

Year 10 Bronze Award

February 2024



General information

We are pleased to be able to shortly begin DofE training and expeditions and are looking forward to working with our students again in the great outdoors! Please read the information below about our plans for the coming months and what is required for the completion of the Bronze Award.

All students have an eDofE account that can be accessed through the internet but there is also an easy-to-use eDofE app for mobile phones that we suggest you download and use.

Getting onto eDofE and requesting activity approval

You should have received a username and password from DofE to access your eDofE account. Students need to log on and enter their personal details so that a Welcome Pack is automatically posted to your home address. If you have not received an email from DofE please contact us at dofe@arthurterry.bham.sch.uk

You then need to enter the details of each activity (Volunteering, Physical, Skill) and submit for approval from us (don't save it as a draft and choose either Mr Withey or Miss Wilson as your leader). Then you are insured to carry out each activity. Please ensure the start date of each activity is accurate, even if it is backdated. Your assessor must not be a family member and if we have agreed to assess you 'remotely' you will need to upload plenty of evidence to help us write your final assessor report. **Many students are yet to submit their activities for approval - please do this as soon as possible - we reminded students about the requirements when we met them over the last couple of weeks.**

Completing each section

There is no requirement to upload any evidence to eDofE apart from an assessor report (unless Mr Withey or Miss Wilson are remotely assessing you). Once your 3 or 6 months of activity is completed, your assessor needs to write a report. There are 2 ways they can do this:

- Completing an online form at this website: <https://www.dofe.org/assessor/>. The assessor only needs your eDofE number to do this. The dates are entered automatically, and it will be sent to us to put onto your eDofE account. **This is the easiest way to get each section completed!**
- Give the assessor report card from your Welcome Pack to your assessor to complete a written report. You must make sure that the dates match what is on eDofE and that the report is signed and dated after the end date of the activity. Then you will need to take a clear picture of the report card and upload this to eDofE marking it as the assessor report. Not doing this correctly takes up quite a lot of our time so please make sure you get this right.

Keep reading...

Bronze Expedition Training

Saturday 16th March (9am-3pm)

Expedition training is a compulsory part of the expedition section and takes place at Arthur Terry in the science department for a full day (D2-floor).

This day includes map reading, navigation skills, campcraft, first aid and safety. Students will attend training sessions delivered by our staff team and this will include outdoor practice of putting up tents and using stoves. We will expect students to wear sensible clothing, bring their own lunch, and they will be required to remain in D-block at all times as they must be supervised on site.

Students are required to walk in expedition groups of 6 or 7 people only (no more and no less). We suggest that they come to the training already organized into a group if they can. If they are not already in a group, staff will allocate them to an expedition group.

One Section Completed Deadline

Friday 22nd March

In order to ensure that students are fully engaged in the Award, we expect at least one section (3 months minimum) to be completed by Friday 22nd March. You can check how to do this by reading the information above. Students that don't meet this deadline risk not being able to attend the expeditions.

Expeditions: Essential information

- Students should pack their own bag so that they know where all of their kit is.
- Nothing should be outside of their rucksack except for a roll mat wrapped in a tough black bag to keep it dry. Everything inside should be wrapped in black bags to keep everything dry, especially clothes and their sleeping bag.
- Students will be given an expedition manual on the training day that has all the information they need (how to pack a bag, suitable food and emergency rations to bring, our emergency mobile numbers on the front, first aid kit requirements etc.). They should bring this with them on expeditions.
- Mobile phones are strictly forbidden on expeditions with the exception of one 'emergency mobile' per expedition group which remains turned off throughout the weekend unless there is an emergency.
- Please ensure you are on time as the whole expedition group cannot set off without you on the practice, and the whole year group cannot leave by coach on the assessed expedition until everyone is here!

All students must have:

- Suitable clothing (Students will need to wear clothes suitable for walking. Trainers are acceptable for Bronze but walking boots and walking socks are recommended. Jeans are not permitted. A waterproof coat (and preferably waterproof trousers are also required)
- Toiletries
- A Compass
- Large rucksack
- Sleeping bag and sleeping mat.

Each expedition group will also need:

- Tents of suitable size that the group can sleep in along with their rucksacks (double-skinned)
- Cooking stoves for the group (Trangia or resealable gas burning stoves - please check before purchasing these to check if they are suitable, or you can hire one from us instead)

Further information about equipment can also be found on our website:

<https://arthurterry.bham.sch.uk/students/duke-of-edinburgh/expeditions-equipment/>.

We are able to loan certain equipment if necessary and students will need to see Miss Wilson in C3.8 with their request and payment before Easter. Details of kit hire can be found here:

<https://arthurterry.bham.sch.uk/students/duke-of-edinburgh/kit-hire/>

Bronze Practice Expedition Saturday 27th - Sunday 28th April

We expect parents to drop off and collect students from this expedition, which is within a reasonable travelling distance (All other expeditions we run are by coach from Arthur Terry).

Please arrange to car-share where possible as the car park can be quite busy at the start and end point.

Each group will be allocated a time to arrive at the car park on the Saturday morning (which will be 30 minutes before they set off).

The start (& end on Sunday) is a large car park and cafe on Hagley Wood Lane (Nimmings Wood National Trust Car Park). The road is a left turn signposted to 'Clent Hills' off a roundabout on the A456 which can be reached from Junction 3 of the M5 (The postcode is DY9 9JR).



The campsite we will be staying in overnight is Kinver Scout Camp but there is no telephone on site. In case of emergency parents can contact staff via the DofE mobile phones which we will share with you closer to the expedition date.

Students will be able to use our mobile phones (or the group's emergency phone) to call parents to be collected when they finish on the Sunday. This is usually around 3pm.

Bronze Assessed Expedition Planning

This will take place on Tuesday 7th and Wednesday 8th May after school for different expedition groups. The specific dates for each group will be shared nearer to the time.

Bronze Section Deadline Friday 10th May

We expect all students to have completed to have completed their Volunteering, Physical and Skill sections with an assessor report by the date above. If they fail to do this, we will not be able to take them on the Assessed Expedition.

Bronze Assessed Expedition Saturday 8th - Sunday 9th June

Students will be required to arrive at school no later than 8am on Saturday 8th June entering the green gate (Parents are not permitted to come in with them) and gathering in the atrium with their group for kit checks.

We will travel to the expedition area by coach, camp overnight and return to school at approximately 5:30pm on Sunday 9th June. Further details of the campsite and how to contact us during the expedition will be issued closer to the weekend.

After Sunday 9th June...

Our in-house expedition assessors will complete a report which completes the Expedition section of the award. As the other three sections should be completed your Bronze Award will be complete!

Students in Year 10 are then able to enrol on their Silver Award before they move into Year 11. The practice expedition for this takes place over 3 days in October and the assessed expedition is at the end of June 2025.

We hope you are excited about the next few months. The whole staff team are really looking forward to working with you.

Mr Withey & Miss Wilson

dofe@arthurterry.bham.sch.uk