



St John Bosco ARTS COLLEGE

15th January 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am delighted to let you know that we are launching the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) again this year. I am the DofE Manager for St John Bosco Arts College and wanted to write to let you know more about what is involved.

Why do DofE?

Doing DofE is a brilliant way for your child to discover just what 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. Achieving a DofE Award is a great way to impress employers, and it helps young people to see themselves differently and gain a new level of confidence. We always say that after taking the DofE Award you know that whatever life throws at you, you're ready to deal with it.

The DofE is non-competitive and a powerful way for every person to build belief in themselves, whatever their background, interests and abilities.

How it works

There are three levels of DofE Award - Bronze, Silver and Gold. We are offering pupils in year 9, 10 and 12 the opportunity to achieve the Bronze Award, to complete this, students will need to complete four sections - **Volunteering, Physical, Skills and the Expedition**

Individuals can choose what they would like to do for the first three sections, and we will provide all the guidance and support they need. The Expedition involves spending two days and one night hiking in the countryside. We provide comprehensive training beforehand to ensure everyone is fully prepared and has the best possible experience.

Next steps

We hope lots of our students will take up this opportunity to get involved with DofE. The registration fee is £30.50 per person. This covers their application to the award as well as their welcome pack and log on details for the online platform. Attached to this letter is a 'frequently asked questions' document that may answer any questions you have. Please note that once signed up to the award, this can not be refunded if your child decides not to continue due to their place being allocated on the system.

If your child would like to be signed up to complete the DofE Award, please pay for their place on ParentPay. This will be available under 'DofE Award - Sign Up'.

Thank you for your support. I hope you will agree that the DofE is the perfect way for your child to feel ready for anything. Please sign and return the letter attached to Miss Provan if they would like to complete the DofE Bronze Award.

Yours sincerely,

A Provan

**Miss A Provan
Year 8 PPC & DofE Co-Ordinator**



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Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award - Frequently Asked Questions:

What is The Duke of Edinburgh's Award?

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is a life changing experience providing an opportunity to discover new interests and talents, whilst having fun with friends and gaining essential skills and attributes for work life. This Award is completed in a young person's own time.

Anyone between the ages of 14 and 24 can complete a DofE programme at one of three progressive levels which, when successfully completed, lead to a Bronze, Silver or Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award. Students under 14 can begin the Award as soon as they are in Year 9. At Bronze and Silver level, participants will volunteer to help a person or community, become fitter, develop new skills, plan, train for and complete an expedition and, for Gold only, work with a team on a residential activity.

Any young person can do their DofE, regardless of ability, gender or background. It is not a competition but rather about setting personal challenges and reaching personal goals. By completing a DofE programme young people have the opportunity to make new friends, improve their confidence and self-esteem whilst enhancing their future CVs and college, university and job applications.

Why should I do my DofE?

The DofE gives you the chance to do something completely new and improve on things you're already doing. It takes you out of your comfort zone and into a place where you'll push yourself and have amazing new experiences. You'll build confidence, resilience, skills for work and friendship groups. And you'll have a brilliant time doing it.

What do I have to do to get my Bronze DofE Award?

To complete the Bronze DofE Award you must complete each of the following sections for 3 months, followed by one section carrying on for an additional 3 months. There are four sections to complete of the award -

- Skills where you learn a new skill or develop an existing one such as playing a musical instrument or designing a website.
- Physical where you focus on your health and fitness and have to undertake a period of improvement in an existing or new sport or physical activity.
- Volunteering to help others to make a difference to other people's lives by giving your time.
- Expedition undertaken under your own efforts including camping out overnight.

How can parents/carers help participants complete the Award?

Participants will need your support with organising any activities outside of the school, transport and general discussion around how they are progressing through the award.

Before starting any of the sections, St John Bosco Arts College DofE Manager, Miss Provan, will need to approve the activity via eDofE.



Are you allowed your phone on the DofE?

Yes, phones will be allowed on the expedition for use of emergencies. Having phones will allow you to communicate with your DofE lead in the case of an emergency. However, phones should not be used as a navigation tool as this could result

in you failing the expedition. Map reading and compass skills are a major skill you will develop prior to attending your expedition. Phones can be used in downtime after the expedition.

How much does the DofE cost?

The signup fee for the Bronze Award is £30.50 per person. This will be available to pay on ParentPay.

Initial enrolment and payment will give participants access to the eDofE system, they will then be able to begin their Physical, Skills and Volunteering sections. Completion of these sections will result in a DofE Certificate of Achievement. They will also be given a Welcome pack that includes their personalised discount cards.

Completing your award will incur additional costs, particularly for the Expedition section to cover costs of site fees and transport. This cost will be announced later in the year however has an estimated cost of around £50-60.

What if I am really committed to completing the Award but having financial difficulties?

We are going through a really challenging time as a nation. If you are worried about the costs of the sign up to the DofE Award as well as the addition expedition costs, please contact your DofE Lead.

What equipment will I need?

The DofE Expedition Kit List will be available to view on our website and paper copies will be supplied. The items that are provided by St John Bosco are highlighted on the document and include stoves, fuel, maps, compasses, and safety equipment. We would recommend not purchasing any expedition kit until the exact details have been confirmed. Tents and sleeping bags can be provided from school however if you would like to bring your own this is allowed. Tents must be no bigger than 4 man.

A limited amount of personal and group kit can be borrowed from school however must be booked in advance with Miss Provan and will require a payment and deposit.

Does DofE get you UCAS points?

Unfortunately, the DofE Award does not give you UCAS points. However, completion of DofE is an excellent talking point for your Personal Statement as they display proficiency in a wide variety of soft skills; adding to your academic excellence. Having the DofE on your personal statement is something to be extremely proud of and stands out for many universities!