



We offer all our students the opportunity to take part in the prestigious and highly regarded Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme from Year 9 onwards. Students are able to undertake the Bronze Award in Year 9, the Silver Award in Year 10 and the Gold award in Years 12 and 13.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme helps students to:

- Broaden their education through a range of challenging and valuable experiences.
- Participate in activities outside the main school environment.
- Try out new skills, experience new activities and explore unfamiliar environments.
- Build self-confidence, self-reliance, make decisions for themselves and achieve in areas not necessarily provided through the National Curriculum.
- Develop qualities such as enterprise, initiative and leadership, which are highly regarded by employers.
- Experience a sense of fun and enjoyment.

To successfully achieve each award, students must complete an expedition which is organised by the school. They must also develop a skill, a physical activity and undertake some voluntary work for a specified period of time, which they must organise themselves. Students' progress is recorded on the Duke of Edinburgh website and they are supported by mentors in school. Each year, approximately 100 students sign up from Year 9 for the Bronze award. Later, healthy numbers sign up for the Silver and Gold awards.

Sessions are held to develop students' knowledge and skills for the expeditions. They also undertake a practice expedition, prior to their assessment weekend. Bronze expeditions take place within the local area. A series of meetings are held to set students up on eDofE and to help them develop their individual programmes. Further meetings are held prior to the expeditions and to monitor their progress.

The Duke of Edinburgh Scheme is a fantastic opportunity to develop lifelong skills alongside your peers, meeting new people and challenging yourself.