

10 September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award 2026/27

We are delighted to confirm that this academic year, all year 9 students will have the opportunity to complete the prestigious Bronze Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Award. To achieve the award, students complete an activity from each of four categories. These are volunteering, physical, skill and an expedition. By completing the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh, students will access an exceptional learning experience including having fun, navigating the Peak District and just maybe changing their futures along the way. The DofE helps to turn the things your child loves, and the things they've always wanted to try, into powerful lifelong skills that can help them get a job, change their community and take on anything life throws their way.

As part of completing the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh, students will take part in a two-day expedition in the beautiful Peak District. All costs and equipment will be funded and provided by Sir Thomas Wharton Academy to ensure all students can access this fantastic opportunity free of charge.

In addition to the expedition, students complete two hours per week of their volunteering, physical and skills sections. Two of these sections run for a minimum of three months and the other for six (please see the table below). Students will be able to complete these sections during tutor time and the Wednesday Elective blocks to ensure all students can hit the criteria during school time. There will also be time across the academic year to carry out practice expeditions, learn map and equipment skills and receive first aid training.



Please note that during the expedition (to be scheduled for the end of June 2027 in the Peak District), students will only have access to their phones in extreme emergencies. The Bronze Duke of Edinburgh is to be completed using map reading and not relying on online maps to navigate the routes. Parents will have access to Senior Leaders via a trip phone – details to be shared nearer the time.

Further information regarding DofE can be found here - [DofE - The Duke of Edinburgh's Award](#) and here - [Parents and Carers - The Duke of Edinburgh's Award](#).

We are also working in partnership with the Approved Activity Provider, 'The Adventure Element'. More information about this fantastic company can be found here: [DofE Expeditions | Challenge Events | The Adventure Element](#).

This letter is purely for your information and as stated, **there is no cost for your child to complete the Bronze Award. Equipment will be provided.**

We are incredibly excited to embark on Bronze DofE with your child, and we will continue to update you as the year progresses.

Yours sincerely

Mrs L Stuart
Assistant Principal