



# YEAR 8

# GCSE OPTIONS EVENING

Mr M Allingham – Assistant Principal

# Core Curriculum

---

English Language

---

English Literature

---

Mathematics

---

Science (Biology/Chemistry/Physics)

---

Religious Education (non-examined)

---

Physical Education (non-examined)

---

PSHE (non-examined)

---

Global Dimensions (Year 9)

# Ebacc Options – 2 choices

The Ebacc is not a qualification. It is a particular combination of subjects:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- **Geography**
- **History**
- **Modern Foreign Language: French or Spanish**

# Modern Foreign Languages

“If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his own language, that goes to his heart.”

Learning a language can help you with empathy and relationships.

Learning a language can provide you with a wider variety of options and opportunities later in life, including gap years and university placements.

Learning a language is a benefit to your careers in terms of both opportunity and salary.





# GCSE Science– 2 routes

## **COMBINED SCIENCE (TRILOGY)**

- Students study all 3 sciences
- Leads to 2 GCSE qualifications
- Accepted progression route into A Level science subjects

## **SEPARATE SCIENCE**

- Students study all 3 sciences
- Leads to 3 GCSE qualifications
- Study each subject at a greater depth

For now, for all Year 9 students, everyone just does science!

As students move into Year 10, teachers, students and parents collectively decide which route is the most suitable for each student – combined or separate?

# Open Options – 2 choices

A chance for students to personalise their programme to their own strengths, interests and aspirations. The options open to students are:

Art & Design\*

Business Studies

Computing

Dance

Drama

French

Geography

BTEC Health & Social Care

History

ICT

Music

Physical Education (NCFE Health & Fitness)

Photography\*

Religious Education

Spanish

Textiles\*

# Follow your head or your heart?

My head tells me to:

Choose subjects that employers want.

Choose subjects that I will need for my preferred career path.

Choose subjects that will keep my options open.



# Follow your head or your heart?

My heart tells me to:

Choose subjects that I enjoy and interest me.

Choose subjects that I am good at.



# Information and Guidance

Subject Teachers

Talk to students who take this subject – many of them are here tonight

D of E – Mr Parsons



# How do I apply?

All pupils must submit your course choices via SIMS online by **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April.**



# Selecting your subject preferences

Follow the USEFUL LINKS menu

Select SIMS OPTIONS

# Selecting your subject preferences

Please choose the Google Option, and then log-in using your school account (not a personal google account, that won't work)

Sign in to SIMS ID

Username


Password

Show Password [Forgot Password?](#)

OR

**ESS** | **SIMS**

[ESS: Check Service Status](#)

 Secured by SIMS ID

**EBACC**

You have chosen  courses and  reserves from this list

<b>French</b> GCSE Full Course <small>This course is also available in General</small>	Reserve	<b>Geography</b> GCSE Full Course <small>This course is also available in General</small>	Reserve	<b>History</b> GCSE Full Course <small>This course is also available in General</small>	Reserve
<b>Spanish</b> GCSE Full Course <small>This course is also available in General</small>	Reserve				

**General**

You have chosen  courses and  reserves from this list

<b>Art &amp; Design</b> GCSE Full Course	Reserve	<b>Business Studies</b> GCSE Full Course	Reserve	<b>Computing</b> GCSE Full Course	Reserve
<b>Dance</b> GCSE Full Course	Reserve	<b>Drama</b> GCSE Full Course	Reserve	<b>French</b> GCSE Full Course <small>This course is also available in EBACC</small>	Reserve
<b>Geography</b> GCSE Full Course <small>This course is also available in EBACC</small>	Reserve	<b>Health and Social Care</b> GCSE Full Course	Reserve	<b>History</b> GCSE Full Course <small>This course is also available in EBACC</small>	Reserve
<b>ICT</b> Cambridge Nationals Certificate Level 1 & 2	Reserve	<b>Music</b> GCSE Full Course	Reserve	<b>Photography</b> GCSE Full Course	Reserve
<b>PE Exam</b> Cambridge Nationals Certificate Level 1 & 2	Reserve	<b>Religious</b> GCSE Full Course	Reserve	<b>Spanish</b> GCSE Full Course <small>This course is also available in EBACC</small>	Reserve
<b>Textiles</b> GCSE Full Course	Reserve				

**My Choices in Order of Preference** (Total Choices: 0)

To change your order of preference select a choice and click the position in the list you would like to move it to.

No courses selected.

**My Reserves in Order of Preference** (Total Reserves: 0)

To change your order of preference select a reserve and click the position in the list you would like to move it to.

No reserves selected.

**Student Comments**

Add any comments here

**Parent/Carer Approval**

Parent/Carer Approval

▼ Pathway: A

**EBACC**

You have chosen  2 of 2  courses and  1 of 1  reserves from this list

<b>French</b> GCSE Full Course <span>Choice</span> Reserve	<b>Geography</b> GCSE Full Course <span>Choice</span> Reserve	<b>History</b> GCSE Full Course <span>Reserve</span> Reserve
<small>i This course is also available in General</small>	<small>i This course is also available in General</small>	<small>i This course is also available in General</small>
<b>Spanish</b> GCSE Full Course Reserve		
<small>i This course is also available in General</small>		

**General**

You have chosen  2 of 2  courses and  1 of 1  reserves from this list

<b>Art &amp; Design</b> GCSE Full Course Reserve	<b>Business Studies</b> GCSE Full Course Reserve	<b>Computing</b> GCSE Full Course Reserve
<b>Dance</b> GCSE Full Course <span>Choice</span> Reserve	<b>Drama</b> GCSE Full Course <span>Reserve</span> Reserve	<b>French</b> GCSE Full Course Reserve
<small>i You have selected this course in EBACC</small>		<small>i You have selected this course in EBACC</small>
<b>Geography</b> GCSE Full Course Reserve	<b>Health and Social Care</b> GCSE Full Course Reserve	<b>History</b> GCSE Full Course Reserve
<small>i You have selected this course in EBACC</small>		<small>i You have selected this course in EBACC</small>
<b>ICT</b> Cambridge Nationals Certificate Level 1 & 2 Reserve	<b>Music</b> GCSE Full Course Reserve	<b>Photography</b> GCSE Full Course Reserve
<b>PE Exam</b> Cambridge Nationals Certificate Level 1 & 2 Reserve	<b>Religious</b> GCSE Full Course Reserve	<b>Spanish</b> GCSE Full Course Reserve
		<small>i This course is also available in EBACC</small>
<b>Textiles</b> GCSE Full Course Reserve		

**My Choices in Order of Preference** (Total Choices: 4)

To change your order of preference select a choice and click the position in the list you would like to move it to.

- 1 French**  
GCSE Full Course EBACC
- 2 Geography**  
GCSE Full Course EBACC
- 3 Dance**  
GCSE Full Course General
- 4 ICT**  
Cambridge Nationals Certificate Level 1 & 2 General

**My Reserves in Order of Preference** (Total Reserves: 2)

To change your order of preference select a reserve and click the position in the list you would like to move it to.

- 1 History**  
GCSE Full Course EBACC
- 2 Drama**  
GCSE Full Course General

▼ Student Comments

Add any comments here

▼ Parent/Carer Approval

Parent/Carer Approval

You can see the order of preference, and the reserves for your selected options.

You can change this as much as you like when on the system.

### My Choices in Order of Preference

(Total Choices: 4)

To change your order of preference select a choice and click the position in the list you would like to move it to.

- 1 French**  
GCSE Full Course EBACC
- 2 Geography**  
GCSE Full Course EBACC
- 3 Dance**  
GCSE Full Course General
- 4 ICT**  
Cambridge Nationals Certificate Level 1 & 2 General

### My Reserves in Order of Preference

(Total Reserves: 2)

To change your order of preference select a reserve and click the position in the list you would like to move it to.

- 1 History**  
GCSE Full Course EBACC
- 2 Drama**  
GCSE Full Course General

▼ Pathway: A

**EBACC**

You have chosen  2 of 2  courses and  1 of 1  reserves from this list

<b>French</b> GCSE Full Course <span>Choice</span> Reserve	<b>Geography</b> GCSE Full Course <span>Choice</span> Reserve	<b>History</b> GCSE Full Course <span>Reserve</span> Reserve
<small>i This course is also available in General</small>	<small>i This course is also available in General</small>	<small>i This course is also available in General</small>
<b>Spanish</b> GCSE Full Course Reserve		
<small>i This course is also available in General</small>		

**General**

You have chosen  2 of 2  courses and  1 of 1  reserves from this list

<b>Art &amp; Design</b> GCSE Full Course Reserve	<b>Business Studies</b> GCSE Full Course Reserve	<b>Computing</b> GCSE Full Course Reserve
<b>Dance</b> GCSE Full Course <span>Choice</span> Reserve	<b>Drama</b> GCSE Full Course <span>Reserve</span> Reserve	<b>French</b> GCSE Full Course Reserve
<small>i You have selected this course in EBACC</small>		<small>i You have selected this course in EBACC</small>
<b>Geography</b> GCSE Full Course Reserve	<b>Health and Social Care</b> GCSE Full Course Reserve	<b>History</b> GCSE Full Course Reserve
<small>i You have selected this course in EBACC</small>		<small>i You have selected this course in EBACC</small>
<b>ICT</b> Cambridge Nationals Certificate Level 1 & 2 Reserve	<b>Music</b> GCSE Full Course Reserve	<b>Photography</b> GCSE Full Course Reserve
<b>PE Exam</b> Cambridge Nationals Certificate Level 1 & 2 Reserve	<b>Religious</b> GCSE Full Course Reserve	<b>Spanish</b> GCSE Full Course Reserve
		<small>i This course is also available in EBACC</small>
<b>Textiles</b> GCSE Full Course Reserve		

**My Choices in Order of Preference** (Total Choices: 4)

To change your order of preference select a choice and click the position in the list you would like to move it to.

- 1 French**  
GCSE Full Course EBACC
- 2 Geography**  
GCSE Full Course EBACC
- 3 Dance**  
GCSE Full Course General
- 4 ICT**  
Cambridge Nationals Certificate Level 1 & 2 General

**My Reserves in Order of Preference** (Total Reserves: 2)

To change your order of preference select a reserve and click the position in the list you would like to move it to.

- 1 History**  
GCSE Full Course EBACC
- 2 Drama**  
GCSE Full Course General

▼ Student Comments

Add any comments here

▼ Parent/Carer Approval

Parent/Carer Approval

**▼ Student Comments**

*Add any comments here*

**▼ Parent/Carer Approval**

Parent/Carer Approval

The parental approval box is "greyed out" and cannot be selected, nor does it need to be.

▼ Pathway: A

**EBACC**

You have chosen 2 of 2  courses and 1 of 1  reserves from this list

<b>French</b> GCSE Full Course <span>Choice</span> <span>Reserve</span> <i>This course is also available in General</i>	<b>Geography</b> GCSE Full Course <span>Choice</span> <span>Reserve</span> <i>This course is also available in General</i>	<b>History</b> GCSE Full Course <span>Reserve</span> <span>Reserve</span> <i>This course is also available in General</i>
<b>Spanish</b> GCSE Full Course <span>Reserve</span> <i>This course is also available in General</i>		

**General**

You have chosen 2 of 2  courses and 1 of 1  reserves from this list

<b>Art &amp; Design</b> GCSE Full Course <span>Reserve</span>	<b>Business Studies</b> GCSE Full Course <span>Reserve</span>	<b>Computing</b> GCSE Full Course <span>Reserve</span>
<b>Dance</b> GCSE Full Course <span>Choice</span> <span>Reserve</span>	<b>Drama</b> GCSE Full Course <span>Reserve</span> <span>Reserve</span>	<b>French</b> GCSE Full Course <span>Reserve</span> <i>You have selected this course in EBACC</i>
<b>Geography</b> GCSE Full Course <span>Reserve</span> <i>You have selected this course in EBACC</i>	<b>Health and Social Care</b> GCSE Full Course <span>Reserve</span>	<b>History</b> GCSE Full Course <span>Reserve</span> <i>You have selected this course in EBACC</i>
<b>ICT</b> Cambridge Nationals Certificate Level 1 & 2 <span>Reserve</span>	<b>Music</b> GCSE Full Course <span>Reserve</span>	<b>Photography</b> GCSE Full Course <span>Reserve</span>
<b>PE Exam</b> Cambridge Nationals Certificate Level 1 & 2 <span>Reserve</span>	<b>Religious</b> GCSE Full Course <span>Reserve</span>	<b>Spanish</b> GCSE Full Course <span>Reserve</span> <i>This course is also available in EBACC</i>
<b>Textiles</b> GCSE Full Course <span>Reserve</span>		

**My Choices in Order of Preference** (Total Choices: 4)

To change your order of preference select a choice and click the position in the list you would like to move it to.

- French**  
GCSE Full Course EBACC
- Geography**  
GCSE Full Course EBACC
- Dance**  
GCSE Full Course General
- ICT**  
Cambridge Nationals Certificate Level 1 & 2 General

**My Reserves in Order of Preference** (Total Reserves: 2)

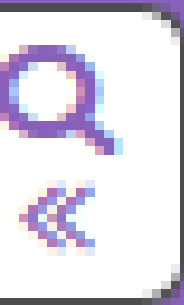
To change your order of preference select a reserve and click the position in the list you would like to move it to.

- History**  
GCSE Full Course EBACC
- Drama**  
GCSE Full Course General

▼ Student Comments

Add any comments here

▼ Parent/Carer Approval



▼ Pathway: A

EBACC

You have chosen 2 of 2

The system will auto-save as you work, but you can press save as well at the end for extra re-assurance.

You can login again and makes changes as much as you need to before the deadline.

# Can I change my mind?

You can also log in and change your options up to the entry deadline, but once the deadline closes you will need to see me/email me to make a change.



# Can I change my mind once I have started them in September?

Yes, but only slightly. By this point the timetables will be set, so moving freely is not always possible. It can sometimes work, but it could require you to make more than one change to be successful.

There are also issue with regards to class sizes, so if you want to move and there is no space, then that could be a problem.



# Will I get all my first-choice options?

Nearly all students get their preferred choices, but a small number could get their reserve choice.



# When will I find out?

Your choices will be confirmed in July.



## Year 8 Options Evening 26th March 2026

Building	Subject and Room					
Sherlock	<u>English Literature and English Language</u>	<u>History</u>	<u>Modern Foreign Languages (French and Spanish)</u>	<u>Global Education</u>	<u>Drama</u>	
	S2	S3	S4	S5	S6	
Prospect	<u>Geography</u>	<u>Health and Social Care</u>	<u>Maths</u>	<u>Business Studies – NOT AVAILABLE TONIGHT</u>	All shaded rooms are not on the ground floor. If this is an issue, please speak to school staff.	
	PR1 and PR2	PR3	PR5	PR6		
Main	<u>Duke of Edinburgh Award</u>	<u>Careers Advisor</u>	<u>Religious Education</u>	<u>PE Exam (Health and Fitness)</u>	<u>Dance</u>	
	Outside of Main School Hall	Outside of Main School Hall	406	408	MSG	
Main and St Stephens	<u>Science</u>	<u>ICT and Computing</u>	<u>Music</u>	<u>Textiles</u>	<u>Art</u>	<u>Photography</u>
	503	302	201	203	204	101



# A parent / carer's guide to The Duke of Edinburgh's Award



# What is the DofE?



The DofE is the world's leading achievement award for young people.

It's about going the extra mile – learning new skills for work and life, getting fitter, making a difference and broadening your horizons.

- Non-competitive
- Achievable by all
- Voluntary
- Personal development
- Personalised
- Balanced
- Progressive
- Achievement focused
- Demand commitment
- Fun



# Bronze Award



There's **loads of activities** to choose from — most activities can count towards a DofE programme. Take a look at our website for ideas: [DofE.org/do/activities](https://DofE.org/do/activities).

- Activities could be something that young people are **already doing** or something **completely new** – and there are lots of possibilities that can be done from home or under social distancing.
- **Weekend, lunch and after school** clubs and activities will count.
- Minimum **one hour a week** per section. A whole programme will take a minimum of **six months** to complete.
- A chosen Assessor will need to **write a short statement when they've finished each section**. This could be a family friend, neighbour, coach or teacher (not a relative).

Bronze (Year 9+)	Volunteering <b>3</b> months	Physical <b>3</b> months	Skills <b>3</b> months	Expedition <b>2 days</b> <b>1 night</b>
	Plus a further <b>3 months</b> in either the Volunteering, Physical or Skills section			

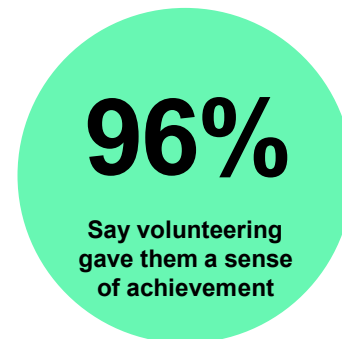
# Volunteering

Volunteering's all about taking action and making a difference to other people's lives.

From coaching a local football team or collecting for a foodbank to starting a campaign, young people will give up their time to help others and change things for the better.

It's extremely rewarding, grows confidence and independence — and can enable a young person to experience the world of work too.

*Young people must not be replacing paid labour i.e. they cannot volunteer for commercial organisations.*



# Physical

The Physical section is a chance for young people to focus on their health and fitness – and have fun along the way.



This might be the push needed for a young person to try something completely different or concentrate and improve on something they are already doing.

From yoga to going to the gym, skateboarding to wheelchair tennis — almost any dance, sport or fitness activity can count.

And doing more physical activity can help support mental health.

Young people can join a team or do it on their own — it's up to them!



# Skills

**From coding to cookery, the Skills section lets young people learn a new talent, develop existing skills and discover new things to love.**

By developing practical and social skills and gaining interests and talents, young people will enjoy themselves and get a real sense of achievement.

If they're interested in a specific field, this could be the perfect chance to do something related to it.

They'll grow their confidence and show they're committed, motivated and can rise to a challenge.



# Expedition

**Getting into the great outdoors and spending a night away with friends – a DofE expedition will give young people lifelong memories.**

As part of a small team, they will plan their aim, choose their location, do some training to make sure they're prepared and know what they are doing — then spend two days and one night away.

The expedition will improve resilience, communication, teamwork and leadership skills.

They might come home with a rucksack full of washing — and experiences they won't forget.

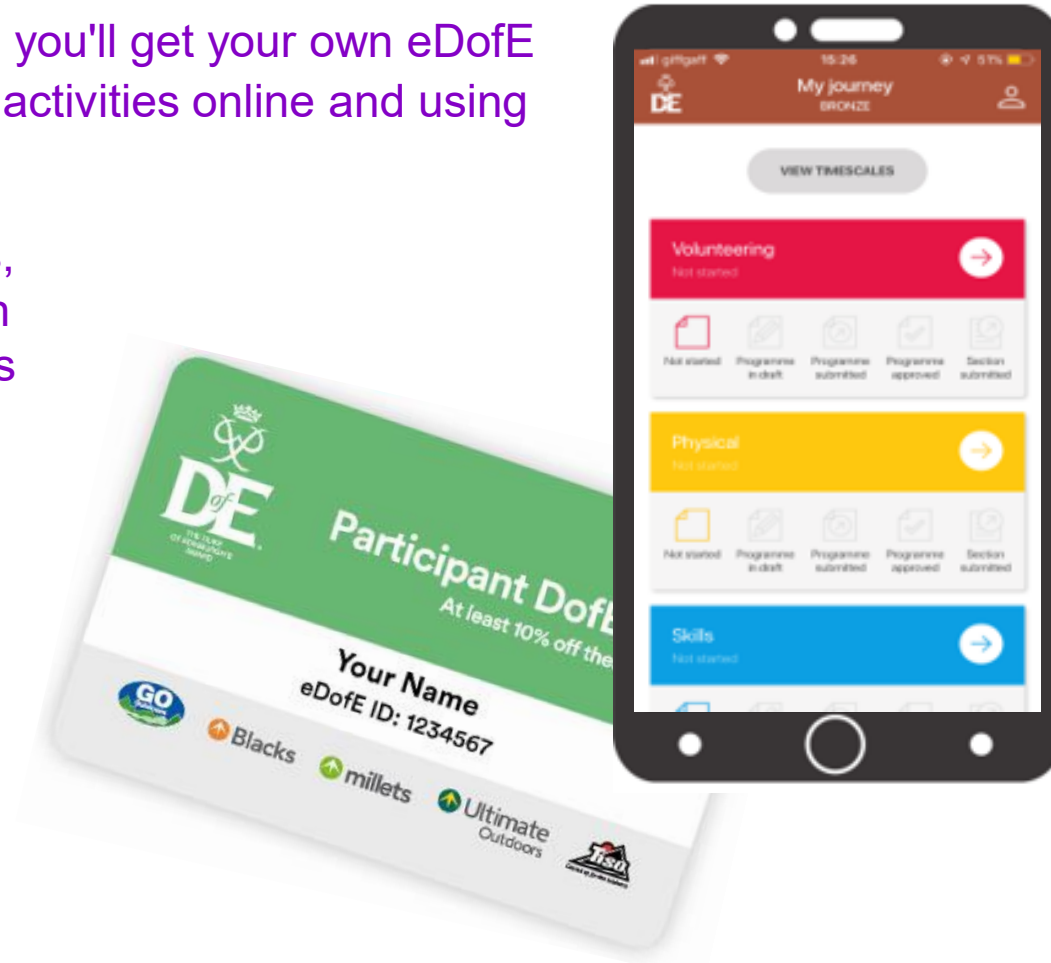


# Your Welcome Pack and eDofE

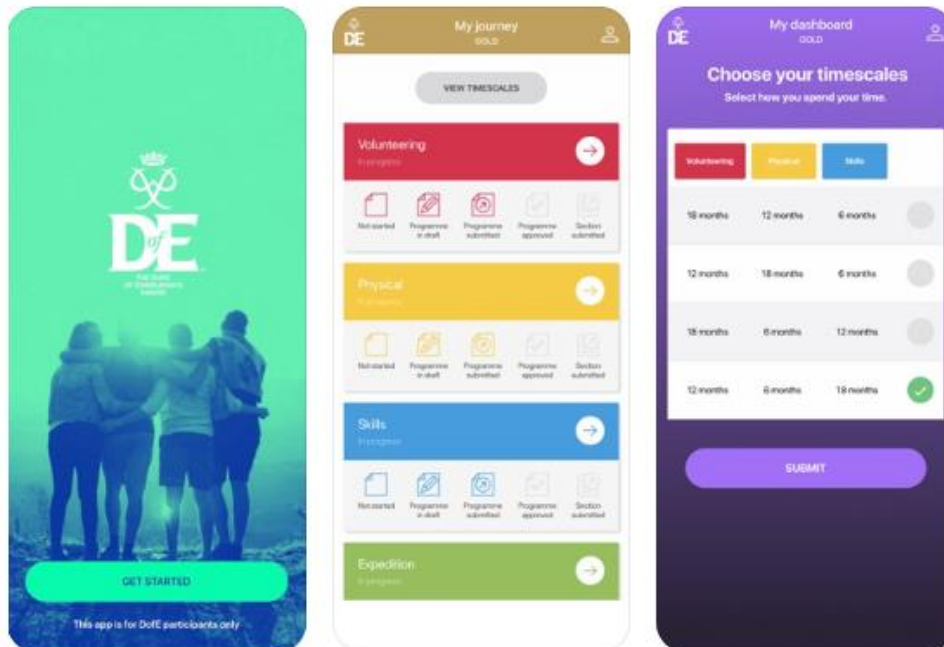
Once you've signed up to do your DofE, you'll get your own eDofE account, so you can start planning your activities online and using the free DofE app.

When you've added your home address, you'll be sent your Welcome Pack – with lots of information and advice, as well as your personalised DofE Card.

Your DofE Card will give you and your family exclusive discounts in the DofE's five fantastic recommended retailers.



# The DofE app



The DofE app is available for free from the App Store on iPhones and Google Play on Android phones.

Participants can use the DofE app to plan activities, get approval from Leaders, record evidence, submit programmes for completion and more.

Plus, it can sync important dates to your phone calendar and add the personalised DofE Card to the digital wallet, so you can make the most of the exclusive discounts.

# Assessor's Reports



Once a young person has completed their time requirement for a section, they need to obtain an Assessor's Report.

The Assessor's Report needs to be completed by the Assessor (e.g. Leader, teacher, coach etc.).

It can be written by hand using the report card in the young person's Welcome Pack (which they will receive in the post when they first enrol), or via the DofE Assessor portal at [DofE.org/Assessor](https://DofE.org/Assessor).

## Welcome Pack

**DE** ASSESSOR'S REPORT VOLUNTEERING

Participant: \_\_\_\_\_  
eDofE ID No: \_\_\_\_\_  
Level: Bronze

Description of activity: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date started: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_ Completed: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_  
Goals set by participant: \_\_\_\_\_

**Assessor's comments:**  
*Please write as much as possible, talking about training, teamwork etc. What you write will celebrate the achievement of the young person and record of their DofE programme. Please note: the information you have scanned and stored by the DofE as part of its record of the participant's share your personal data with third parties.*

**What progress did they make towards their goals?**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**What did they achieve, what skills did they learn?**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**How frequently did they take part in this activity?**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Any other comments?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Assessor's first name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Assessor's position/qualification: \_\_\_\_\_  
Assessor's phone number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Assessor's email: \_\_\_\_\_

*Participants should scan or photograph this page and upload to eDofE*

## Assessor portal

**Assessor's Report**

As an Assessor you can add your report directly into the participant's online eDofE account here.

All you need is the participant's eDofE ID number, their Award level (Bronze, Silver or Gold) and the section you are assessing them for (Volunteering, Physical, Skill, Expedition or Residential). Please ask the young person you have been supporting for these details. The young person must have entered their section details in eDofE before you can submit your report.

Your comments automatically go to the participant's DofE Leader for approval before being added to the participant's account. We ask for your email address and phone number to enable their DofE Leader to contact you should they wish to discuss your assessment with you and so we can send you a copy of the report you submit.

Thank you for supporting young people with their activities. Please read our [Privacy Statement](#) for information on how your personal information is secured.

Note: If you have a problem with the CAPTCHA code, please use a different device/network/browser and this should solve the issue. If not, please contact [edofe@DofE.org](mailto:edofe@DofE.org).

**What to include in your Assessor's Report**

- Download a [checklist](#) of the information an Award Verifier will look for when reading your report. Please try to include as much of this information as possible in your report.
- Please describe the achievements of the participant as they undertook this section. Say how they met their goals, what skill they have developed and mention any memorable things that they accomplished.
- Please include the start and end dates between which the young person undertook their activity.
- Expedition Assessors: Please include your assessor accreditation number and (if applicable) the team's expedition notification number in your report.
- Download a summary of what to include in your report, and some [example reports here](#)

# Parental role



## Guidance

- Provide guidance and support on activities, kit and Assessor choices.

## Encouragement

- It can be challenging to keep the motivation going, especially over some of the longer timeframes.

## Expedition support

- You may be required to drop off/collect from expeditions... and also wash the kit when it comes home!

## Reminders

- Keep them on track with their activities, particularly those which are being done from home.

## Recognise their achievements

- We hope all organisations will recognise the amazing achievement, and it is just as important to receive that recognition from family members.



# Some Questions answered



- Check the school / organisation's process for signing up to DofE.
  - Interest to register is on Wisepay from tonight (26<sup>th</sup> March 2026)
- Parents / carers will need to complete and return some paperwork and payment.
  - Forms officially will be on Wisepay from Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2026 (Email)
  - Deadline for payments for the award and online forms is 29<sup>th</sup> June 2026
  - Payment is £120 via Wisepay (Non-Refundable)
  - If you wish to purchase kit deadline for payment is 12<sup>th</sup> October 2026
- Talk to your young person about what activities they might choose for their DofE.
- Discuss who their Assessors could be, especially for any home-based activities.
- Dates for expeditions:
  - Training expedition is March 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> March 2027
  - Qualifying is May 14<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> May 2027
  - Training and route planning sessions are Term 4 on a Tuesday 1530-1630/1700

## Year 8 Options Evening 26th March 2026

Building	Subject and Room					
Sherlock	<u>English Literature and English Language</u>	<u>History</u>	<u>Modern Foreign Languages (French and Spanish)</u>	<u>Global Education</u>	<u>Drama</u>	
	S2	S3	S4	S5	S6	
Prospect	<u>Geography</u>	<u>Health and Social Care</u>	<u>Maths</u>	<u>Business Studies – NOT AVAILABLE TONIGHT</u>	All shaded rooms are not on the ground floor. If this is an issue, please speak to school staff.	
	PR1 and PR2	PR3	PR5	PR6		
Main	<u>Duke of Edinburgh Award</u>	<u>Careers Advisor</u>	<u>Religious Education</u>	<u>PE Exam (Health and Fitness)</u>	<u>Dance</u>	
	Outside of Main School Hall	Outside of Main School Hall	406	408	MSG	
Main and St Stephens	<u>Science</u>	<u>ICT and Computing</u>	<u>Music</u>	<u>Textiles</u>	<u>Art</u>	<u>Photography</u>
	503	302	201	203	204	101