



Nonsuch High School for Girls

Duke of Edinburgh Information Booklet



2026-2027

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Ewell Road, Cheam, Surrey SM3 8AB

Duke of Edinburgh Award 2025-26

Information for Parents and Participants

Contact email: doe@nonsuchschool.org

DofE Manager: Miss McIntyre

DofE Coordinator: Mrs Holmes

DofE Verifier and Administrator: Ms Cadogan

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) is a nationally recognised youth development programme for young people aged 14 to 24. It is structured across three levels—Bronze, Silver, and Gold—and each level involves completing activities in four key sections: Volunteering, Physical, Skills, and Expedition, with an additional Residential section at Gold level. Participants choose their own activities within each section, allowing them to tailor the experience to their interests and goals. The DofE is a fantastic opportunity for young people to develop essential life skills and grow into confident, resilient, and responsible individuals. Through these challenges, they build independence, teamwork, leadership, and problem-solving abilities—all of which are highly valued by employers, colleges, and universities.

Introduction

The Duke of Edinburgh Award covers 4 sections (5 at Gold level):

1. Physical

Participants can select almost any sport from more traditional sports (football, netball, tennis), dance techniques (ballet, tap, modern) and different modes of fitness (yoga, weightlifting, Pilates) to extreme sports like water sports or caving.

2. Volunteering

Participants may choose to give their time at a local charity shop or religious centre, tutor free of charge, or assist in other ways in their local community.

3. Skills

Participants can learn a new instrument, a language, learn more about the world, learn how to cook and go on courses to gain e.g. financial awareness.

4. Expedition

Each level requires participants to go on an expedition for an increasing number of days as you climb up from Bronze to Silver to Gold. The Expedition section of the Award is Run by Activ Adventures who have worked with Nonsuch students for many years.

5. Residential (Gold Award only)

The Residential section (Gold only) requires spending at least 5 days and 4 nights with 5 or more in pursuit of a common goal or target. This could involve a sports camp with strangers or volunteering away from home.

Structure

The 5 sections completed by the award have different time requirements. At each level, participants can choose one section to spend more time completing.

Award	Volunteering	Skills	Physical	Expedition
Bronze	3 or 6 months	3 or 6 months	3 or 6 months	2 days
Silver	6 months	3 or 6 months	3 or 6 months	3 days
Gold	12 months	6 or 12 months	6 or 12 months	7 days (both practice and qualifying combined)

Students must complete at least 12 x 1-hour sessions for 3 months and 24 x 1-hour sessions for 6 months, with the full calendar month completed. If a session is missed, participants must complete an extra week at the end.

It is not possible to do e.g. 2 hours a week for 3 months for Silver Volunteering to make up 6 months.

Most of our students choose to do an expedition run by Activ who have worked with us for many years. Alternatively, students may choose to find a separate provider with which to do their expedition section.

If any participant needs ideas for sections, the Duke of Edinburgh website has a handy resource here: [Ideas for Activities - The Duke of Edinburgh's Award \(dofe.org\)](https://www.dofe.org/activities)

This page has information for the award in general, and has information for parents and carers as well: [Do DofE - The Duke of Edinburgh's Award](#)

Enrolment

To enroll on a DofE Award, you must do the following:

Bronze/Silver:

1. Submit the Microsoft Forms enrolment form for Nonsuch by Friday 9th October 2026:
 - **Bronze/Silver:** [Participant Enrolment Form 2026-27 Bronze and Silver](#)
 - **Gold:** [Participant Enrolment Form 2026-27 Gold](#)

AT THE SAME TIME, you must:

2. Pay the enrolment and admin fee via Arbor due by Friday 9th October 2026 at 6pm.
3. Sign up to Activ (if using them for expedition) and pay expedition fees directly to Activ by Friday 9th October (not year 11 Gold Award)

If you wish to receive help with the expedition costs because your child is in receipt of or Pupil Premium, please email: doe@nonsuchschool.org

Please inform Activ if financial support is being requested from school for expedition section. You must pay Activ at the sign up stage.

Gold - Year 11 and Year 12 students new to Gold:

1. You may only sign up to Gold if you have completed all 3 sections at Silver; Skills, Volunteering and

Physical. Parents/carers need to verify this by checking their daughter's eDofE account before completing the enrolment Form by **Sunday 4 October at 6pm.**

2. Once this has been verified by the DofE team at Nonsuch, a payment item will be added to Arbor to be paid by **Wednesday 14 October 6pm.**

The MS form must be submitted even if your child will not be registered until later in the year due to their birthday.

Students in Year 12 or 13 who are already enrolled on the Gold Award do not need to enrol again, but if they are expecting to go on an expedition with Activ in Summer 2027, parents must sign up on Activ's website via the letter under the gold information box on the school website. **The deadline for this is Wednesday 14 October.**

Cost

1. **Award Enrolment:** Payment for enrolment in the program (including admin costs) paid via Parent Pay:
Bronze - £43.50
Silver - £43.50
Gold - £50.50
2. **Expedition Cost:** If your child wishes to do their expedition with Activ Adventures:
Bronze - £250
Silver - £345
Gold - £430
Travel to the expedition starting point is not included.

Students registering to start the Gold Award in Year 11 do not request enrolment for the expedition section in Year 11. Most Nonsuch students complete the Gold expedition at the end of Year 12. Students must remember to register with Activ at the start of Year 12 if they wish to join the expedition in Year 12

Beginning Your Award

Students should read the document on the school website named: *Recording your activities and using your log book.*

Once the school has enrolled students, they will receive login details via email for accessing eDofE, the online portal participants use to upload their evidence and other information. Students will receive a welcome pack delivered to their home address after they have filled in all the required details on their eDofE account.

Students should decide on their activities for each award section and then complete the programme planner for each section. This must be done prior to starting the activity so the planner can be approved. If it is not approved before and is deemed unsuitable per DofE guidelines, the section will have to be restarted.

All sections need the following:

- An aim
- An assessor (must be an adult and cannot be a family member).
- At minimum an assessor's report as evidence (ideally photos and documents showcasing your skills).
- 1 hour of the activity every week for the required time period.

For example:

Section: Skills

Type: Playing a musical instrument

Detail: Flute

Location: School

Goals: I want to complete my Grade 3 Flute exam by the end of my Bronze DofE Award

Assessor: Mr D Ploma (DipABRSM)

Position: Flute teacher

Telephone: --

Email: imreallygoodatplayingtheflute@gmail.com

If your assessor is a teacher:

Students may well have selected an extracurricular activity for one section e.g. Netball Club or Robotics Club. Inform the teacher in your first session. When doing a school club for one of your sections, school holidays **do not count** and additional weeks must be completed to make up for the break.

You may also ask a relevant staff member, usually your tutor, to write a reference for you for volunteering placements. Please do not name the DofE manager as the referee and remember to ask staff for permission before giving organisations their contact information.

On eDofE you must:

1. Input all your details to receive a welcome pack.
2. Complete a planner for each section and get it approved before starting your sections.

3. Once a section has been completed (or periodically while doing the activity) upload evidence and the report your assessor has written about your activity.
4. Submit sections for approval.
5. Your award will be verified.

Where to go for help:

DofE Drop in: Monday, Week 2 from 12:40 to 13.00 in Room 152.

Email: doe@nonsuchschool.org

Message: use the message function on eDofE

Good luck!

The Nonsuch DofE Team