



Dear Students and Parents/Carers,

We are pleased to announce that New Mills School will be running the **Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award** for year 9 students from January 2026.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is an internationally recognised personal development programme designed to encourage young people to develop confidence, resilience, and life skills through a range of practical and enjoyable experiences. It is highly regarded by colleges, universities, and employers, and most importantly, it helps students discover what they are capable of achieving.

The Award is completed at different levels (Bronze, Silver, and Gold), with students working through four main sections:

- **Volunteering** – giving time to help others or support the local community
- **Physical** – improving fitness through sport or physical activity
- **Skills** – developing a personal interest or learning a new skill
- **Expedition** – planning, training for, and completing a team expedition hike with overnight camp.

This will take place on a Thursday and Friday in October 2026

Students choose activities that interest them, allowing them to personalise their Award while working towards clear goals over a set period of time. Students will log their evidence through the D of E App and they will be supported throughout the programme by myself and Mrs Boyle. Students will be asked to attend an after school club every couple of weeks in order to monitor their progress through the award.

Taking part in DofE helps students:

- Build independence, teamwork, and leadership skills
- Improve organisation and time management
- Gain experiences they can include in CVs, applications, and interviews
- Develop confidence and a sense of achievement

This year we are asking students to fill out a short application form to apply to take part in their Bronze Award. The scheme will be launched to students in an assembly and we are asking for application forms to be submitted by Monday 2nd February.

In order to facilitate the overnight expedition and other training activities, NMS works with local outdoor company 'No Limits'. They provide qualified Mountain Leaders to supervise the hike as well as group equipment and insurance. The cost for participation in the award this year will be around £250 depending on the number of students who sign up. The cost will be payable in instalments through Parent Pay.

D of E can provide bursaries for student participation from disadvantaged groups. Please let me know if you would like further information on this scheme.

Attached to this letter is

1. An application form – once completed, please email to dofe@newmillsschool.co.uk
2. Some examples of the types of activities which students can choose to make up their D of E Programme. The list is not exhaustive but is relevant to the High Peak area. It is up to students and parents to organise their volunteering.

Further information about the D of E scheme can be found at <https://www.dofe.org>

We look forward to supporting our students as they take on the Duke of Edinburgh's Award challenge.

Yours sincerely,

Sue Fisher
D of E Manager
New Mills School