



NEWLANDS GIRLS' SCHOOL
COURAGE COMMITMENT COMPASSION

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Friday 11th September 2026

Duke of Edinburgh Award Parent information evening

Following the popularity of the Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Award at Newlands for the last few years, we are delighted to be able to continue it this year for Year 9 and 10 students.

Year 9 students will be invited to participate in the Bronze Award and Year 10 students will be invited to participate in the Silver Award.

We would like to invite anyone who is interested in participating this year to a Parents' information evening on **Tuesday 15th September at 6pm**. We anticipate that this information evening will be very popular and ask that only one parent/carer attends with their child as space will be limited.

If your child took part in the Bronze award last year in Year 9, they are welcome to sign up for the Silver award in Year 10 without attending the information evening, since it is largely similar, only with longer (2-night) expeditions and longer expectations for her Skills, Physical and Volunteering sections. To express interest, please complete the MS form <https://forms.office.com/e/Dr76apW8Fv> by Thursday 17th September.

DofE Explained:

To give you a brief idea of what the DofE involves, students are required to complete four sections to achieve either the Bronze or Silver award: Volunteering, Physical, Skills and Expedition. The timescale requirements vary depending on whether they are doing Bronze or Silver.

For the Volunteering, Physical and Skills sections, students need to dedicate one hour each week to each one for the required timeframe – up to 6 months for Bronze and up to 6 months for Silver (as long as they previous did Bronze, otherwise one section must be 12 months). The specific timescales can be found here: <https://www.dofe.org/do/timescales/>.

Students need to log their 'evidence', such as photos or a written description of what they are doing each week, on the eDofE app. This can be used as a website or on a phone as an app. See here to download the eDofE app [Download the DofE app - The Duke of Edinburgh's Award](#). Students will receive login information shortly after registering interest, but please be aware this could take several days or weeks, and the email will go to their school account, so it is worth checking the 'junk' inbox a week or so after the parents' evening to check whether this has been received.

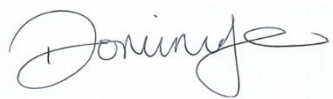
A physical Welcome Pack should arrive too via post, but please be aware that this will only get sent after a student logs onto eDofE and confirms their address for postage. This will include more in-depth explanations about the DofE award, as well as assessor report cards. Students must obtain an assessor report for each of their sections, and they will probably have to remind their named assessors (they must be over 18 and not related to the student) at the end of the 3/6/12 months to fill one in. Assessor reports can be filled in on paper, from the Welcome Pack cards, or students can send this link to assessors so they type their report out electronically [Assessor's Report - The Duke of Edinburgh's Award](#).

Students will only complete their DofE award once all sections have an assessor report and after the expeditions in the summer. In practice, DofE certificates will not be received until the academic year following their award, so, for instance, we will hand out completed Bronze certificates at a certain point in Year 10, and Silver certificates in Year 11. If you don't receive a certificate on the first presentation, there is time to finish the award and receive a certificate later (as long as it is completed before the age of 25).

Before the Expedition, students will be required to undertake a training day in school on a Saturday, in early 2027, on a variety of skills including: orienteering, camp cooking and first aid. Upon completion of this training they will undertake a Practice expedition – 2 days/1 night for Bronze, and 3 days/2 nights for Silver. A few weeks after this will be their Assessed expedition. Bronze will likely be in the local area fairly close to Maidenhead, and Silver will be a bit further afield. We will confirm locations as soon as possible.

We look forward to seeing you and answering your questions on **Tuesday 15th September** at 6pm. If you are unable to attend but are interested, please contact us directly.

Yours sincerely,



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