



## Bronze Award

# Information for Parents, Guardians and Pupils

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Office have provided some general information on the Award Scheme. This is detailed below. Further information is available on The Duke of Edinburgh's Award website [www.DofE.org](http://www.DofE.org).

Details of how the Award Scheme operates in The Glasgow Academy are given after the general information.

If you have any questions or would like any further information about the trips please contact me by telephone via the Administration Centre or by email to [Laura.Murphy@tga.org.uk](mailto:Laura.Murphy@tga.org.uk)

Dr L J Murphy  
DofE Manager



## WHAT WILL YOUR SON OR DAUGHTER GAIN FROM THE AWARD?



**Our aim is to bring the best out of your child in a non-competitive environment.**

- **Your child will decide exactly what activities and skills they undertake.**
- **Rest assured, we won't change their cultural outlook.**
- **We will make them more motivated, disciplined and balanced.**
- **The Duke of Edinburgh's Award will benefit your child long into their adult life.**

"Community skills, leadership and use of initiative are attributes that we value immensely and cannot be learnt through an exam. The Award enables young people to develop and hone these skills putting them at a distinct advantage when it comes to interview. The opportunities that the Award provides should not be underestimated and I would encourage every young person to take up the Award challenge."

Tom Bell, Managing Director, TNT Express Services UK & Ireland.



## CAN ANYONE TAKE PART IN THE AWARD?



- As long as your son or daughter is at least **14** and no more than **25**, they can join the Award.
- To begin the **Bronze** Award your son or daughter must be **14** (or close to).
- **Silver** Award Participants must be at least **15**.
- To start their **Gold** Award your child must be **16**.



## HOW DOES THE AWARD WORK?

- The Duke of Edinburgh's Award does not interfere with your child's schooling.
- Most activities are planned outside of school hours.
- Each Award is broken into **four** key areas.



## HOW DOES THE AWARD WORK?

### **Service**

Activities that help the communities, individuals or groups. Your child could become involved in an environmental project, work with older people or young children or help out at your local place of worship.

### **Skills**

Learn to drive or a new language, become an actor or develop their artistic talents. It's up to your child which skills they wish to pursue.

### **Physical Recreation**

Become involved in some form of dance, sport or fitness activity. Is your son the next Rooney, Tiger Woods or Monty Panesar? Or perhaps your daughter could be the next Kelly Holmes, Michelle Wie or Ellen Macarthur?





## HOW DOES THE AWARD WORK?

### **Expeditions**

Perfect for developing organisational, teamwork and physical skills. Train for, plan and complete a journey on foot, horseback, canoe, boat or bike. The expedition must have a clear aim, such as exploring the environment or undertaking a challenging journey.

**With the Gold Award you will also need to undertake a Residential Project, which involves participating in a shared activity away from home.**



## WHAT IS A DOFE PROGRAMME?

A DofE programme is a real adventure from beginning to end. It doesn't matter who you are or where you're from. You just need to be aged between 14 and 24 and realise there's more to life than sitting on a sofa watching life pass you by.

You can do programmes at three levels, [Bronze](#), [Silver](#) or [Gold](#), which lead to a Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

You achieve an Award by completing a personal programme of activities in four [sections](#) (five if you're going for Gold).

You'll find yourself helping people or the community, getting fitter, developing skills, going on an expedition and taking part in a residential activity (Gold only).

But here's the best bit - you get to choose what you do!

Your programme can be full of activities and projects that get you buzzing. And along the way you'll pick up experiences, friends and talents that will stay with you for the rest of your life.

## BRONZE AWARD

A Bronze DofE programme has 4 sections, Volunteering, Physical, Skills and Expedition. You need be **at least 14 years old** to start a Bronze programme and you must do a minimum of 3 months activity for each of the Volunteering, Physical and Skills sections, and plan, train for and do a 2 day (1 night) Expedition.

You also have to spend an extra three months on one of the Volunteering, Physical or Skills sections. It's your choice which one and, though you can change your mind later, you should decide which section you want to do for longer at the beginning. Knowing how long you're going to do it for will help you to set your aims for the sections.

This table shows what you need to do:

Volunteering	Physical	Skills	Expedition
3 months	3 months	3 months	Plan, train and complete a 2 day, 1 night expedition.
You must undertake a <b>further</b> 3 months in the Volunteering, Physical or Skills section.			

You achieve your Bronze Award by completing a personal programme of activities in four sections.

These sections are:

- **Volunteering** - helping someone, your community or the environment
- **Physical** - becoming fitter through sport, dance or fitness activities
- **Skills** - developing existing talents or trying something new
- **Expedition** - planning, training for and completing an adventurous journey

## **DofE at The Glasgow Academy**

### **Skills, Service and Physical Recreation**

These sections, along with the expedition, are essential for completion of the Award. There are hundreds of different skills, forms of service and physical recreation which are suitable for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. All of these are listed and the requirements for each described on the Award website. <http://www.dofe.org>



In school we offer many (not all may be listed) opportunities and members of staff can be approached to see if they are willing to monitor a participant's progress.

#### **Service:**

- CCF (only for Silver and Gold Awards)
- Mentoring younger pupils
- Fund raising for various charities

#### **Skills:**

- Debating
- Chess club
- Bridge club
- Cookery advice
- Gavel club
- Young Enterprise
- Marksmanship
- Learning a musical instrument
- Orchestra
- Drama
- Choir
- Languages - Spanish, French club

#### **Physical recreation:**

- Hockey
- Rugby
- Football
- Cricket
- Athletics
- Tennis

If an activity is chosen from those offered in school, the pupil **must**, as a matter of courtesy, inform the member of staff in charge of the activity **before the activity starts** of his or her intention to have it assessed as part of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. This gives the member of staff an opportunity to note the participant's contribution to see that it complies with the requirements of the Award. Mere participation is not always enough. To gain an award, there must be obvious signs of effort and commitment.

## Duke of Edinburgh's Award Expeditions



All pupils starting out at Bronze level attend a residential weekend for expedition training at Ardmay House Outdoor Centre on Loch Long. After this initial training, expeditions at Bronze and Silver level are supervised by qualified instructors provided by this centre. At Gold level expeditions may travel further a field and are supervised by qualified Academy staff or freelance instructors.

Expeditions normally take place in Scotland; however, there are sometimes opportunities to complete the expeditions overseas at Gold level.

Expeditions take place from March through to October and pupils receive training in all aspects of expedition work before completing both a **minimum of one practice expedition**, and an assessment expedition, at each level of the Award.

The expedition is often the most demanding section, mentally and physically, of the Award. Pupils are expected to carry their own kit unaided for the duration of the expedition.

**Please Note:** A minimum of one practice expedition is required before an assessment expedition is undertaken. After the first practice, Ardmay House staff may insist a further practice expedition is needed. This would be due to participants not meeting one or more of the Expedition Requirements set out by DofE. In the past, pupils have required to do a second practice where they were unable to put up their tent, unable to cook a meal, had

poor map reading skills or were walking at less than 2 km per hour and unable to make the daily check-points. Should a further practice be needed, additional fees would be charged to cover the costs of that expedition.

Training is given on all aspects of the expedition at the training weekend at Ardmay House.

## Expedition and Training Dates

March 2012	16 - 18 23 - 25	Boys DoE Training Weekend Girls DoE Training Weekend
April 2012	21 - 22	Bronze DoE Practice Expedition (N.B. this is the Easter weekend)
May 2012	5 - 6	Bronze DoE Assessment Expedition

## Borrowing Kit

Pupils may borrow the following items from the expedition store:

large rucksack (approx. 55 - 65 litres capacity)

foam campmat

tents

stoves (and fuel)

trowel (for burying human waste)

Kit must be returned to the store within two weeks of completing the assessment expedition as it may be required by other pupils. Failure to do so may result in House Detention and pupils being charged for the kit. If a pupil signs out an item of kit, they are responsible for its return.

## eDofE

This year Bronze participants at The Academy will be using eDofE. This is an on-line electronic version of the old *Record Book*. It gives participants the ability to record their programme in a new way. Evidence can be recorded in lots of different formats including text, pictures and movies. It also gives Leaders the ability to view DofE evidence and

approve it easily. When a pupil signs up for DofE, they will be registered on eDofE and then given their own personal log-in details. eDofE can be accessed anywhere there is an internet connection.

## **Age Limit**

Pupils must be 14 years old (or close to) before starting the Bronze Award. Service, Skills and Physical sections of the Award can be started 3 months before the 14<sup>th</sup> birthday. If a pupil will be 14 years old by the date of their Training Weekend they may sign up for Bronze DofE in S3. As the Expedition is demanding we will not allow pupils to take part in that section before their 14<sup>th</sup> birthday. Younger pupils may complete the expedition section the following year.

## **Costs**

The cost of taking part in Bronze DofE at The Academy is £350.

An initial £100 deposit is due by **23<sup>rd</sup> September** and the remaining £250 is due by **1<sup>st</sup> December**.

This cost is to cover hire of coaches for the training, practice and assessment weekends, and the payment for qualified Ardmay House instructors.

## **Important Information**

- Pupils will be able to sign up for Bronze DofE from the start on the new session until the October half-term break.
- The £100 Bronze payment must be received by **23<sup>rd</sup> September** to secure a place. Cheques should be made payable to 'The Glasgow Academy'. Alternatively, should you wish to pay by card, simply call the Administration Centre.
- Parental consent forms will be issued to pupils when they sign up. These must also be returned by **1<sup>st</sup> December**.
- As part of Bronze training, pupils will be required to attend two sessions of first aid training. These will take place after school; dates and times will be confirmed in the autumn.
- Pupils will also attend training sessions on the use of eDofE. These sessions will be at lunchtimes or after school. Dates and times will be confirmed in the autumn.

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