



25<sup>th</sup> September 2025

Dear Students & Parents/Carers,

### The Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award

The Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award has been successfully delivered to Sharples students for the past seven years. Year 9 students have the opportunity to complete the Bronze Award, and will be able to complete the Silver Award in Year 10 if they wish.

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 an 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/](http://www.sharplesschool.co.uk/duke-of-edinburgh/).

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

We will run a **preparation programme** in October to help both students and ourselves to decide if the Bronze Award programme is suitable for them. Students will need to attend both parts of the preparation programme in order to be able to register for a place on the Bronze Award. We want students and families to be sure it is right for them before committing their time and money.

1. Students must attend a 60 minute classroom session focused on planning their three activities (Volunteering, Physical & Skill). This will be straight after school in a classroom. The dates are as follows:-
  - Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> October – students in 9SHAR forms
  - Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> October – 9PLES
2. Students must attend a two-hour training walk from 9am to 11am (9SHAR) or from 11am to 1pm (9PLES) on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> October. This will involve walking in the Eagley Valley area directly from school, in small groups each supervised by one of the school's DofE staff team. Further details will follow on the training walk trip letter. Outdoor skills and physical fitness are not being tested at this stage, but commitment and team spirit are.

Again, attendance is compulsory if students are to register for a place on the Bronze Award programme, so if there is a genuine problem with attending either the training walk or the after-school session then please email me in advance to explain.

If you would like your son or daughter to take part in our DofE Bronze Award preparation programme in October then please reply to the short survey on this link:- <https://forms.gle/kPYkcr16zCChvNCg6>

Headteacher Ms A. Webster: headteacher@sharplesschool.co.uk

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It will be easier to click on the link on the emailed version of this letter. However, if you cannot access the survey then just email me with the name and form of your son or daughter and tell me which after school session and which training walk timeslot they will be attending.

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

Yours faithfully,

Ivor Davies

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DofE Co-ordinator

Sharples School



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