

SOUTHEND HIGH SCHOOL FOR BOYS

ACADEMY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Prittlewell Chase, Southend-on-Sea, Essex, SS0 0RG
(01702) 606200 enquiries@shsb.org.uk www.shsb.org.uk

Headteacher: Mrs R V Worth



4th December 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award 2025/26

Your son has expressed an interest in, and been offered a place on, the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award run through the school. This involves **4 sections – volunteering, physical, skill and expedition**. By signing up to the award they commit to completing all 4 of these sections, of which the **expedition will be organised by the school**, but the **other 3 need to be organised by the student**. These 3 sections will require 3 or 6 months of commitment to an activity, with written evidence provided, in order to achieve their bronze award. Students should be aiming to do this by the end of the academic year, so they can be presented with their certificate in their final year assembly. Students will be given full details of what qualifies for each section, the timescales and evidence required and how to sign sections off in their training sessions, but this information is also available on the DofE website (www.dofe.org/do/).

The provisional dates for the DofE expeditions are **18th – 19th April 2026 for the practice**, which will take place in the Southend/Hockley area, and **9th – 10th May 2026 for the assessed**, which will take place in the Hatfield Peverel/Danbury area. Students will need to **arrive at approximately 9:00 on the Saturday at the drop off point** and we expect that the boys should be finishing around **14:00-15:00 on the Sunday**, and are **expected to attend both weekends**. Further details about exact arrangements for the weekends will follow.

The **cost for the expedition and sign up to the DofE scheme will be £85**. This will be paid in **two instalments, one of £30.50 by the Monday 15th December (which acts as a deposit and secures your son's place) and one of £54.50 by Friday 30th January**. The participation fee charged by the DofE for sign up to the scheme is £30.50, and is non-refundable once an eDofE account is made for them. Should there be any difficulties in meeting these payments, please contact me to discuss alternative arrangements.

A **kit list is attached** to this letter. Once the first payment is made, students will be signed up the eDofE system, and as well as being able to log their progress they will also be able to access a discount code for 10% off at several major outdoor stockists. If more information is needed on equipment etc. then this may be found on the main Duke of Edinburgh Award website. **No student will be able to walk if they do not have a rain coat, a sleeping bag, and a first aid kit with any necessary medications.**

All kit must be contained in a rucksack that is suitable for a walk. The rucksacks should have approximately 60L capacity and should have a waist band to support the weight of the bag. If students are not sure if the bag they have is suitable, we encourage them to bring the bags into school and/or talk to their leaders for advice. Students will be provided with tents, maps, compasses, Trangias (for cooking) and fuel bottles by the school. Students will be given their part of the group kit in the week before the expedition. They must have this packed in their bag for the expedition.



If you are having trouble sourcing appropriate kit, the school does have a small selection of backpacks, sleeping bags, etc. that we can loan out. Please contact me or ask your sons to speak to me in school/during their training/planning sessions.

If there are any questions, or queries about payment or kit, or you son no longer wishes to participate in the DofE award, please do not hesitate to contact me via KS4admin@shsb.org.uk.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Sweeting
DofE Manager