

16th June 2025

Dear Parent/ Carer,

Wider Achievement – Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Your child has successfully gained a place on Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award as part of the Wider Achievement opportunities this year. Through a DofE programme young people have fun, make friends, improve their self-esteem and build confidence. They gain essential skills and attributes for work and life such as resilience, problem-solving, team-working, communication and drive, enhancing CVs and uni and job applications. Top employers recognise the work-ready skills Award holders bring to their business. Further information can be found at www.DofE.org

In order to achieve the award, pupils must complete:

- Volunteering section: 3 months
- Physical section: 3 months
- Skills section: 3 months
- Expedition section: 2 days/1 night

They also have to spend an extra three months on one of the Volunteering, Physical or Skills sections. It's their choice which one and, though they can change your mind later, they should decide which section they want to do for longer at the beginning.

The expedition section requires training and students must attend class to ensure they are appropriately trained. If students have not completed the appropriate training, they will not be able to undertake the expedition for their own safety. Training include:

- Map training,
- Navigation and using a compass
- Food and Nutrition,
- Health and Safety (including First Aid),
- Essential expedition skills such as tent building and cooking outside
- Planning a route and completing a route card

Students have already enrolled to participate in the DofE, however there is an enrolment fee. Currently this is £26 at Bronze Award level, however, as a school we are asking students to pay **£20** and we will fund the rest of the enrolment. After that, the costs will depend on which activities groups choose to do. There will be charges for some campsites, which will be payable nearer the expedition dates.

Taking part involves participants deciding on different activities to make up their DofE programme and these must be completed before gaining an Award. All these activities must be undertaken outwith timetabled school time and must not involve paid work.

Dates for the expedition training and assessment will be circulated as soon as possible, however the plan is to undertake this at the start of the Easter holidays 2026. Please try to keep these dates free if at all possible or let us know if there is likely to be a problem.

To help your child complete their DofE Programme, they need to regularly sign into the online DofE recording system, eDofE. To ensure they get the most out of their DofE experience, we ask that you help us reinforce the following points:

- a. Participants are expected to sign in to eDofE at least once every two weeks. This way, even if they are not accessing the centre, we can still see if they are progressing with their DofE.
- b. Participants should upload at least 5 pieces of evidence per section. This should include an assessors report from their nominated assessor, a personal reflective account of what they have achieved or got out of the section and photos. Please note, Assessors Reports cannot be completed by family members
- c. Due to the demand on expedition leaders' time, we ask that a minimum of **2 sections** have been completed on eDofE before the young person is able to undertake expeditions.

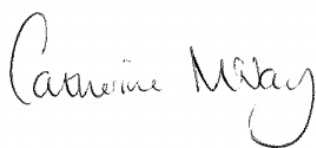
Payment of the enrolment fee can be in the following ways –

1. Cash
2. Bacs/Bank Transfer – Please use the bank details below to pay directly into our bank account:
 - i. Account Name - Lockerbie Academy School Fund
 - ii. Account Number - 00574985
 - iii. Sort code (UK) - 80-08-88
 - iv. Reference – DofE (insert student name)
3. Credit/Debit card at the school office.

Please note that there will be an additional charge of 1.75% when paying by card which is the charge made by our card machine provider.

If you have any questions about these arrangements, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully,



Catherine McNay
Depute Head Teacher