



ORCHARD MEAD
ACADEMY



ORCHARD MEAD
ACADEMY

Orchard Mead Academy
Keyham Lane West | Hamilton
Leicester | LE5 1RT

t. 0116 241 3371

e. office@orchard-tmet.uk

w. www.orchard-tmet.uk

Principle: Mr. I Patel

Dear Parent / Carer,

I'm pleased to let you know that Orchard Mead offers the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) to students in Year 9. However, this year we will be doing things a little bit differently to ensure students get the opportunity to complete their DofE, despite the challenges and restrictions presented by Covid-19.

The DofE is a great chance for your child to broaden their horizons, discover new interests and talents, have fun with friends, develop essential skills for their future and achieve an internationally renowned Award.

As DofE Manager, I wanted to send you some information about what a DofE programme involves, the benefits for your child and how they can sign up.

About the DofE

The DofE is non-competitive and open to all young people – it's about setting personal challenges and pushing personal boundaries. There are three levels of DofE programme which, when successfully completed, lead to a Bronze, Silver or Gold Award.

Through their DofE, students will make friends and memories and build traits like confidence, resilience and self-esteem, which can benefit mental health. They'll gain skills and attributes for work and life, like problem-solving, team-working and self-motivation – and they'll achieve an Award that's recognised by top employers and can help them stand out when applying for university or jobs.

To achieve their Bronze Award, participants must complete four sections: Skills, Volunteering, Physical and their Expedition.

Every young person's DofE programme is personal to them – they can choose what they'd like to do for their Skills, Volunteering and Physical sections, and most activities can count. We will provide guidance and support, and students can either choose to continue an activity they already do or discover something completely new.

During and in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, **participants who complete their Skills, Volunteering and Physical sections will also receive a DofE Certificate of Achievement** – a formal recognition, by the DofE, of their efforts at this extraordinary time.

Activities for each section take a minimum of one hour a week over a set period of time, so they can fit around studying, hobbies and social lives. We have lots of suggestions for each. For more details about programmes and timescales visit DofE.org/do.

The DofE and COVID-19

Your child can still have the DofE experience, safely and in line with Government guidance, during the COVID-19 outbreak. The motivation and focus the DofE gives, and its positive impact on mental and physical health, can play an important role in helping your child navigate our 'new normal', safely expanding their world and giving them skills and experiences to open doors in the future.

As participants can choose and change their activities, they can pick ones that they can do while social distancing or from home. The DofE has provided useful advice and information, including activity and volunteering ideas, at [DofE.org/DofEWithADifference](https://www.dofe.org/DofEWithADifference).

About the expedition

Current restrictions around Covid-19 make it impossible for the school to commit to running an expedition at the moment, however this is something we will revisit in the new year. We want to try and offer the ultimate expedition experience including camping and the overnight stay. However, current guidance is very limiting and therefore it is difficult to give an accurate description of what the expedition will look like in the future.

We will provide more information about expeditions at the beginning of the Spring term.

eDofE and the DofE app

Participants can create their DofE programme and record their progress using eDofE, the DofE's digital system, available online at [eDofE.org](https://www.dofe.org) and through the DofE app – downloadable for free from Google Play and the App Store.

If your child decides to enrol, we will set up their eDofE account and they will receive details of how to sign in and get started. We will also hold an eDofE launch session on [date].

Signing up

Initially we are asking for just £22 per student. This covers your child's participation place and Welcome Pack, which will be sent to their home address and includes their personalised DofE Discount Card. **This will allow them to complete all sections with the exception of the expedition and gain the DofE Certificate of Achievement.** There will be an additional cost for the expedition, which we will revisit in the Spring term.

While we hope that participants will complete their expedition and therefore gain their full award, they are able to complete the DofE Certificate of Achievement with no requirement to complete the full award. Participants will be accepted for progression into the next level of the award (Silver) without completing the expedition section.

If your child would like to take part, please complete and return the electronic enrolment form [<https://forms.gle/z7ipA4DvwWEfofTw5>], together with the sum of £22 to be paid to School Gate Way by [11th December 2020]. If you require a paper version please ask Miss Noble or Miss Brighton your head of year for one.

[If applicable: If the cost of taking part is prohibitive, please speak to me as there may be financial support available to you.]

Many thanks for your support and we look forward to helping your child to achieve through their DofE.

Yours faithfully,

Kind Regards,
Jess Noble

Teacher of Physical Education
Duke of Edinburgh Manager



The Mead Educational Trust, a charitable company limited by guarantee.
Company No. 9079258 - registered in England and Wales
Registered Office: The Mead Educational Trust, The Mead Centre,
343 Gipsy Lane, Leicester, LE4 9DD