



Rigby Lane, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire B60 2EP

Tel: 01527 875475 Fax: 01527 870211

Headteacher: Mrs T Smith

www.rigbyhallschool.com

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05/11/21

Dear Parent Carers,

We're pleased to let you know that Rigby Hall offers the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) to students in Sixth Form.

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. It is a real highlight of our student's time with us and many continue to express their delight at having taken part for months after achieving their awards.

We 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 deepen friendships and make 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 jobs.

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

At Rigby Hall, we run the DofE through an Alternative Curriculum programme, that allows participants to accredit the wider activities we offer here for their DofE programmes. These include independent living skills, cooking, upcycling and crafts as part of the Skills section. Our PE sessions and wider physically activities count for the Physical section and as a group the students engage in volunteering both in school and helping the wider local community.

For those young people who it may not be possible to complete the expedition element of the award, 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.



“Valuing every achievement”



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Activities for each section take a minimum of one hour a week over a set period of time. For more details about programmes and timescales visit www.DofE.org/do.

In Post 16 at Rigby Hall, we actually started the Physical and Skills sections in the autumn term. These formed part of our activities in school and we will be able to accredit the time spent on these.

About the expedition

The Expedition section involves your child working as part of a small team to plan their expedition's aim and do some training to make sure they are fully prepared – before spending two days and one night in the countryside. The expedition won't be until June/July 2022 so please don't panic about this element! There will be lots of prep work ahead of this and more information will follow nearer the time.

Ahead of this, they will take part in training covering basic expedition principles and introducing them to expedition equipment.

There will also be a number of training sessions which will take place in school time. In these sessions your child and their group will plan their route and prepare. Participants will only be able to do their expedition if they attend the organised training.

The DofE and COVID-19

Your child can still have the full 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 at school or from home. The DofE has provided useful advice and information, including activity and volunteering ideas, at www.DofE.org/DofEWithADifference.

The DofE has also introduced a number of flexibilities to allow expeditions to take place safely, in line with social distancing restrictions and Government guidance. While your child's expedition may look slightly different to those in previous years, they will be able to do theirs safely and with all the benefits and memories they'd get at any other time.



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eDofE

Participants will have their DofE programmes recorded on eDofE, the DofE's electronic Management system, and our Leaders will ensure this is kept up to date, to allow the Awards to be submitted to the DofE for approval.

Signing up

There is no cost to you for your participants to enrol as the school is seeking funding and covers the costs associated with the DofE. Once enrolled your child will receive their participation place and Welcome Pack, which will be sent to their home address and includes their personalised DofE Discount Card.

If your child would like to take part, please complete and return the attached enrolment form.

We will hold an information event for parents and students when it is possible but if you would like any further information in the meantime, please feel free to contact either Mr Homer or Beth.

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

Yours sincerely

Ben Homer

(Assistant Headteacher)

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Beth Richards

(Interim DofE Manager)

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