



16 November 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian

Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award - Year 10

I am writing to you today with exciting news of a fantastic opportunity for our Year 10 students. We are very pleased to inform you that our students now have an opportunity to achieve a Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Silver Award even if they did not take part in the Bronze award. The DofE Award is a well-established and world renowned extracurricular programme, designed to help young people develop new skills, volunteer to help their community, improve their levels of fitness and provide them with opportunities that build their character, confidence and competence.

About the DofE

The DofE is non-competitive and open to all young people – it is about setting personal challenges and pushing personal boundaries. There are three levels of DofE programme which, when successfully completed, lead to a Bronze, Silver or Gold Award.

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

To achieve their Silver 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 would like to do for their Skills, Volunteering and Physical sections, and most activities can count. 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

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 three days and two nights in a non-local area of the countryside. This will likely be in the New Forest.

They will take part in training sessions after school covering the basic expedition principles and introducing them to expedition equipment. There will also be a practice expedition weekend for three days and two nights in the local area.

This means that there will be two residential camping trips for three days each. Participants will only be able to do their expedition if they attend the training sessions.

Signing up

If your child would like to participate in the DofE Silver Award, please complete the enrollment form which can be found [HERE](#). We would appreciate it if this can be completed by **Friday 25 November 2022**. This will allow us to plan for the next phase of establishing a robust programme, tailored towards the student's interests and motivations.

Due to staffing and transport constraints the **number of places on the award will be limited to 35 pupils** with priority given to those who have completed the Bronze award. The remaining places will be allocated at random if more than 35 apply.

The cost of taking part in the DofE is highly dependent on participation numbers and as a result I am unable to fully confirm the price per participant. The cost covers most aspects of your child's participation in the DofE Silver Award, including the participation fee charged by DofE, an official welcome pack, equipment (such as maps and tents), campsite fees, transportation costs and contingency plans. This will be approximately £100. We will endeavor to keep costs as low as possible.

Upon completion of the enrolment form, you will receive a letter confirming the final cost and how the payment can be made via our parentpay platform. Should your child be entitled to pupil premium support, please follow the process of requesting financial support by completing the request form [here](#) and returning this to the office.

Please also ensure that your child joins our DofE Google Classroom (Code: **rdt55oz**). This should be through their school email address.

If you would like further information about the award please visit the DofE website. Additionally, please feel free to get in touch if you have any further questions via the email address MERDofE@maidenerleghtrust.org

Many thanks for your support, we look forward to helping your child achieve the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Yours sincerely



Miss Harrison-Smith
DofE Manager