



12 October 2018

Dear Parent

## Duke of Edinburgh's Silver Award : Year 10

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is a prestigious qualification, highly regarded by employers and universities. It has been wonderful to see our students grow in character as the scheme has expanded in recent years. Forty Year 10 students have recently completed their Bronze expeditions and are set to finish their Awards in the next few weeks. At the same time, 20 Year 11 students are very close to completing their Silver Awards and nearly 50 students in Year 9 have just started their Bronze Awards. With over 60 students in our sixth form working towards their Gold Award this scheme is having a huge effect on student development outside of the classroom. We are now pleased to be offering Year 10 students the opportunity to complete their Silver Award. The number of places available on the scheme is, however, strictly limited to 28.

The Silver Award involves the completion of four sections of work:

- Volunteering** - an hour a week should be dedicated to serving others.
- Skill** - an hour a week should be dedicated to developing a skill.
- Physical** - an hour a week should be dedicated to developing proficiency in a physical activity.

The commitment to Volunteering, Skill and Physical may be split in one of two ways:

	<b>Option 1</b>	<b>Option 2</b>
<b>Volunteering</b>	6 months	6 months
<b>Skill</b>	6 months	3 months
<b>Physical</b>	3 months	6 months

Those students who have not completed a Bronze Award must undertake a further six months in either the Volunteering or the longer of the Physical or Skills sections.

Those who complete a Silver Award will be able to complete a Gold Award in 12 months rather than 18 months should they wish to take on this challenge in future years.

Commitment to the sections above can be spread over a period of time, and students are able to take a break during examination periods. Any time missed during a break can be made up by lengthening the timespan of the commitment or giving extra hours of commitment over a number of weeks. The aim is for students to have completed their Award within a year of enrolment. The fourth section is Expedition.

### Expedition

This section requires the student to plan and complete a three-day hike in wild country, which usually covers a distance of approximately 30 miles. Students must carry all of their kit with them, and this externally assessed expedition will involve camping overnight. Some training for the expedition, such as first aid and route-planning, will take place in College, most on a Friday at 2:30pm and some on a lunch time. The bulk of the expedition training, and the assessed expedition, will be undertaken with our approved external provider, North East Guides (<http://www.northeastguides.com>), and College staff will

not be present during this training. This requires students to commit to a three-day practice expedition over a weekend and a three-day assessed expedition, again over a weekend. Students will be responsible for their transport to and from these expeditions. The venues for these expeditions have been provisionally set as the Tyne Valley and Upper Teesdale. We have been working with North East Guides for a number of years and they are a licenced Approved Activity Provider (AAP). During external training provided by North East Guides students are not supervised by College staff and during practice and assessed expeditions, following DofE guidelines, the students will frequently be supervised remotely. The provisional dates for all expeditions are as follows:

Practice Expedition – 17 - 19 May or 7 - 9 June  
Assessed Expedition – 28 - 30 June or 12-14 July

After completion of their expedition, students are required to make an assessed written presentation about their expedition.

All students partaking in expedition training will be expected to provide the following equipment:

- waterproof
- walking boots
- walking socks and
- sleeping bag

The College holds a stock of rucksacks, roll mats and some waterproofs for those who cannot provide their own. College will also provide all tents, stoves and survival shelters, with North East Guides providing maps and compasses.

For further details regarding the Award it is recommended that you visit the website, [www.dofe.org](http://www.dofe.org)

Students who are accepted for the Award will initially be required to pay £22 in order to enrol with the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, receive an entrance pack, and certificate and badge upon completion. In January 2019 those students who are making good progress towards completing all other sections of the Award will be offered a place in the expedition group and will then be required to pay a further £180 in order to cover the cost of practice and assessed expeditions. This payment will also cover the cost of supervision on both expeditions and the assessment fee for their final expedition. Students remain liable for the cost of campsite fees and the purchasing their own expedition food and cooking fuel.

Completion of a Silver Award will require exceptional commitment but this will bring many rewards, developing expertise, not only in their sectional areas, but also improving teamwork whilst building confidence and character.

If your son/daughter is interested in taking the Award, please [click here](#) to complete the enrolment form. Please return this to me together with the signed DofE contract, below, **by Wednesday 17 October**.

A request for the initial payment will be made of successful applicants, via ParentPay, after this date.

Should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

S Leonard  
**Award Manager & Head of Outdoor Activities**

**SILVER DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD – ACCEPTANCE CONTRACT**

Activities carried out up to 4 weeks preceding your enrolment date are eligible to be used towards the Award. You will be able to use eDofE as soon as you have been enrolled and received log in details.

I understand that by initially enrolling on the course there is no promise of expedition training or an assessed expedition unless the following conditions are met.

1. When required, eDofE tutorial sessions will be attended.
2. Within 4 weeks of receiving eDofE log in details I will have submitted a plan for my 6 month section and had it approved by my DofE tutor and I will have started this activity.
3. Within 4 weeks of receiving eDofE log in details I will have submitted a plan for my second 6 month section and had it approved by my DofE tutor and I will have started this activity.
4. Within 8 weeks of receiving eDofE log in details I will have submitted evidence on eDofE to show that I am making progress with both my 6 month sections. This evidence will include an up to date copy of my activity log.
5. By 1 February 2019 I will have submitted a plan for my final 3 month section, and had it approved by my DofE tutor and I will have started this activity.
6. By 1 March 2019 I will have submitted evidence on eDofE to show that I am making progress with my final 3 month section. This evidence will include an up to date copy of my activity log.
7. Any expedition equipment borrowed from college will be returned promptly, clean dry and complete.

Name : \_\_\_\_\_

Signed : \_\_\_\_\_

Date : \_\_\_\_\_

### **Expedition Dates**

The training and practice expeditions are mandatory as the DofE will not insure students to participate in a final expedition unless all expedition training and a practice has been completed.

The likely dates for expeditions are:-

Practice Expedition – 17 - 19 May or 7 - 9 June

Assessed Expedition – 28 - 30 June or 12 - 14 July

These are very provisional dates and could change to a week earlier or a week later, you will be informed as soon as they are confirmed.