



WOODBROOK VALE SCHOOL

HEADTEACHER: Rachael Fraser MA, BA (Hons) NPQH
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Thursday 18 June 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award 26-27

Your son/daughter has expressed an interest in completing the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award at Woodbrook Vale School.

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.

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.

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, so they can fit around studying, hobbies and social lives. Students are required to log evidence for each activity they do. At the end, this is then assessed by an adult. **Please note family members cannot be assessors for each section – assessors can include family friends/neighbours/coaches and they must be over the age of 18.** For more details about programmes and timescales visit www.DofE.org/do

Students will not be able to start their sections until September 2026, however, it would be useful for them to plan what they are going to do now and who will assess them so they can hit the ground running at the start of the new academic year.



Registered Office:
Woodbrook Vale School, Grasmere Road, Loughborough, Leicestershire, LE11 2ST
Company Registration No: 7671486



About the expedition

The expedition section involves your child working as part of a small team to plan their expedition's aim, choose a location and complete training to make sure they're fully prepared – before spending two days and one night walking and camping in the countryside. Ahead of this, they will take part in school-based training, covering basic expedition principles and introducing them to expedition equipment. There will also be some sessions after school next year in which your child and their group will plan and prepare their route for the expedition. **Participants will only be able to begin their expedition section if they attend the organised training and complete at least 2 other sections of the award.**

The expedition will take place during the summer term of 2026 and details about pre-expedition training will follow, if your child is successful in their application.

Applications

In order to ensure students are committed to taking on additional responsibilities, I ask that students complete and submit a Bronze DofE Award Bitesize planner before they begin their Bronze Award. This is attached to the back of this letter. Parental permission is not required at this stage, but it will be, once your child has been accepted to start their DofE Bronze award.

Students will be required to hand in the Bitesize planner to Mr Matthews by Friday 03 July 2026.

Should your child be successful in their application there will be an **initial registration fee of £33.00, this is non-refundable**. More information on how to pay this will be sent out at a later date, once the programme planners have been received. This will allow your child to begin their volunteering, skills and physical sections after the summer holidays. Once an expedition date has been set, we will then communicate this information along with the additional costs involved. **The full cost of completing the Bronze award will be approximately £180 (inclusive of the initial registration fee)**; however, this will be confirmed and charged at a later date. Financial support with the cost may be available, please contact the school if you would like to discuss this further.

If you would like any further information in the meantime, please feel free to contact me.

Yours faithfully



Mr D Matthews
dmatthews@wbvs.co.uk

