



# FEARNHILL SCHOOL

Headteacher – Mr T Spencer, BSc



1<sup>st</sup> November 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

I'm pleased to let you know that as of this year, Fearnhill School offers the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) to students in Years 9 and 10.

The DofE is a great chance for your child to broaden their horizons, discover new interests and talents, have fun with friends, develop essential skills for their future and achieve an internationally renowned Award.

## About the DofE

The DofE is non-competitive and open to all young people – it's about setting personal challenges and pushing personal boundaries.

Through their DofE, students will make friends and memories and build traits like confidence, resilience and self-esteem, which can benefit mental health. They'll gain skills and attributes for work and life, like problem-solving, team-working and self-motivation – and they'll achieve an Award that's recognised by top employers and can help them stand out when applying for uni or jobs.

To achieve their Bronze Award, participants must complete four sections: **Skills, Volunteering, Physical and their Expedition.**

Every young person's DofE programme is personal to them – they can choose what they'd like to do for their Skills, Volunteering and Physical sections. We will provide guidance and support, and students can either choose to continue an activity they already do or discover something completely new.

Activities for each section take a minimum of one hour a week over a set period of time, so they can fit around studying, hobbies and social lives. For more details about programmes and timescales visit [DofE.org/do](https://DofE.org/do).

## About the Expedition

The Expedition section involves your child working as part of a small team to plan their expedition's aim, choose a location and do some training to make sure they're fully prepared – before spending two days and one night in the countryside.

Ahead of this, they will take part in a small number of practice expeditions on selected Saturdays covering basic expedition principles and introducing them to expedition equipment.

Icknield Way, Letchworth Garden City, Hertfordshire SG6 4BA

Telephone: 01462 621200 – Email: [admin@fearnhill.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@fearnhill.herts.sch.uk) – Website: [www.fearnhill.herts.sch.uk](http://www.fearnhill.herts.sch.uk)



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There will also be a number of training sessions each Thursday after school, in which your child and their group will plan their route and prepare. Participants will only be able to do their expedition if they attend the organised training.

The expedition will take place in the summer term, and details will follow.

## eDofE and the DofE app

Participants can create their DofE programme and record their progress using eDofE, the DofE's digital system, available online at [eDofE.org](http://eDofE.org) and through the DofE app – downloadable for free from Google Play and the App Store.

If your child decides to enrol, we will set up their eDofE account and they will receive details of how to sign in and get started.

## Signing up

The cost of taking part in the DofE is £25.50 per participant. This covers your child's participation place and Welcome Pack, which will be sent to their home address and includes their personalised DofE Discount Card. We are proud to have invested a large sum of money on essential equipment such as tents and cooking stoves, but you will be expected to provide specific items such as clothing and food. We have attached the DofE Expedition Kit List for your reference.

If your child would like to take part, they need to come along to the first DofE session running Thursday 9th November at 3.15pm in the Hall. They will be provided with an enrolment form. This will need to be completed and returned along with payment of the £25.50 which will need to be paid via the Schoolgateway by 30th November 2023 latest. If you have any concerns about this payment and any future costs please contact Mrs Rainbow in confidence via email [hazel.rainbow10@fearnhill.herts.sch.uk](mailto:hazel.rainbow10@fearnhill.herts.sch.uk)

We will hold an information event for parents and students on Thursday 16th November at 4.30 - 5.00pm. Online 'drop in' sessions are also available with Debby Eastley, DofE South East operations Manager on 7th November at 6pm and 22nd November at 4.30 pm. Please email Mr Fox or Mr Fowler for a joining link.

Many thanks for your support and we look forward to helping your child to achieve through their DofE.

Yours faithfully,

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Nicholas Fowler  
**DofE Manager**

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