



14 January 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

## **The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Program for Year 9 Students**

Firstly, thank you for expressing an interest in your child taking part in the MECE Bronze DofE Award.

### **Now it's time to sign up!**

We will begin by offering the **Bronze Award from January**, which is tailored for students starting their DofE journey. Students will be able to back date their hours to October if they have begun any of the sections below. Participants will have the guidance and support of trained staff to ensure their experience is both enjoyable and fulfilling.

The DofE program is an excellent way for students to explore new interests, enhance their personal growth, and contribute positively to the community. The program is divided into four key sections:

1. **Volunteering** – Giving back to the community through charitable work or other meaningful contributions.
2. **Physical** – Participating in sports or physical activities to promote a healthy lifestyle.
3. **Skills** – Developing a new hobby or skill, such as music, art, or coding.
4. **Expedition** – Planning and completing an adventurous journey in a team, which fosters teamwork, independence, and leadership.

***Students will need to complete 2 sections for 3 months and 1 section for 6 months (Expedition not included!)***

### **Program Details for Year 9 Students**

Here are the key details:

- **Program Launch Meeting:** 6pm Thursday 15 January 2026 at Maiden Erlegh Chiltern Edge
- **Registration Fee:** £30.50 sign up which covers sign up and membership to DofE. This payment acts as a non-refundable deposit which is passed directly to DofE to confirm commitment to the scheme. Payment, via Parentpay, must be made by Wednesday 21 January as this money is passed directly to DofE to register.
- **Commitment:** Participants will work on their chosen activities throughout the year.
- The cost for the expedition will be approx. £140 split into equal instalments. Financial assistance may be available, please contact Mr Caldwell. ***Students who fail to***





***complete 2 out of 3 sections and who haven't paid in full by 15 April will not be allowed to do the expedition.***

### Diary Dates

- "Navigation and Mapping" day scheduled for Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April 9:00-16:00.
- Practice expedition based at MECE on the weekend of 8-9<sup>th</sup> May; Friday after school camp, cook, sleep and then a full day's walk on Saturday.
- Final expedition 12-13<sup>th</sup> June starting at MECE. Leave MECE Friday around 12.00. Day walk, camp, cook, sleep at the The Eyot Centre, Henley; Saturday return to MECE by another route. Finish around 3.00pm.

If your child is unable to attend due illness, unfortunately we are unable to guarantee a refund, however we will endeavour to offer a full/partial refund if;

- Another student replaces your child.
- The school is able to agree a full/partial refund from external agencies with whom the event is booked.
- **The registration fee is non-refundable.**

### Next Steps

We encourage all interested students and their parents to attend the information session on Thursday 15 January. This session will provide an overview of the program and give you an opportunity to ask any questions. To confirm your attendance please complete the form here - [Duke of Edinburgh Bronze meeting - 6pm Thursday 15 January 2026 – Fill in form](#)

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at [a.caldwell@maidenerleghtrust.org](mailto:a.caldwell@maidenerleghtrust.org)

Finally, we have a dedicated page on our [website for the Duke of Edinburgh Award](#). Please keep an eye on it for updates and information.

We look forward to supporting your child on this exciting journey of self-discovery and achievement.

Yours sincerely

Mr Caldwell  
DofE manager, Head of Faculty

