

## Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is a challenging programme of leisure time activities, designed to encourage young people to learn new skills, help others, and experience adventure in the outdoors.



There are three progressive programmes which, when successfully completed, lead to a Bronze, Silver or Gold Award. Students create their own DofE programme by finding a volunteering, physical and skills activity of their interest, before undertaking a final assessed expedition after undergoing a training day and practice expedition. For Gold only, they also take part in a residential expedition of their choice.

Through participation, students make new friends, develop social and inter-personal skills and increase their initiative, independence and self-confidence. Completion of the assessed expedition and the whole award gives a great sense of achievement. The award is highly prestigious and is valued by colleges, universities and employers.

At Soar Valley, our students can start the Bronze award in Year 9 and choose to participate in all three levels of the award. They are encouraged to view the award as a three-year progressive course and it is not possible to accept direct entrants at Silver and Gold level as we work to establish the foundation skills at Bronze level and then develop them further as they progress through the awards.

Last year we had 91 students gain their Bronze Award. They worked extremely hard and all managed to complete their expeditions facing a variety of weather conditions that we have when we camp in England. If you ask them now, they will all tell you how much fun they had. You might have had a different answer immediately after though! They learned valuable skills and have made lots of

memories they can look back on in years to come. We are very proud of them and hope they will complete their Silver Award in year 10, which we are currently looking to develop.

We now have a further 86 students ready to start their adventures and make their own special memories. Good luck everyone!

For further information please click on the links below

<https://www.dofe.org/wp-content/uploads/videos/1.-DofE-Bronze-Recruiting-young-people-Start-your-DofE.mp4>

<https://www.dofe.org/wp-content/uploads/videos/2.-DofE-Bronze-Welcoming-young-people-Choose-your-activities-subtitled.mp4>