



14th October 2025

Dear Student & Parent/Carer,

The Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award

Well done to the very good number of students who took part in our taster training walk on Saturday. We were delighted to see so much enthusiasm and positive team-work. The taster walks and the after-school session, planning DofE activities, have given the students who attended both a good idea of what to expect from the Bronze Award programme.

Hopefully, many of our students will want to take on the commitment of doing their Bronze Award this year. The next step is to register for a place on the programme. Details are below.

Firstly though, a word about student numbers and how we plan to manage these. Over 120 students have attended our DofE information meetings and/or the training walk, which is fantastic and a credit to those students. We are not going to have a selection process for our DofE programme. We want all our students who would like to take part to be able to do so, provided they are committed to completing it.

Based on previous years' large numbers, we can run the summer qualifying expedition very successfully by dividing all students into Expedition A or Expedition B. All students will have one qualifying expedition, either A or B. Student preferences and friendship groups will be taken into account in setting the two groups. It will not be a SHAR/PLES split. All students will also have a one-day practice expedition plus after school and Saturday morning training events.

As a reminder, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award is the world's largest youth achievement award and gives participants the opportunity to develop skills such as independence, teamwork, community spirit and resilience, as well as trying out new activities. These are qualities that future employers and universities look for in a young adult and can be the key to unlock success.

Students must complete a Volunteering, a Physical and a Skill Activity over a minimum of one hour a week for a three-month period (one activity must be for six months). These are organised by the student in their own time. Students must also complete a two-day, one night, walking and camping expedition in the countryside, organised by the school. More details, including FAQs and our DofE calendar for 2025-26, can be found on the DofE section of the school's website at www.sharplesschool.co.uk/duke-of-edinburgh/.

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Admin Office: office@sharplesschool.co.uk

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In order to help fund registration, campsites and equipment the school will be asking for a total payment of £70, payable in two instalments of £30 at the start and £40 in February). Again, more details of what is included are on the school's website.

Please also be aware of the following: -

- This is a weekly commitment in students' own time to their three Activities. Students must be sure they want to do this.
- **Payments for the Sharples DofE Bronze Award programme are not re-fundable, so students must be committed to completing their Award.**

If you would like your son or daughter to take part in our DofE Bronze Award 2025-26 programme then please complete the online Registration Form and click to submit it online by the end of Friday 24th October if possible and by the end of Friday 7th November at the very latest. The earlier you register, the earlier you can start. The Registration Form is on this link:- <https://forms.gle/Xtbz1frUGb6sJgSM9> It will be much easier to click on the link on the emailed version of this letter. This letter is also on the school's website at www.sharplesschool.co.uk/duke-of-edinburgh/.

You will also need to make the first payment of £30 via the MCAS app so that we can complete your registration and you can start your Bronze Award programme. If there is any difficulty or delay with this then please contact me to make other payment arrangements.

If you have any questions, please email me on i.davies@sharplesschool.co.uk or call the school's phone number.

Yours faithfully,

Ivor Davies

Ivor Davies
DofE Co-ordinator
Sharples School

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