



Brentwood School

Year 9

Timetabled Co-curricular
2026-27

Timetabled Co-Curricular

Welcome to the Year 9 Tuesday Activity Programme. This year will see even more exciting opportunities available to your children in relation to our Outdoor Learning Curriculum. On a Tuesday periods 4 and 5, the co-curricular programme from Year 9 upwards is part of our timetabled curriculum which all students

participate in. Students also complete these activities on the dedicated Field Days in the Michaelmas and Trinity terms. The first half of the Michaelmas Term will involve taster sessions for the three activity options, from which your child will choose one to participate in as their activity:

- Voluntary Service Activities (VSA)
- The Duke of Edinburgh's Award & The Great Outdoors (DofE & GO)
- Combined Cadet Force (CCF)

The taster sessions give students practical insight into what each activity offers, thereby enabling them to make an informed choice as to which activity they would like to opt for. Students should take time to carefully consider the option that is right for them and the opportunities it will bring. During the second half of the Michaelmas Term, your children complete a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Maths) based project. During this project, they will work in groups to collaboratively design an extension to Chessington World of Adventures theme park, which they will present at the end of term to a panel of experts.

From January onwards your children will join their chosen activity (VSA, DofE & GO or CCF). All costs of these programmes are included within the fees, though please note there is also a £100 deposit for CCF uniform that is MoD issued and at the end of their participation in the CCF is returned.

We have an Information Evening on Wednesday 9th September at 6.30pm (combined with the tutor introductory evening) in the Wessex Auditorium where staff will give an overview of each activity and parents and students will have an opportunity to ask questions to activity leaders and students that currently participate in each of the activities.

The option form for activity preferences will be sent out following the final student taster session on Tuesday 29th September and the deadline for completing the option form is 5pm on Thursday 15th October.

The subsequent pages explain the three activity options followed by an FAQ section. Please use this information to discuss with your child which activity they would like to participate in during Tuesday period 4 and 5 lessons. We look forward to discussing the options further on the Information Evening.

Year 9 Project

Enterprise Ambassadors Award & Tycoon Enterprise Challenge

During the second half of the Michaelmas Term, students will be split into teams and take part in the Enterprise Ambassadors Award. Launching during the October Field Days, students will be set a challenge to present an idea for an extension to the Chessington World of Adventures theme park. With theme parks encompassing much of Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Maths, it affords us the opportunity to look into the various STEAM applications in modern day theme parks. The project will also focus on business planning, financial strategy, and marketing innovation.



Students will be split into teams and each student will have a particular area to focus on in their teams such as rollercoaster/ ride design, atmospheric elements and topography to enhance visitor experience, or return on investment analysis. As part of the Field Days students will have the opportunity to visit a theme park and collect research in person. They will spend the six Tuesdays, following the Michaelmas half-term holiday, looking at the research they have gathered from the Field Days, discussing and collaborating with other members of their team, and producing a five-minute presentation with a speech and visuals to pitch their idea in a 'Dragons Den' at the end of the Michaelmas Term.

The aim of this is not only to give the students the chance to look at the application of their STEAM subjects, but to also to embed enterprise and employability skills such as; strategic thinking, commercial awareness, effective communication & collaboration, problem solving, leadership and presentation skills – all of which will stand them in good stead as they move through the School and on to life beyond Brentwood.



Voluntary Service Activity

The VSA prides itself on developing forward-thinking, compassionate young people who have the desire to make positive change in the School and local communities.

Overview

The VSA programme is based around the ethos of Awareness, Outreach, and Action. During their time in the VSA, the students will raise awareness about issues that are important to them; loneliness and isolation in the vulnerable community; how to create an eco-friendly environment; working with those with special needs, and learning vital skills such as British Sign Language and First Aid.

Whilst awareness is incredibly important, and encourages empathy and open-mindedness in the students, we also focus on what the students can do to affect positive change. From Years 9–11, students can rotate the options they wish to volunteer in, either termly or yearly. We always have our 'core' options, such as BSL and the Community Garden, but other groups change each academic year due to the demand of the local community! In the Sixth Form, students can elect to be Senior Leaders, where they help to organise and run sessions for the younger students in VSA, or in our KS3 Service programme. A highlight of the VSA calendar is hosting local care home residents for our Christmas party, and the Sixth Form VSA students work very hard to plan this event.



Field Days

VSA Field Day highlights include; volunteering at Hopefield animal sanctuary, beach cleans in Southend and Aldeburgh, taking part in the national schools' WildEd conservation competition and the RHS school community garden competition, and visits to the Wilderness Foundation site. We also visit RHS Hyde Hall, volunteer at local primary schools and complete conservation work at Barrow Farm riding school for the disabled. We continue to try and combine enjoyable days of team-building with enriching volunteer work, and no field day is the same.

Tuesday

As students are given a choice over their focus, we offer a programme that is bespoke to each individual. Examples of activities that they can join on a Tuesday are below, some of which include gaining nationally recognised qualifications:

- Becoming an NHS Cadet with St John's Ambulance; undertaking a 31-week course which will enable students to volunteer with the charity or within NHS trusts.
- British Sign Language 101 qualification with Positive Signs.
- Development of key skills such as empathy, awareness, improving wellbeing, compassion and listening in activities such as the Community Garden and their projects with the local council and befriending the elderly through our weekly visits to Hutton View Care Home.
- Working with those with disabilities by partnering with Hamelin Trust in Billericay.
- Volunteering with local charities such as Manna Meals and to develop awareness of Animal welfare through weekly visits to Remus horse Sanctuary.

Uniform

VSA students are issued with a sweatshirt, T-shirt and jacket. Orders are made once students have opted for VSA and are distributed in January when they join us full-time. They should also wear their Brentwood School navy tracksuit bottoms and trainers.





Duke of Edinburgh's Award & The Great Outdoors

The Duke of Edinburgh's (DofE) Award and the Great Outdoors (GO) is an integrated programme of learning beyond the classroom, which is designed to ignite a passion for the great outdoors, while fostering essential life skills. It is a transformative journey designed to empower students with a diverse set of knowledge and skills that will help them to thrive and be successful long into the future. Students will learn a range of outdoor skills including survival skills, how to navigate in natural landscapes, how to cook outdoors and how to look after each in the wild. young people who have the desire to make positive change in the School and local communities.

Overview

For the Bronze and Silver Award, students complete four sections: Volunteering, Physical, Skills, and Expedition. At Gold level (16+) there is an additional residential section. The Volunteering, Physical and Skills sections take place over a 3–6 month period at Bronze level and require a time commitment of at least one hour per week for each section. Participants must keep an online log of evidence of their weekly activities, and they assign an (unrelated) adult to assess their progress. This adult writes an online report confirming the activity. The Expedition gives students a chance to have an adventure, work as a team, and act on their own initiative. At Bronze level, the expedition is a minimum of 2 days and 1 night and involves hiking and navigating for at least 3, but up to six hours each day in unfamiliar terrain. As students move through the DofE and Great Outdoors programme, there will be further opportunities to extend and apply the skills they have learned, through volunteering, teaching younger students the skills they have learned and potentially completing nationally recognised qualifications such as the Lowland Leader Qualification and BTEC qualifications in leadership and teamwork.

Tuesday

Participants will work as a team to plan, train for and complete DofE expeditions (practice and assessed) which will encompass a wide range of outdoor skills and competencies. This will include navigation training, route planning, first aid, cooking



outdoors and campcraft. As well as learning outdoor knowledge and skills, participants will be constantly developing their teamwork, resilience and judgement as they work through the Awards. Alongside the practical training for expeditions, the students will take part in a number of adventurous activities both on and off site, including a range of outdoor pursuits.

Field Days

Students will complete their Bronze Assessed expedition on Field Days in the Trinity Term of Year 9. Year 10 begins with a residential Outdoor Adventure trip linked to the Great Outdoors Programme on the Michaelmas Field Days. Silver Expeditions will take place on Field Days in Year 10 (Practice Expedition on Trinity Field Days) and 11 (Assessed Expedition on Michaelmas Field Days), but due to the increased duration will incorporate an additional day before or after Field Days.

Uniform

DofE Students are issued with DofE&GO uniform (t-shirt and midlayer) to be worn on a Tuesday.

The kit is also suitable to be worn for their expeditions (although students may also wish to wear their own kit). Trousers and walking boots are to be purchased by the student due to the variation in trouser fits and boot design, students will be given guidance as to the type of trousers and boots that are acceptable for the programme.

DofE&GO runs at the same time as CCF and VSA, therefore for those students who wish to DofE in addition to CCF or VSA they can access this through an external provider. Local approved activity providers can be found via the [DofE Website](#). Some of these providers are also able to offer expeditions via alternative means to walking such as cycling, canoeing and kayaking.





Combined Cadet Force

The CCF is a national youth organisation sponsored by the Ministry of Defence (MOD). It aims to provide a disciplined organisation in a school so that students may develop powers of leadership by means of training to promote the qualities of responsibility, self-reliance, endurance and resilience. The CCF is not a recruitment organisation for the Armed Forces and there is no obligation for cadets to join the military.

Overview

We are proud to operate three sections – the Royal Navy Section, the Army Section and the Royal Air Force Section. As the CCF is sponsored by the MOD, we have prescribed establishment numbers of how many cadets we can enrol within each section. We strongly encourage all cadets to attend courses, camps and opportunities outside of the CCF to give them a greater insight into their service and the opportunity to learn and practice their leadership skills in an environment outside of school. Cadets may also be required to attend weekend training in order to complete their syllabus topics. Other MOD sponsored leadership courses are also available for cadets from all three sections to attend. There are opportunities for fun, friendship, action and adventure in the CCF. Resilience is a key learning point, cadets, at times, will be pushed outside of their comfort zone. Each cadet will learn teamwork, leadership, discipline and instruction which are transferable to life outside of the CCF. All students who opt for the CCF will complete a term of Tri-Service training, where cadets will complete various lessons and assessments before they are allocated to their permanent section. The assessment results will be used to allocate students to their permanent section if any section is over-subscribed when students submit their preferences.

Please note that the Ministry of Defence sets our establishment numbers which means, depending on student preferences, we are not always able to give cadets their preferred choice of section.

Tuesday

Initially, in Year 9 all cadets will follow a Tri- Service basic training programme where they will experience the basics of the CCF along with an introduction to each of the three sections (Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force). Once in their sections, cadets will continue basic training, much of which is the same in each of the three sections. They will all learn drill, badges of rank, navigation, first aid, team building/ leadership and they will have an opportunity to complete Adventurous Training (AT). In Year 10, the cadets will specialise and complete the activities specific to their section, such as flying and gliding in the RAF section, scuba diving and sailing in the RN section and section attacks and strategic planning in the Army section. In Year 11, all cadets will complete a leadership and methods of instruction package and in the Sixth Form all cadets will take on leadership positions including becoming established instructors within their section. Each section has a formal test specified by the Ministry of Defence that cadets are required to pass.

Royal Navy Cadets must also pass the RN swim test to stay in the section. Army Cadets must pass a Weapon Handling Test to safely use the Cadet General Purpose weapon and RAF Cadets must complete the First Class Cadet Test in order to fly. By the time a cadet is preparing to continue with the CCF in the Sixth Form we will have expected them to attend a residential camp or course as directed by the respective Officer Commanding (OC).

Field Days

On Field Days, cadets will get the opportunity to complete CCF Syllabus activities such as Leadership, Team Building, Shooting, Fieldcraft and water-based activities such as sailing. Many activities take place on the School grounds, but there are also off-site activities at military establishments and specialist training providers.

Uniform

The cadets are issued the same uniform as serving members of our Armed Forces, it is therefore expected that the cadets pay respect to the uniform and wear it with pride. They should ensure it is properly ironed, footwear is polished and their hair is tidy and appropriate.



FAQs

Can my child do VSA / CCF and DofE?

DofE&GO runs at the same time as CCF and VSA, therefore for those students who wish to DofE in addition to CCF or VSA they can access this through an external provider. Local approved activity providers can be found via the [DofE Website](#). Some of these providers are also able to offer expeditions via alternative means to walking such as cycling, canoeing and kayaking.

Does my child have to do the Silver DofE as well as the Bronze DofE if they chose to do DofE on a Tuesday?

All students who opt for DofE & GO in Year 9 will complete their Bronze DofE award, but are not compelled to complete their silver award in Year 10 & 11 if they chose not to, although we would strongly encourage them to do so. Much of the training they undertake in Year 10 will be focused towards the Silver Award, however as a part of the programme there will be sessions focusing on leadership, teamwork and outdoor adventure skills (such as kayaking and living in the outdoors), this will make it as easy as possible for them to complete the Silver Award. If they chose not to continue onto the Silver Award, they will need to choose a new option (VSA, Sports Leaders, or the Personal Development Journey programme) from October Half Term in Year 10.

How will my child be allocated to their permanent section in the CCF?

Students will submit their preferences for sections towards the end of their Tri-Service training. Throughout their Tri-Service training students will complete various assessments. In the result of any of the three sections being oversubscribed the results of these assessments will be used to allocate students to sections, with those scoring higher overall more likely to be allocated to their preferred section.

Can my child change activities if they don't get their preferred service within the CCF after the Tri-Service Lent Term?

Once students choose the CCF as their activity, they will need to remain in the CCF until October Half Term in Year 10 even if they do not get their first choice of service at the end of the Lent Term in Year 9. We are restricted by numbers available in each service by the MOD. To give themselves the best opportunity to get into their preferred service students should engage and focus fully on their activities, assessments and reflections in the Lent Term, the better they do in this term, the more chance they have of being successful with their preferences if any service is oversubscribed..

Can my child change activities if they don't like the activity they have chosen?

Once your child has opted for their activity, they will continue with that activity until October Half Term in Year 10. At this point there will be a short period of time where students may transfer into an alternative activity if they wish to and a further opportunity to change to a different activity at the beginning of Year 11.

Please note the following details;

- Any student can transfer into the VSA
- After October Half Term in Year 10 additional options of a Sports Leaders programme or the Personal Development Journey will be available for any student to join.
- Only students who have completed their Bronze award (either in school or with an alternative activity provider) can move into the DofE&GO group who will be completing their Silver DofE Award.
- Students who do not wish to complete their Silver DofE Award must transfer to the VSA, Sports Leaders programme or Personal Development Journey
- Students cannot transfer into the CCF at this stage due to the linear nature of the programme and the training that will have been missed (the next opportunity to join the CCF is at the start of the sixth form in the fast track programme).
- Once a transfer has been completed a student cannot return to their previous activity.

Year 9-11 Tuesday Co-Curricular

Year 9	Michaelmas 1	Taste		
	Michaelmas 2	STEAM		
	Lent 1	DofE&GO (Bronze DofE)	VSA	
	Lent 2			
	Trinity 1			
	Trinity 2			
	Trinity Field Days			
Year 10	Michaelmas 1	DofE&GO (Great Outdoors)		CCF
	Michaelmas Field Days			
	Year 10 Transfer			
	Michaelmas 2	DofE&GO (Great Outdoors)	VSA	CCF
	Lent 1	DofE&GO (Silver DofE)		
	Lent 2			
	Trinity 1			
	Trinity 2			
	Trinity Field Days			
	Year 11 Transfer			
Year 11	Michaelmas Field Days	DofE&GO (Silver DofE)	VSA	CCF
	Michaelmas 2	DofE&GO (Great Outdoors)		
	Lent 1			CCF
	Lent 2			
	Trinity 1			
	Trinity 2			
Sixth Form	L6	A choice of Sixth Form		
	U6	A choice of Sixth Form		

Year 10 Transfer				
Cannot Transfer into CCF due to linear nature of the programme Must transfer from Bronze DofE if the do not intend to do their Silver DofE Award Cannot transfer into Silver DofE unless they have completed their Bronze Award				
Year 11 Transfer				
Cannot transfer out of Silver DofE or Sport leaders as part way through qualification				

Particular Overview

er Sessions				
AM Project				
CCF Year 9 Tri Service				
Royal Navy	CCF Army	CCF Royal Air Force		
CCF Year 9 Tri Service				
Royal Navy	CCF Army	CCF Royal Air Force		
er Window (see notes below)				
Royal Navy	CCF Army	CCF Royal Air Force	Sports Leaders	Personal Development Journey
er Window (see notes below)				
Royal Navy	CCF Army	CCF Royal Air Force	Sports Leaders	Personal Development Journey
Tri Service CFIT (Cadet Forces Instructional Traning)				
Royal Navy	CCF Army	CCF Royal Air Force		
Study Leave				
Form Activity Options (including continuing with CCF & VSA)				
Form Activity Options (including continuing with CCF & VSA)				
Window - Oct HT				
	Can opt for Sports Leaders, Personal Development Journey, VSA, Silver DofE			
ndow - end of Yr 10				
n	Can opt into Personal Development Journey			

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