



NEWSTEAD WOOD SCHOOL

"creating opportunities for success"

15 October 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE)

We are extremely pleased to offer the opportunity for students in Year 10 to participate in the Bronze level of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award here at Newstead Wood School during the current academic year.

There are four sections at Bronze level. These are: Skill, Physical, Volunteering and an Expedition; all need to be completed to achieve the Bronze award.

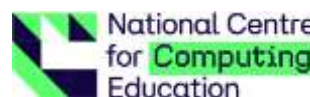
All students are expected to complete the award by the end of the school year in July 2025, which will allow them to progress to higher levels.

<p>VOLUNTEERING</p> <p>PHYSICAL</p> <p>SKILL</p>	<p>Each section must be undertaken on a weekly basis and requires commitment of at least an hour a week, for a minimum of three months, with one section continuing for a minimum of six months.</p> <p>Each section has a wide variety of activities to choose from. Once chosen these must be entered on to the eDofE site, which must then be approved by the school's Coordinator. A suitably qualified individual should supervise Physical and Skill activities and it is the parent/carer's responsibility to ensure that the activities have the appropriate Public Liability insurance policy, and that they are run by reputable organisations who have vetted their staff/volunteers.</p> <p>Students are responsible for finding their own activities for each of these sections. It is worth noting that there are many opportunities within school to complete these sections, including clubs and societies. Activities undertaken as part of the Elective Programme may be included if they meet the time requirements, do not contribute towards GCSEs, and provided that the students attend enough sessions to qualify for the appropriate section.</p> <p>If the student chooses a Skill or Physical activity that they already participate in, this can be backdated by maximum of 2 months. For example, applications received by 29 November 2024 can be backdated to 29 September 2024. This is the earliest possible start date.</p> <p>Please see https://www.dofe.org/do/sections/ for further information about the options for these three sections.</p>
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Headteacher: Mr Alan Blount, MA, BSc, QTS

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EXPEDITION	<p>The expedition is a two-day, remotely supervised walk of approximately 24km through Kent countryside, with an overnight stay in tents. Whilst this expedition section is challenging to the students, both mentally and physically, we aim to make it achievable and enjoyable to all participants.</p> <p>Each student will be required to carry all of their equipment, clothing, food etc., in a rucksack. Students will be expected to plan their own route (start and finish grid references are provided), including planning a menu, preparing and cooking their own food and learning the skill of navigation.</p> <p>Teams will be groups of 6-7 students with only remote supervision from school staff and external sources. School staff will be present at the campsites.</p> <p>Mobile devices are only allowed to be used in the event of an injury or emergency, and NOT as an aid to navigation or for entertainment.</p>
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Students will be required to complete at least two of their sections by the end of **May 2025**. Their third section will ideally be completed by the start of **July 2025**. Consideration can be made if the participant has to change section or has personal issues that delay the process.

Key Dates for Training For 2024/25:

10 October 2024	Initial DofE introduction and registration opens.
9 January – 29 March 2025	Training sessions will run after school from 3.35-4.35pm on Thursdays and Fridays.
Date to be confirmed Normally in school from 8.30am-4.00pm	First Aid Training Day – First Aid is an essential skill for the expedition and students will spend the day working towards a recognised outdoor First Aid qualification. They receive a separate certificate upon completion.
16 – 17 May 2025	Training event at school and local area. Practise expedition and overnight
10 -11 July 2025	Bronze Assessed Expedition: Oakhall Manor, Shoreham

PLEASE DO NOT SIGN UP FOR DOFE IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND THE TRAINING SESSIONS OR EXPEDITION DATE.

After-school Training

Training for all participants will take place from 9 January until 29 March 2025. Students must commit to after-school training sessions, held on Thursday and Friday evenings from 3.35-4.35pm.

Students will be allocated to training teams. They will undertake their training on the same evening each week to ensure the whole award is completed as a group.

Attendance at all sessions is mandatory. Failure to attend training sessions could lead to your child being withdrawn from the expedition and thus unable to complete the award.

Areas to consider before signing up to the DofE award:

Undertaking the DofE Award at school is in addition to normal school studies and as such:

- Academic progress must come first for each student and if at any point their progress or attainment drops, this may result in removal from the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme.
- The school retains the right to remove students who do not uphold the school's behaviour or attendance policy; participation will be considered in consultation with the Head of Year on an individual basis.

Payment

The fee for entering the award is £300.00, which covers the registration on eDofE, First Aid training, training days and the cost of the expeditions. Please note, payment constitutes permission for the expedition and training.

If your child would like to participate in the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award, please make the required non-returnable payment of **£100.00** by **Tuesday 15 November 2024**. The balance of **£200** is due by **Friday 31 January 2025**. If you have any concerns regarding payment for the award, please contact finance@newsteadwood.co.uk in confidence. Some financial assistance is available for pupil premium students from the DofE, please contact me at aandrews@newsteadwood.co.uk if you would like to discuss this further.

This £100 fee is non-refundable.

Equipment

Student will need the following equipment: a 65lt rucksack, sturdy walking boots/shoes (no trainers) and waterproof trousers and coat. A comprehensive kit list can be found on the DofE website: <https://www.dofe.org/shop/dofe-expedition-kit-list/>

The school will loan the following items: tents, cooking stoves, maps, and compasses and tracker. In the unlikely event that one of these items is damaged or lost, the team in question will be billed.

Information about students for this trip will be taken from the school database for the purpose of trip safety, emergency contact and medical information. Please check and update the school with any changes via the Arbor app.

Should you have any other queries or questions, please contact me at aandrews@newsteadwood.co.uk.

Further information regarding the award can also be found on the [DofE website](#).

Yours sincerely,

A. Andrews

Mr A Andrews
Outdoor Education Coordinator