

Dear parent / carer,

I'm pleased to let you know that Wilmington Grammar School for Girls offers the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) to students in Year 9.

The DofE is a great chance for your child to broaden their horizons, discover new interests and talents, have fun with friends, develop essential skills for their future and achieve an internationally renowned Award.

As Wilmington Grammar School for Girl's DofE Manager, I wanted to send you some information about what a DofE programme involves, the benefits for your child and how they can sign up.

I am sending this letter to invite your child to formally sign up to be enrolled on the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

About the DofE

The DofE is non-competitive and open to all young people – it's about setting personal challenges and pushing personal boundaries. There are three levels of DofE programme which, when successfully completed, lead to a Bronze, Silver or Gold Award. In Year 9, students are able to register for, and complete, the Bronze Award.

Through their DofE, students will make friends and memories and build traits like confidence, resilience and self-esteem, which can benefit mental health. They'll gain skills and attributes for work and life, like problem-solving, team-working and self-motivation – and they'll achieve an Award that's recognised by top employers and can help them stand out when applying for university or jobs.

To achieve their Bronze Award, participants must complete four sections: Skills, Volunteering, Physical and their Expedition. Currently, we are running the full 'Bronze' award which includes a 2 day, 1 night expedition.

Every young person's DofE programme is personal to them – they can choose what they'd like to do for their Skills, Volunteering and Physical sections, and most activities can count. We will provide guidance and support, and students can either choose to continue an activity they already do or discover something completely new.

Activities for each section take a minimum of one hour a week over a set period of time, so they can fit around studying, hobbies and social lives. For more details about programmes and timescales visit DofE.org/do

eDofE and the DofE app

Participants can create their DofE programme and record their progress using eDofE, the DofE's digital system, available online at eDofE.org and through the DofE app – downloadable for free from Google Play and the App Store.

If your child decides to enrol, we will set up their eDofE account and they will receive details of how to sign in and get started.

Signing up

The cost of taking part in the DofE is £26 per participant. This covers your child's participation place and Welcome Pack, which will be sent to their home address and includes their personalised DofE Discount Card. The expedition and training day will be an extra cost of around £150 which will be confirmed nearer to the event taking place.

If your child would like to take part, please complete and return the enclosed enrolment form, together with the sum of £26, which you can pay using Parent Pay. The item on parent pay is called 'DofE 2023-24'. You may return the form to me electronically to my email address (listed below) or drop it in to the box labelled 'D of E registration' which will be located outside the PE office.

If the cost of taking part is prohibitive, please speak to me as there may be financial support available to you

Many thanks for your support and we look forward to helping your child to achieve through their DofE.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs H Shooman - Taylor

DofE Manager

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