

St Crispin's School

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ESO/SH

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you for attending the year 9 Bronze DofE parent information evening. We are excited that there is so much interest in the scheme. This letter outlines the details discussed during the meeting, as well as the next steps for registering your son/daughter.

Owing to the COVID situation, we are unable to guarantee that the expedition will take place. As explained in the information meeting, the DofE have introduced a Certificate of Achievement. This is available to all participants who have completed their physical, skill and volunteering sections. The participant is still able to go on to complete their expedition at any point before their 25th birthday to obtain the full Bronze DofE award. If we haven't been able to complete the expedition during this school year, we will issue the certificate of achievement to all who have obtained it.

Cost

The cost for the entire award programme is **£125**. This will include everything apart from personal kit for the expedition, and fees for any activities your son/daughter chooses to do as part of their skill or physical sections. The fee includes registration with DofE, a contribution towards the school license fee, staff training and expedition costs including group equipment such as tents, cooking stoves and maps.

As we are unable to guarantee the expedition at this point, we are currently only asking for the enrolment fee, the contribution to the license fee and a portion of the staff training costs. Therefore, the cost at this point is **£50**. Should we be in a position to complete the expedition, we will ask for the further **£75** at that time.

The Expedition

Should the expedition be possible, the practice and assessed expeditions will take place locally (Bracknell/Crowthorne area) and will be supervised and assessed by St Crispin's staff who have the required qualifications.

Although it is not a requirement of the DofE award, it is recommended that participants complete a practice expedition. We have therefore decided that in order to ensure our students are sufficiently prepared, a practice expedition is to be completed in order to undertake the assessed expedition.

Expedition Training

Although we cannot make a decision about the expedition at this point, we feel that the expedition training provides vital skills and we want to provide as much of the DofE experience as we can. We will therefore go ahead with the expedition training.

This training will be delivered by qualified staff at St Crispin's and will take place after school on **Wednesdays from 15.00-16.00**. This will start after students have returned to school, and will last for 10 weeks. In addition, there is some online expedition training that students can complete before returning to school which will be sent out once students are registered. While we understand that some sessions may be missed because of illness, overall competency must be shown before completing the assessed expedition.

Enrolment

We anticipate that demand for places is going to be high. In order to ensure the expeditions are carried out safely with appropriate supervision, the number of places will be capped at 60. Places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

To register your son/daughter, please click the following [link](#). Once the 60 places have been filled, we will contact you again to confirm your son/daughter has a place and at that point, to secure their place, you will be directed to pay the £50 fee. Once these places have been filled, we will operate a waiting list and contact you should a place become available.

Getting Started

Your son/daughter will receive login details to eDofE to their school email address and will also be added to the St Crispin's DofE team on Microsoft Teams. They will be allocated a DofE leader who will keep in contact either remotely or in person to help them set up their eDofE account, their section activities and to record their evidence.

Once you have enrolled your son/daughter, they can get started on any of their sections. However, before signing up to a new activity, especially if a cost is involved, I would suggest waiting until they have been assigned a DofE leader so that they can approve their chosen activity.

The DofE have put together numerous ideas for each section that can be safely done from home or outdoors with social distancing. I want to highlight that there is no need to take part in expensive extra-curricular activities (although you can if you wish) and many of these activities are free of charge and easily accessible. [Activity ideas list - The Duke of Edinburgh's Award \(dofe.org\)](#)

Further Information

For further information, please have a look at the DofE [website](#). In particular, there is a section for parents and carers: [Parents and Carers - The Duke of Edinburgh's Award \(dofe.org\)](#)

The DofE South East office are running a number of virtual question and answer sessions. The attached [flyer](#) gives information on dates and joining instructions.

Any questions or queries then please do get in touch

Yours sincerely

Dr Emily Sonnex
DofE Manager

