Last name:
Date of birth: / /	Primary language: English <input type="checkbox"/> Welsh <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>
Email address:	
Date you wish to start your DofE programme if known (enrolment date): / /	

When you first sign in to eDofE you will be asked to record some personal details such as your contact details, ethnicity and personal circumstances along with details of any medical needs you may have. This data is used to enable your Leaders to support you doing your DofE programme and for the DofE's statistical and reporting purposes. You will always have a 'prefer not to say' option.

Declaration:

I agree to enrol as a participant on a DofE programme. I understand that I will be managing my programme using the online eDofE system. I acknowledge that this system has a set of terms and conditions that I agree to. These terms and conditions are available at www.eDofE.org



Print Name	Signature	Date
		/ /

Consent to enrol from parent or guardian (if applicant is under 18 years old).

I agree to my son / daughter / ward doing a DofE programme. I note that it is my responsibility to check that any activity my son / daughter / ward undertakes for their DofE programme is appropriately managed and insured, unless the activity is directly managed or organised by their DofE group, centre or Licensed Organisation.

Print Name	Signature	Date
		/ /

Note:

Data supplied on this form and in eDofE and information about DofE activities recorded in eDofE will be used by the DofE Charity, the Licensed Organisation and DofE centre to monitor and manage DofE participation and progress by young people and manage and support Leaders.

The DofE Charity will use personal data to communicate useful and relevant information to either help participants complete a DofE programme, Leaders/LOs to run DofE programmes more effectively or help the DofE Charity to improve the quality and breadth of its programmes.

We also send emails that contain information about the Charity, DofE negotiated privileged discounts and invites to events and other activities however if you would like to receive these emails you will need to opt in. Once you have opted-in to this you can opt out at any time by visiting www.dofe.org/preferences, or clicking the unsubscribe link that can be found at the bottom of all non-programme related email.

For Licensed Organisation/Centre administration only:

Date registered onto	/ /
Expected start date	/ /
Participant Fee received	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Username	
User ID number	