

Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award Scheme 2025/26

Dear Parent / Carer,

We are pleased to inform you that The Becket School is offering students currently in **Year 9** the opportunity to participate in the **Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award Scheme** during the academic year **2025/26**.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award was introduced by HRH The Duke of Edinburgh in 1956 to encourage and challenge young people, fostering key skills and attributes that help them become confident, resilient, and well-rounded individuals. Qualities developed through the Award—such as self-confidence, initiative, responsibility, time management, communication, leadership, and teamwork—are highly valued by colleges, universities, and employers.

There are three levels of the Award: Bronze, Silver, and Gold. This year, the school is offering students the opportunity to complete the **Bronze Award**, which marks the first stage of the DofE journey.

Award Sections

To achieve the Bronze Award, students must complete the following four sections:

1. **Expedition** – Planning, training for, and completing an adventurous journey in the UK
2. **Volunteering** – Giving service to individuals or the community
3. **Physical** – Improving in a sport, dance, or fitness-related activity
4. **Skills** – Developing practical and social skills or personal interests

The DofE team will guide students through each section. However, this is an **extra-curricular programme**, and some sessions will take place **outside of school hours**. Parents and carers are also expected to support students throughout the process to ensure they successfully complete all sections.

All Bronze sections will follow official DofE guidelines and are expected to be completed by **July 2026**.

Expedition Details

- **Training Day:**
Wednesday 22nd April 2026 (during the school day)
Students will learn essential expedition skills including navigation, map reading, camp craft, first aid, team building, and safe use of Trangias.
- **Practice and Qualifying Expedition:**
Expeditions will take place over a **weekend in May 2026**, with final dates confirmed by **October Half Term 2025**.
The expedition will include:
 - A **1-day training hike**

- A **1-day qualifying expedition**
- An **overnight camp** (this will serve as both the practice and qualifying expedition)
- Location: Clumber Park / Sherwood Forest area

Attendance at all training and expedition sessions is mandatory.

A **Parents/Carers and Participants Online Information Evening** will be held before October Half Term (exact date to be confirmed).

Cost & Payment Plan

The total cost to participate is **£200.00 per student**.

What's Included:

- Training, supervision, and assessment by qualified instructors
- Access to DofE online account (eDofE)
- Expedition equipment: tent hire, Trangias, fuel, compasses, maps
- Camping fees
- Transport to and from expedition venues
- DofE registration fee, welcome pack, discount card, certificate, and badge upon completion

Not Included:

- Personal kit (e.g. waterproofs, walking boots, personal first aid kit – a kit list will be provided)
- Food for the expedition

Payment Schedule:

Payment	Amount Due	Date
Deposit (non-refundable, secures place)	£50.00	Friday 17th October 2025
Second Payment	£50.00	Friday 27th February 2026
Final Payment	£100.00	Friday 1st May 2026

Payments must be made via **your child's school Arbor account**. Please note, **The Becket School is a cashless school** and **cheques or cash will not be accepted**.

Registration Process

If you would like to register your child's interest in the Bronze Award Scheme:

1. Submit the **DofE participant registration form** - attached to this email and return to student services
2. Complete the **medical form** using this link <https://forms.gle/m4z7rZegx5U7ZwTn8>
3. Pay the **£50.00 deposit via Arbor** to secure a place (please note: places are not guaranteed until the deposit is received).
4. complete all 3 steps by **Friday 17 October**

Please note: Registration **does not guarantee a place** until the deposit has been received. Places are limited and will be secured on a first-come, first-served basis.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

Darren Stevenson

Duke of Edinburgh Manager

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