

Dalkeith High School

# Outdoor Learning

Curricular Pathways at School and beyond



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## **INTRODUCTION**

Children still need a childhood with dirt, mud, puddles, trees, sticks and tadpoles.” Children growing up in the digital age are more likely to be more comfortable playing on a smart phone than climbing a tree. Learning in the outdoors has proven physical and mental health benefits and it enables children to engage with the natural environment and show more concern and respect for the environment’s future.

## **The Duke of Edinburgh’s Award - Available as an extra-curricular option as well as a timetabled one.**

Pupils undertake their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh’s Award as part of a timetabled class. Each pupil must undertake a physical activity and a skill activity and must volunteer for one year - which can be broken down into 6 months, 3 months and 3 months. Depending on the level of Award, pupils participate in activities such as: football; mountain biking; cooking; gardening; litter-picking; beekeeping. Groups also have to prepare for an expedition and have to learn navigation skills and first aid. The length of the expedition depends on the level of DofE being undertaken, but recent expeditions have included the Pentland and Lammermuir Hills, the Union Canal (with canoes), and Canada.



## **FOLA Level 4**

Forest and Outdoor Learning Awards at Level 4 are an SQA certified qualification delivered in conjunction with Newbattle Abbey College. Pupils will develop an appreciation for working sustainably in woodland, as well as respect for the natural environment by learning how to harvest and use woodland materials; cook safely over open fires; use tools such as knives, saws and hatchets; improve the local environment by leaving it in a better condition than they found it; tying knots and identifying a variety of flora and fauna.

## **Horticulture NPA Level 4**

This qualification complements and is delivered alongside the FOLA 4 Award. Pupils learn about propagating plants from seed; dividing and taking cuttings and keeping them alive; using and maintaining tools safely and responsibly; how to compost material and then building and maintaining a compost heap; using compost to mulch plants and beds; setting up an allotment style garden and growing and harvesting a number of different fruits and vegetables while weeding, feeding and watering appropriately.

## **Beekeeping**

Honey bees and other pollinating insects are vital for the UK economy and indeed human survival, thanks to the myriad of food crops they pollinate.

The NPA level 5 will train you in the basic aspects of beekeeping including how to: inspect colonies; manage and treat disease; prevent and capture swarms; deal with queen breeding; build beekeeping equipment; site and manage apiaries; understand bee behaviour.



## Progression Pathways

Pupils can progress through the DofE Awards during their time at high school and the skills developed will set up young people well for life.

FOLA and Horticulture awards are ideal for pupils looking to move into: rural skills; landscaping; forestry; agriculture; gardening; garden design; outdoor activity instruction.

It is possible to progress to sitting the SBA Basic Beekeeping Certificate with our partners at Newbattle Beekeepers Association and then on to further awards that can provide a wealth of personal enrichment. The qualification would be appropriate for anyone seeking a career in: animal husbandry; zoology; agriculture; horticulture; scientific research in crop production and pollination.



SQA - Beekeeping



SQA - Horticulture