

October 2025

Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award 2025/26

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are pleased to confirm that PRS is launching the Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) for Year 12 this half term.

Why do DofE?

DofE helps young people discover what they're capable of. They make new friends, follow their interests, learn new skills and contribute to the community. A DofE Award is internationally recognised and valued by employers and universities. It is non-competitive and helps every student build confidence, whatever their starting point.

How it works

To achieve their Gold Award, students complete five sections: Volunteering, Physical, Skills, Expedition and Residential. The programme lasts at least 12 months for students who already hold Silver, or 18 months for direct entrants (no Silver). Students choose their own activities for Volunteering, Physical and Skills; most existing hobbies can count, or they can try something new. As a guide, activities will usually involve about one hour a week.

About the expedition

For the Expedition section, PRS works with the School of Outdoors, an experienced Approved Activity Provider. Students train, plan and work in small teams, supported and supervised by PRS and School of Outdoors staff throughout. The outline for this section is: a school-based training day in February 2026; practical navigation training in March 2026; a practice expedition of three days and two nights in the Brecon Beacons in May 2026; and a qualifying expedition of five days and four nights in the Elan Valley in July 2026. Students must attend each stage of the organised training to take part. Activities will include both weekend and mid-week dates. If you anticipate a clash, please contact me.

Costs and signing up

The initial cost of participating in DofE is **£40 per student**. This non-refundable fee covers the national DofE participation fee, your child's eDofE account, Welcome Pack, DofE Discount Card and our administration costs. The expedition cost is **£667**. This covers School of Outdoors staff (instructors and assessors), tents, stoves and gas, maps and compasses, campsite fees, travel to and from the practice and qualifying expeditions, and risk assessments. Personal kit is not included.

Next steps

If your child would like to take part, please complete the attached enrolment form either digitally (email to jsaunders@prsbucks.com) or on paper (handed to Mr Saunders, H12), along with the initial enrolment fee (£40) via Arbor; paper copies of the form are available from H12 if needed. The deadline for initial enrolment is **Wednesday 5th November 2025**.

If your child is interested in taking part but the cost is prohibitive, please contact me so we can explore what support may be available.

Many thanks for your support. If you would like any further information or have any questions or concerns, please do get in touch. We look forward to helping students achieve through their DofE.

Yours faithfully,

James Saunders
DofE Manager
jsaunders@prsbucks.com



DofE Participant Enrolment Form

Please print clearly in CAPITALS or type your details in. You must complete all of the questions.

DofE Centre (if you know them):

DofE Centre: Princes Risborough School

DofE level you are enrolling to:

	Bronze	Silver	Gold
Have you previously registered for any levels of the DofE?	No	Yes	
If YES – please give the name of the DofE Centre you were registered at:			
eDofE ID number (if known) :			

Personal details:

First name:	Last name:
Date of birth:	Primary language: English Welsh Other:
Email address:	

When you first sign in to eDofE you will be asked to record some personal details such as your contact details, ethnicity and personal circumstances along with details of any medical needs you may have. This data is used to enable your Leaders to support you doing your DofE programme and for the DofE's statistical and reporting purposes. You will always have a 'prefer not to say' option.

Declaration:

I agree to enrol as a participant on a DofE programme. I understand that I will be managing my programme using the online eDofE system. I acknowledge that this system has a set of terms and conditions that I agree to. These terms and conditions are available at www.eDofE.org

Print Name	Signature	Date

Consent to enrol from parent or guardian (if applicant is under 18 years old):

I agree to my son / daughter / ward doing a DofE programme. I note that it is my responsibility to check that any activity my son / daughter / ward undertakes for their DofE programme is appropriately managed and insured unless the activity is directly managed or organised by their DofE group, centre or Licensed Organisation.

Print Name	Signature	Date

Note:

Data supplied on this form and in eDofE and information about DofE activities recorded in eDofE will be used by the DofE Charity, the Licensed Organisation and the DofE centre to monitor and manage DofE participation and progress by young people and manage and support Leaders.

The DofE Charity will use personal data to communicate useful and relevant information to either help participants complete a DofE programme, Leaders/LOs to run DofE programmes more effectively or help the DofE Charity to improve the quality and breadth of its programmes.

We also send emails that contain information about the Charity, DofE negotiated privileged discounts and invites to events and other activities however if you would like to receive these emails you will need to opt in. Once you have opted-in to this you can opt-out at any time by visiting www.dofe.org/preferences, or clicking the unsubscribe link that can be found at the bottom of all non-programme-related emails.