

2 July 2025



Dear Parent/Carer

### Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme

I am delighted to let you know that Park Community School has become an official centre for the **Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme** (DofE) and that we are going to recruit for our first Year 9 cohort of Bronze DofE students in September 2025.



### Why should your child do DofE?

Doing DofE is a brilliant way for your young person to discover just how much they are capable of. It gives young people the chance to make new friends, follow their passions, learn new skills and make a difference in our community. Gaining a DofE Award is a great way to impress employers too. It is also non-competitive and a powerful way for every young person to build belief in themselves, whatever their background, interests and abilities. It is very accessible, but also provides some challenges!



### How it works

There are three levels of DofE Award - **Bronze, Silver and Gold**. In Year 9 Park students can attempt their **Bronze**, and in Year 10 their **Silver**. Further Education colleges offer **Gold**.



To achieve the awards, your child will need to complete four sections - **Volunteering, Physical, Skills** and the **Expedition**.



Students can choose what they would like to do for the first three sections, and we will provide all the guidance and support they need, but they will need to complete the hours in their own time (for example, one hour a week doing a sport/hobby for three months). The **Bronze** Expedition happens at the end of the year and involves spending two days and one night in the countryside with only remote supervision from staff, though again we'll make sure that our students are fully prepared for it. **Silver** requires three days and two nights and will take place before the end of Year 10.



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**Next steps**

We hope many of our students will take this opportunity to get involved with DofE. The cost is yet to be decided and will be included in a letter at the start of term. We can register pupils for free in our first year as a centre, saving us over £30 per student; this means that the main costs will be for the expedition itself: walking kit, wet weather gear, food to cook and for the journey etc. To help with this we are looking to purchase and store some rucksacks and stoves, which we hope to loan to students and will only charge for if they are damaged. However, we may have to hire tents, and so there will be a small cost. If your child is interested in taking part but the cost is prohibitive, please do speak to me as we may be able to arrange some financial support.

There will be a parents' evening in the new school year, but If you have any questions in the meantime, please feel free to contact me on [m.coates@pcs.hants.sch.uk](mailto:m.coates@pcs.hants.sch.uk) The DofE website – [www.dofe.org](http://www.dofe.org) - has a lot of useful information too.

Thank you for your future support. I am sure you'll agree that the DofE is the perfect way for your child to build some resilience and feel ready for anything!

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Coates', written in a cursive style.

Mark Coates  
DofE Manager