

Harris Church of England Academy

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Headteacher Mrs Roberta Harrison



September 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

The Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award – Harris CofE Academy 2025/26

We are pleased to be able to offer the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award as an enrichment activity for students in Year 9. The Duke of Edinburgh's award is a nationally recognised accreditation for young people. It gives all those who participate the chance to develop skills for work and life and fulfill their potential. Taking part in the DofE builds confidence and self-esteem whilst developing skills such as teamwork, communication, leadership and independence. The programme requires persistence and a high level of commitment but can have a lasting and sometimes life changing impact on the attitudes and outlook of young people who complete their award.

About the Award

The Bronze award should take about one year to complete (although the deadline for completion is the participant's 25th birthday) and there are four sections to the award; skills, volunteering, physical and the expedition. Each of the first three sections must take at least one hour a week for between three and six months, most of which will be whilst undertaking independent activities away from school. It should be noted that when an activity is organised by the participants themselves, parents and carers are responsible for checking its suitability. Please bear in mind that the Duke of Edinburgh's Award is designed to encourage independence and initiative so although support and guidance will be provided through school, the emphasis will be on the young person organising themselves and finding their own chosen activities and collecting evidence towards the award. Further information regarding the structure of the award can be found at [DofE Basic Information and FAQs](#). I recommend encouraging your child to view the DofE website to find out more about the benefits of completing the award. The final expedition section of the award involves two overnight camping and walking expeditions which will be organised centrally by the school.

Parental Involvement

Whilst it is important that participants take responsibility for the completion of their own activities we believe that one of the major factors that influence whether a participant completes the award within a reasonable timeframe is parental involvement. With this in mind we think it is vital that parents of all participants attend an in person talk with their child in school prior to enrollment on the course. We will offer a choice of two evenings in September for convenience, Monday 29th and Tuesday 30th September. Both evenings will start at 5pm in Hope Hall.

Participant training and expeditions

DofE meetings will take place during extra curricular time at Harris periodically throughout the year to monitor the progress made across the sections and also to prepare participants for the expeditions in the Summer Term. There will be a school based training day where participants learn the skills they need to be independent on their expeditions. Subsequently there will be a two day, one night expedition practice in the local area and a qualifying expedition of the same length slightly further afield. All the relevant information regarding expeditions will be sent out closer to the time. Please note that parents will be expected to deliver their child to the start point of the expeditions and collect at the end. Information regarding locations will be given in advance to enable parents to organise lifts, car shares etc if needed.



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It is important to note that in order to complete the expedition section of the award, students must complete both the practice and the qualifying expeditions. Please check the dates carefully for your availability before expressing interest for your child as they will need to attend all of the dates in order to complete the award.

The dates for the expeditions are:

On site expedition training: 26th March 2026

Practice Expedition: Friday 24th April to Saturday 25th April 2026

Qualifying Expedition: Saturday 13th June to Sunday 14th June 2026

How much does it cost?

This year we are offering places on the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award at £100 which is a significant reduction in cost from previous years.

The fee covers:

- Registration to the Duke of Edinburgh's Award (which includes limited personal accident insurance) – all students will receive a welcome pack and a discount card for selected retailers.
- All group equipment including maps, compasses, tents and stoves (if required).
- Campsite fees for practice and qualifying expeditions.
- Stove fuel for practice and qualifying expeditions.
- Provision of expedition rucksacks that can be borrowed from school.

In the event of withdrawing from the programme, all monies paid are non-refundable. This includes if after the practice expedition it is decided that the participant should not join the qualifying expedition due to their performance in the practice expedition.

Next Steps

If you wish your child to be considered for a place on the Bronze DofE, please pay a **deposit** of £50 via Wisepay ASAP. The deposit is non refundable once your child has been allocated a place. Once the deposit has been paid you will be invited to the Parents Information evening where you will receive further guidance as to how to support your child through the award. Once you have received written confirmation from us that your child has secured a place on Bronze DofE, we shall provide you with further details about completing payment and other information relating to the details of the programme. Successful applicants will be enrolled by the end of September. If your child is not successful in securing a place then the deposit will be refunded.

I hope very much that your child will consider taking a place on the adventure that is the Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

Yours faithfully

Mr D Unwin
DofE Manager

