



# Trinity Academy Duke of Edinburgh Award Group 2019.20

General information on the Award can be found on [www.dofe.org](http://www.dofe.org)

## Introduction to the Award.

The Award is open to all pupils in S3 to S6. It has encouraged and rewarded the efforts of young people for many years and is now increasingly being used to “recognize the wider achievements” of participants by the Curriculum for Excellence. It is a well established scheme, nationally and internationally, which recognizes the efforts of young people in up to 5 areas or “sections” depending on the level of award undertaken. Completing any of the sections or awards at Bronze, Silver or Gold level is an excellent way for young people to gain recognition for activities undertaken voluntarily. **Activities are completed in a young person’s free time before, after or sometimes within the school day (eg: a lunchtime club).** (The exception to this is for the expedition section which sometimes takes place within school time or over a combination of school days and a weekend depending on the length of expedition attempted.)

Following registration young people have until the age of 25 to finish an Award although most finish much sooner than that. It is possible, with good planning, to finish Bronze, Silver and Gold before the end of S6.

## Registering, administration and costs of the Award.

Cost for participants to register for the Award for 2019/20 are **£22.50\* for Bronze or Silver and £29\* for Gold.** This registration fee covers the cost of a Participant Welcome Pack and an online eDofE account for Bronze, Silver or Gold Awards as appropriate, discount cards and insurance.

The Volunteering, Skills, Physical and Residential (Gold only) Sections:

Participants are expected to familiarize themselves with the Award conditions and to arrange their own activities for each section. They should refer to [www.dofe.org](http://www.dofe.org) for guidance. After doing their own research they can then seek advice from school staff who assist with the Award. A drop-in session is held weekly (usually Thursday lunchtimes in the OE Base A6) to help pupils if they are having difficulty inputting data into eDofE but it is a participant’s responsibility to come to these sessions and ask for help if they feel they need it. Participants are responsible for choosing activities that interest them to qualify for each section using guidance from the website and staff. **Participants should not start an activity that they want to use for a section until it has been approved by the Trinity D of E co-ordinator as the rules for what is acceptable for an Award section are not always straight**

**forward.** This can all be done online through eDofE using the messaging system. Without research participants run the risk of devoting time to an activity that will not count towards an Award.

Costs to take part in any of Volunteering, Skills, or Physical (and Residential at Gold) sections depends on the choices made by participants and their families.

There are clubs and activities provided free of charge within school. Others carry a small annual charge ranging from between £15 - £45 a year by paying for a Trinity Academy Sports Club membership. Many participants take part in a wide range of activities in the community and these may or may not have their own charges depending on activity, venue, organization etc.

The Expedition Section: Delivery, expedition costs and allocation of places.

This section requires participants to plan, train for and complete an unaccompanied, self-reliant expedition of either 2, 3 or 4 days and associated nights with an agreed aim. They have to complete the expedition by travelling for a specific number of hours during each day (depending on the level of Award) and it must be completed using the participant's own physical efforts.

The expedition programme on offer through Trinity for 2018/9 was a result of a collaboration between the school and Bangholm Outdoor Centre which is conveniently located at our school playing fields. This partnership allows Trinity participants to complete their expedition section for their chosen level of the Award by using a wealth of experience found amongst the staff employed by both the school and Bangholm Centre. As a result we can offer expeditions at all levels on foot, by bike or by canoe. This arrangement will continue for 2019/20 but prices are yet to be confirmed. **The information in italics below is from 2018/19** and is to give parents of new participants an indication of costs. Costs will likely increase for 2019/20 but hopefully not by a significant amount. Prices will be confirmed in the Expedition Programme letter to be published around mid-December 2019.)

*The cost for participants in 2018/19 to take part in any expedition was £35 per participant per day. The number of days (or equivalent hours) of training and expeditioning required for each level of the Award is usually 7 days for Bronze walk (£245), 8 days for Bronze canoe or bike (£280), 8 days for Silver walk or canoe (£280\*) and 10 days for Gold walk or Canoe (£350\*). These costs are significantly cheaper than commercial providers. The school and the Bangholm Centre receive no funding to deliver D of E expeditions so all costs must be paid for by parents. All expeditions are run on a "not for profit basis". Please bear in mind that they include loan of all equipment (with the exception of bikes and bike trailers which can be hired for £5 per day for the required time from Bangholm), minibus costs (including fuel), trailers and campsite costs as appropriate. NB: Food is **not** included.*

*\*For any expedition that is held in a remote area there may be an additional cost of £15 per person per night for bunkhouse/hostel accommodation required for the night before both the practice and qualifying expeditions begin.*

*Please note that these estimates are based on experience of training previous groups and assumes those in Silver and Gold groups have completed an expedition at the previous level using the same method of travel successfully with Trinity or that participants have sufficient previous experience in the opinion of expedition staff. If not, additional training days may be required at the same daily rate.*

With around 180 participants registered for the Award through Trinity at the moment we are, unfortunately, not able to offer expedition places to every participant that wants one although last year we were able to offer 55. From past experience we have found that the fairest and most transparent way to offer places in an expedition group is to use the following process:

1. The Expedition Programme letter (published mid-December) will include the date when an initial £100\* deposit is due in by (usually in the second week of January) along with the expedition choice sheet.
2. By a specified date/time in the third week of January a screen shot will be taken of how much evidence participants have uploaded to their eDofE accounts for each of the Volunteering, Skills and Physical (and Residential for Gold) Sections. This will then be used to make up expedition groups based on a participant's visible commitment to completing the **whole Award. Participants should therefore not sign up for the Award if they expect or just want to only do the expedition section as this is just one part of the Award!**
3. Places being offered in expedition groups (including reserves) are published in the fourth week of January.
4. Final expedition balances\* to secure a place in an expedition group are due by the last week February.

Anyone who pays an initial deposit but does not get a place in an expedition group will have their initial deposit refunded. After a place on an expedition is accepted by the paying of the final deposit there can be no refunds unfortunately. More detailed information about the reasons behind this will be in the Expedition Programme letter.

Please note that financial assistance may be available in certain situations. Please contact me in confidence for further information.

Other opportunities to complete the expedition section:

If a participant is not offered a place in an expedition group, is ill and has to withdraw from training once started or if the dates we have organised are not convenient then there are some other options.

1. The City of Edinburgh's D of E Unit along with a charitable organization "Friends of the Award" (FOTA) supports a number of "Open Award" groups across the city and these groups organize their own training and expeditions for their members. Please contact Fraser Robertson, D of E Manager for CEC, on 551 4370.
2. Participants can also use a commercially operated Approved Activity Provider to do the expedition section. (Any company used for this must be approved to do so by the Duke of Edinburgh Award who will give it AAP status). Costs for using AAP's usually start from about £50 per person per day and details of providers can be found on the D of E website.

### Which Award?

Participants may start the Bronze Award in S3 (ie approximately 14 years and over.) For Silver, pupils will normally be in S4 and be approximately 15 years and over. For the Gold Award pupils **MUST BE OVER** 16 years old before **any** activities can be counted towards the Award. Any Award must be completed by 25 years of age. The next level of the Award can only be started when a participant has completed at least **ONE** section of the previous level and then only the section completed at the previous level. Participants who have completed the whole of a previous level will be given priority for expedition places at the next level. (ie If you have completed the whole of your Bronze Award you are more likely to be offered a place on a Silver expedition)

### What next?

Before enrolling for an Award potential participants should spend time researching the Award and all it has to offer online at [www.dofe.org](http://www.dofe.org). By the time participants receive their Welcome Packs they should have a good idea of what they would like to do for each section. Advice and guidance on choice will be available from school staff assisting with the Award. Please note: no activity in any section can count towards an Award unless it has been approved first in a participant's online eDofE account by a member of staff assisting with the Award.

If you wish your son or daughter to participate in the Award Scheme through Trinity Academy please complete the attached **Participant Enrolment Form by Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September** to the OE Base (A6) in the school basement (post it under the door if I'm not in!).

Parent Pay accounts will then be set up for each participant and payment of the enrollment fee should be made by **Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October**.

Once payment is received details/payments will be sent to the D of E Award Head Office who will enroll participants and then send out a username and password for a personal eDofE account. **NB: This will be sent to the email address supplied on the enrolment form.**

Once participants have logged onto their new eDofE account which is straight forward and entered the required information the D of E Head Office will send out a welcome Pack within 10 to 21 days.

An eDofE induction session showing participants how to use their account to evidence their activities for their Award will be held shortly after the October Break (details to follow in the Bulletin and on the school App.) Links to eDofE user guides and YouTube videos can also be found on the D of E website.

If you have any questions please contact Mr. Blevins at school on 478 5050 (usually on a Thursday or Friday) or by email at [dave.blevins@trinity.edin.sch.uk](mailto:dave.blevins@trinity.edin.sch.uk)

\*NB: payments are now being collected by Parent Pay which has a 1.275% transaction fee added to all costs.

6.09.19