

Headteacher: Mr D. Whales | Chair of Governors: Mr A. Brown

18th December 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

I'm delighted to let you know that we are about to launch the second year of the **Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE)** at Ken Stimpson Academy.

For the first time we are opening the award to current Year 9 students.

As the DofE Manager, I wanted to share more information about what's involved and how your child can take part.

### Why take part in DofE?

The DofE Award is a fantastic opportunity for your child to discover their potential, build confidence, and develop valuable life skills. It encourages young people to:

- Make new friends
- Explore personal interests and passions
- Learn new skills
- Make a positive impact in the community

Achieving a DofE Award is also a great way to stand out to future employers and colleges. It's a non-competitive programme designed to support every young person, regardless of background or ability, in building resilience and self-belief.

### How does it work?

To achieve the Bronze Award, students complete four sections:

1. Volunteering
2. Physical
3. Skills
4. Expedition

Students choose their own activities for the first three sections, and we will provide full guidance and support throughout.

The **Expedition** will take place over **three days and two nights in Rutland**, with comprehensive training delivered by **Premier Expeditions** to ensure students are fully prepared and have a positive experience.

### Next Steps

We hope many of our Year 9 students will join the year 10 students and take up this exciting opportunity. There are **28 places available**, and the **cost is £122 per student**.

If cost is a barrier, please don't hesitate to contact me — we may be able to offer financial support.

To register, please make the £50 payment (payable by the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2026) on Parent Pay to secure your child's place.

### What does the cost cover?

- Bronze DofE registration fee
- Training sessions
- 1-day intensive training with Premier Expeditions
- 2-day qualifying expedition with Premier Expeditions

### Additional Costs

Students will need to provide their own kit, which includes:

- Rucksack and liner
- Waterproof roll mat
- Sleeping bag
- Headtorch
- Dry bag
- Survival bag
- Emergency whistle
- Thermal blanket
- Plate and cutlery

A full kit list will be sent once places are confirmed. Students will also need:

- Appropriate clothing (e.g. walking boots, waterproofs)
- Food for the expedition

### Expedition Details

- **Dates:** Wednesday 12th – Friday 14th June 2026
- **Location:** Rutland (exact site to be confirmed)
- **Transport:** Students will need to arrange their own travel to and from the site.

### Payment Schedule

- Deposit of £50 due by 31<sup>st</sup> January 2026 to secure a place
- Final balance due by 28th February 2026

Thank you for your continued support. We believe the DofE is a powerful way for your child to grow, challenge themselves, and feel ready for whatever life brings.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Yours faithfully,



**Mrs E Tarjanyi**  
**DofE Manager**

Headteacher: Damien Whales, Ken Stimpson Academy is a school within the Four Cs Multi-Academy Trust (MAT)

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