

XP DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD SCHEME

The DofE Mission:

‘To inspire, guide and support young people in their self-development and recognise their achievements’.

Dear Parent / Carer,

I am really excited to be leading the Duke of Edinburgh Award at XP. It brings back so many great memories from when I did it at school. I was lucky enough to be able to complete and achieve my Bronze, Silver and Gold awards. I believe that this achievement opened many doors for me and gave me experiences I wouldn't have otherwise discovered. The Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme was introduced by Kurt Hahn, the same person who co-created Outward Bound, which Expeditionary Learning emerged from.

“There are so many rewards for young people who do DofE programmes and achieve an award. Its balanced programme of activities develops the whole person - mind, body and soul, in an environment of social interaction and team work.”

The DofE Awards handbook for DofE Leaders

So at XP, all of our students will begin their Duke of Edinburgh Award in Year 9 starting with the Bronze Award which they will hopefully complete by the end of the academic year. The Bronze Award consists of a programme chosen by the student which includes a skill, physical and a voluntary Activity, plus the completion of an outdoor expedition.

Volunteering: Undertaking service to individuals or the community.

Physical: Improving in an area of sport, dance or fitness activities.

Skills: Developing practical and social skills and personal interests.

Expedition: Planning, training for and completion of an adventurous journey.

Two of the activities (excluding the expedition) must be done for at least an hour a week for a minimum of 3 months and the other activity for at least an hour a week for a minimum of 6 months. Each activity is supervised and finally assessed by someone with knowledge of that activity such as a coach (this can not be a family member). We expect students to continue these activities throughout the year, after the compulsory period where possible.

XP provides a wide range of activities covering all three disciplines from cookery, gardening, clean up crew, table tennis, media crew, school magazine and much more. A timetable of these activities is available to students and will be discussed in crew at the beginning of the year. As well as school-led activities, students can choose activities outside of school, which we strongly encourage such as a local sports club or drama group.

At the beginning of the year students will be given access to their DofE online portfolios called 'eDofE'. Here they record their chosen activities along with their aims and goals. They must also upload evidence of their weekly activity which can be done in the form of scanned photos, images, notes etc. Students also need to ensure their paper activity log is signed by their assessor each week in order to confirm their attendance especially if the activity is out of school.

Students are responsible for their own progress through the programme however their Crew leaders have been trained as their DofE leader and will support and monitor their progress on a weekly basis.

After the Christmas holidays students will start to prepare and train for their outdoor expedition, dates will be confirmed later in the year. Students will be trained in skills such as navigation, route planning, camp craft and First Aid so that

they are fully prepared for the expeditions. Bronze expeditions consist of 2 days hiking and 1 night camping.

I hope this helps you understand the DofE Award at XP. Our website is updated with all the relevant information, however, please feel free to email me if you need anything further.

Many thanks,

Kate ap Harri

DofE manager

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