



2nd October 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are very pleased to inform you that Marlborough continues to offer the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) to students in Year 9. This scheme is a great chance for students 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 the DofE Coordinators, we are sending you some information about what the programme involves, the benefits of this, and how students can sign up.

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, students in Year 9 will focus on their bronze award with the possibility of completing silver and gold in the future.

Through their DofE, students will make friends and memories, and build character including confidence, resilience, and self-esteem, all of which will benefit their mental health. Students will develop key skills and attributes for work and life including determination, independence, creativity, critical thinking, teamwork and self-motivation, they will also achieve an award that is recognised by employers and can help them stand out when applying for university or jobs.

To achieve the Bronze Award, students must complete **four** sections: Skills, Volunteering, Physical, and an Expedition. Every student's DofE programme is personal to them, they can choose what they would like to do for the Skills, Volunteering, and Physical sections. We will provide guidance and support, students can either choose to continue an activity they are already involved in or discover something completely new. **Students are required to complete at least one of their Skills, Volunteering, or Physical sections before undertaking their Qualifying Expedition in June.**

About the Expedition

The Expedition involves students working as part of a small team to plan their Expedition's aim, choose a location, and complete some training to make sure they are fully prepared before spending two days and one night in the countryside. Ahead of this, students will take part in a day of training by our Expedition provider, which is H5 Adventures, on basic expedition principles and an introduction to equipment.

Students must be available for the following dates:

Training day: Sunday 8th February 2026

Practice Expedition: Saturday 9th to Sunday 10th May 2026

Qualifying Expedition: Saturday 6th to Sunday 7th June 2026



eDofE and the DofE app

Students will create their DofE programme and record their progress using eDofE, the DofE's digital system. When they sign up they will be given a login to use and everything will be signed off virtually.

Signing up

The cost of taking part in the DofE is **£290** per student. Below you will find the payment schedule. This covers the eDofE account, County fees, Welcome Pack, (sent to your home address) which includes a personalised DofE Discount Card and fees payable to H5 Adventures for running the Expedition and supplying the kit needed.

Year 9 students attended an assembly today which introduced them to the DofE award. Please find these brief introductory slides attached. To reserve a place, without deposit, please click [here](#) to register your interest. **This form must be completed by Wednesday 8th October**

We are keen for students and parents to have a full understanding of the commitment and requirements of DofE. We also wish to share knowledge and ideas in order to facilitate students making the best possible start to the award and gaining the most from the experience. **We would like to invite you to a meeting to find out more, before the deposit is due, on Wednesday 15th October in Da Vinci Hall at 5:30pm.**

After this, you will have the chance to confirm your child's place by paying the first instalment of £60, which will be due by Thursday 23rd October 2025.

Please note the first 2 payments **will be non-refundable, and no amount is refundable after 7th February 2025.**

A schedule of monthly payments is advised and this will be set up online using the School Gateway website as follows:

- **£60 by Thursday 23rd October 2025**
- **£60 on Friday 28th November 2025**
- **£60 by Friday 9th January 2026**
- **£60 by Friday 6th February 2026**
- **£50 by Friday 6th March 2026**

We want the DofE to be accessible to anyone who wants to do it, and there is Pupil Premium funding available to the amount of £145.00 (50%). If you are concerned about financing the award for any reason, please feel free to speak to either of us (Miss Rowe or Miss Bassett) as DofE Coordinators.

If you would like any further information in the meantime, please feel free to contact us at **DofE@marlborough.herts.sch.uk**

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

Kind regards,

Miss Bassett and Miss Rowe
DofE Coordinators



How to pay online:

Log on to: www.schoolgateway.com

Select: Make a Payment

Select: **Duke of Edinburgh Award - Year 9**

Follow the on screen instructions to complete the payment and please **ENSURE** that the following information is entered in the **COMMENT** box:

- **EMERGENCY CONTACT NAMES**
- **EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS**
- **MEDICAL/DIETARY** information (if applicable)

No further information or comment is required.

It is important that we have this information for the trip leader in case of an emergency and for Health & Safety reasons.

If you would like information on how to access the School Gateway system then please contact the School Office on 01727 856874.

