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October 2025

Oldbury Wells

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Headteacher: Mr A Walker



Dear Parent/Guardian

Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award

I am writing to introduce you to the Duke of Edinburgh's Award and to explain the enrolment process for Bronze Award participants at Oldbury Wells School.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is the world's leading youth achievement award and a globally recognised qualification. There are three levels - Bronze, Silver and Gold - which differ in terms of increasing time commitment, degree of challenge and age of entry. The benefits of achieving an award at any level are endless. It encourages young people to push themselves to do new things, grow in confidence and develop new skills. The Award is highly valued and respected by both employers and further or higher education establishments.

We are providing the opportunity to undertake the Bronze Award to all students in Year 9 at the school. In completing the award over the next few months, students will undertake four sections as part of their own personal and unique journey:



Students can get started on their non-expedition sections as soon as they are registered, giving them every opportunity to achieve the award within the academic year. There is plenty of support available to help students make and manage their choices, which best suit their interests and availability. Two of the sections must be completed over a three-month period and the third over a sixth-month period for one hour per week. For a list of ideas for each section please visit: www.dofe.org/do/ideas/

The expedition section will be arranged in conjunction with an outdoor activities company to ensure we have enough staff with sufficient experience and qualifications in providing outdoor activities. Although I am a qualified assessor for the award and have supervised expeditions of this nature for nearly 25 years, other suitably qualified staff will be needed. I will also have support from a school staff team.

The expedition will involve training, practice and a qualifying expedition and pupils will be in teams of 4-7. Dates are yet to be fully confirmed but the expedition training is planned to take place in the summer term on Friday, 24 April 2026, with the qualifying expedition likely to be on Thursday, 25 and Friday, 26 June 2026. We will let you know as soon as possible if this needs to change. The expedition section is only the final quarter of the award, and we'd like students who sign up to demonstrate they are committed to completing their award. This means that **significant** progress on the Volunteering, Skill and Physical sections must be evidenced before students are offered a place on the expedition.



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Some of the training will be completed in school, ahead of the expedition. Students will be expected to commit to sessions as part of the course so they can be taught the skills needed for the expedition. Failure to attend could result in removal from the programme at school, since students' safety depends on the skills and training that they receive. Such sessions are likely to take place after school in the Spring and Summer terms.

The anticipated total cost of the award is £150 which can be paid in instalments. The final figure will depend upon how many pupils take part, but it is not expected to vary greatly. The fee covers their registration with The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, a contribution towards the school's D of E licence and the expedition section training and qualifying costs.

When enrolling you will receive:

- A welcome pack (sent to your home address)
- An eDofE account to record progress during the award (training will be provided)
- DofE card that gives discounts on expedition kit
- Limited personal accident insurance cover whilst taking part in DofE activities
- Certificate & badge on completion.

In addition to this, you will be required to provide walking kit for your child (on which we will give you advice) and a small selection of camping equipment and food for the duration of the expeditions. We are able to supply some items of kit such as tents, cooking stoves, rucksacks, compasses and maps, although your child is permitted to use their own equipment, provided it has been checked by the Award Leader to ensure it is suitable.

If your child wishes to register to start their award, please return the attached enrolment form and bitesize planner by **Monday, 10th November 2025** along with the non-refundable enrolment fee of £50 which can be paid via Parent Pay. The expedition costs will be finalised and issued as soon as possible. These will be payable in instalments.

I will be making a presentation to parents / carers over Teams on **Tuesday, 4 November at 5:30pm (until about 6:15pm)** during which time I will be able to answer questions. If you would like to join the Teams meeting, please contact me on the email address below so you can be sent a link.

If you would like further information in the meantime, please email me at:

nick.pollock1@oldburywells.com.

Yours faithfully



Mr N Pollock
DofE Assistant Manager

(Enrolment form & planner on next page)





**YOUTH
WITHOUT
LIMITS**

Bronze DofE Award Bitesize planner

This has been designed to help you when setting up your eDofE account.

Your name: Date:

Address: Postcode:

Email address:

Your emergency contact's name:

Their relationship to you (parent/guardian):

Their telephone number:

Volunteering section planned start date: for: **3 or 6 months?**

Type & details of activity:

Where are you going to do it:

List personal goals you want to achieve:

Your Volunteering section Assessor's name:

Their job/position:

Assessor's Email or phone number:

Physical section planned start date: for: **3 or 6 months?**

Type & details of activity:

Where are you going to do it:

List personal goals you want to achieve:

Your Physical section Assessor's name:

Their job/position:

Assessor's Email or phone number:

Skills section planned start date: for: **3 or 6 months?**

Type & details of activity:

Where are you going to do it:

List personal goals you want to achieve:

Your Skills section Assessor's name:

Their job/position:

Assessor's Email or phone number:

Your DofE Leader will advise you on what to put in the Expedition section.