# School Ages and the DofE – Earliest Enrolment and Completion

In order to make DofE available to as many young people as possible and to enable them to complete with friends and peers, we are pleased to announce the new age range pilot for Bronze and Silver levels. This chart will help you plan the best experience possible for your Centre – please feed back to us on southeast@dofe.org about how the new age pilot works for you!

## Year 9
- **Youngest pupil will be 13**
- **Oldest pupil will be 14**
- **Sep**: Start enrolment of Bronze participants onto eDofE
  - **Oct**: eDofE sessions, programme planning and expedition training
  - **Nov**: eDofE sessions, programme planning and expedition training
  - **Dec**: eDofE sessions, programme planning and expedition training
  - **Jan**: eDofE sessions, programme planning and expedition training
  - **Feb**: eDofE sessions, programme planning and expedition training

### After completion of Expedition
- earliest Year 9 enrolments can officially complete their Bronze DofE.

### Bronze practice and qualifying expeditions for all participants.
(Many groups use the Easter break, May Bank Holidays, half term holiday and the end of term).

## Year 10
- **Youngest pupil will be 14**
- **Oldest pupil will be 15**
- **Sep**: Start enrolment of Silver participants onto eDofE
  - **Oct**: eDofE sessions, programme planning and expedition training
  - **Nov**: eDofE sessions, programme planning and expedition training
  - **Dec**: eDofE sessions, programme planning and expedition training
  - **Jan**: eDofE sessions, programme planning and expedition training
  - **Feb**: eDofE sessions, programme planning and expedition training

### Silver practice and qualifying expeditions for all participants.
On completion of Expedition, earliest Year 10 non-Direct enrolments can officially complete their Silver DofE.

## Year 11
- **Youngest pupil will be 15**
- **Oldest pupil will be 16**
- **Sep**: Start enrolment of Gold participants onto eDofE (as long as they are 16).
  - **Oct**: eDofE sessions, programme planning and expedition training
  - **Nov**: eDofE sessions, programme planning and expedition training
  - **Dec**: eDofE sessions, programme planning and expedition training
  - **Jan**: eDofE sessions, programme planning and expedition training
  - **Feb**: eDofE sessions, programme planning and expedition training

### Silver practice and qualifying expedition opportunity for everyone. Earliest the youngest direct entrant participant can complete their Silver DofE (i.e. 12 months later to allow for longer Direct section).

### Gold practice and qualifying expedition opportunity for those who meet the age criteria. Gold participants must still be 16.

## Year 12
- **Youngest pupil will be 16**
- **Oldest pupil will be 17**
- **Sep**: Youngest student is now 16 and eligible to enrol for Gold.
  - **Oct**: Gold practice and qualifying expedition opportunity for all participants
  - **Nov**: Gold practice and qualifying expedition opportunity for all participants
  - **Dec**: Gold practice and qualifying expedition opportunity for all participants
  - **Jan**: Gold practice and qualifying expedition opportunity for all participants
  - **Feb**: Gold practice and qualifying expedition opportunity for all participants

### Earliest the youngest Gold non-direct entrant can officially complete their Gold DofE (i.e. their 17th Birthday).

## Year 13
- **Youngest pupil will be 17**
- **Oldest pupil will be 18**
- **Sep**: Earliest the youngest Gold direct entrant participant can officially complete their Gold DofE (i.e. age 17½).

### A non-direct entrant is a participant who has completed the previous level; a direct entrant is a participant who has not completed the previous level.

### Backdating sections: It is possible to backdate one section by three months for Gold level only provided the participant was 16 at the start of the activity. It is not possible to backdate a section at Bronze and Silver. You can however alter the enrolment date if required.

## Further guidance:
- Although Bronze and Silver levels can enrol in school years, participants must be 16 before they are able to start Gold.
- Participants must have completed a section at the previous level before they can be enrolled at the next level.