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Brandon Road, Swaffham, PE37 7DZ



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Dear Parent/Carer

Duke of Edinburgh Bronze

I'm pleased to let you know that The Nicholas Hamond Academy offers the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) to students in Year 9 and 10.

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

As The Nicholas Hamond Academy's DofE Manager, I wanted to send you some information about what our DofE programme involves and the benefits for your child.

About the DofE: The DofE is voluntary, non-competitive and open to all young people – it's about setting personal challenges and pushing personal boundaries. There are three levels of the 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 like confidence, resilience and self-esteem, which can benefit mental health. They'll gain skills and attributes for work and life, including problem-solving, team-working and self-motivation – and they'll achieve an Award that's recognised by top employers and can help them stand out when applying for university or jobs.

To achieve their Bronze 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 require a minimum of one hour a week over a set period of time, so they can be fitted in around studying, hobbies and social events. For more details about programmes and timescales visit DofE.org/do.

About the expedition: The Expedition section involves your child working as part of a small team to plan their expedition's team goal and do some training to make sure they're fully prepared – before spending two days and one night in the countryside.

Ahead of this, they will take part in training sessions at school covering basic expedition principles, introducing them to expedition equipment, route planning, first aid, campcraft amongst others. Participants will only be able to do their expedition if they attend the organised training with the expedition taking place in the summer term. Details of the pre-expedition training will follow the enrolment process.

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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.

Signing up: The cost of taking part in the DofE is £40 per participant (£35 FSM). This is non-refundable and covers your child's participation place and Welcome Pack, which will be sent to their home address and includes information about their personalised DofE Discount Card. This cost also includes the practice expedition campsite fees. There may also be further campsite fee's payable later in the year.

If your child would like to take part, please complete and return the enclosed enrolment form, together with the sum of **£40 paid via your MCAS app by 26th September 2025**.

We will hold an information event for parents and students on **23rd September 2023 from 17:30-19:00**.

If you would like any further information in the meantime, please feel free to contact me via Email: Rachel.Wells@attrust.org.uk.

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

Yours faithfully

Rachel Wells

DofE Manager