



Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award 2023-2024

20th October 2023

Dear Parent or Carer

What is the Duke of Edinburgh's Award?

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is a challenging programme of activities which enables young people to learn new skills, help others, and experience adventure, and will give a great sense of achievement. Many organisations, such as employers and universities take a very positive view of young people who have achieved it. If your child has not already completed Bronze they can still enrol for Silver - the timelines for each section will be longer.

The programme is based on ten guiding principles, which are:

- Non competitive – a personal challenge – not a competition
- Achievable by all – regardless of ability, gender, background or location
- Voluntary – young people choose to undertake a programme and commit some of their free time to it
- Personal Development – commitment and achievement inspires personal and social development
- Personalised – young people design their own programme, setting their own goals
- Balanced – challenges young people in different aspects
- Progressive – each level requires greater time, commitment and responsibility
- Achievement focused – young people set their own challenging goals to achieve the Duke of Edinburgh's Award
- Demand commitment – persistence and commitment must be demonstrated with participants encouraged to continue beyond the Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Why encourage your child to do Duke of Edinburgh?

It is a great opportunity to learn new skills, support their well-being and have some fun. The perfect chance to be independent, do something different and challenge themselves outside of their comfort zone. This is an opportunity that is not just for their CV but can also change your child's life. It will help them to be part of a community and give back to it. You can watch this short video here: [Welcome to DofE](#)

Students will choose activities in 3 categories:

- Skills
- Volunteering
- Physical.

These can include running, watching penguins remotely, playing an instrument. For their participation they will receive a certificate of achievement and the actual award on completion of the expedition. Please see link below for more info on activity ideas: <https://www.dofe.org/dofewithadifference/activities>

Silver timescales

It will take at least 6 months for Silver if you've already achieved your Bronze, or 12 months if you've jumped straight into Silver:

- Volunteering section: 6 months
- Physical and Skills sections: One section for 6 months and the other section for 3 months
- Expedition section: 3 days/2 nights

Practice Expedition – 2 days 2 nights

If you didn't do Bronze, you must undertake a further 6 months in either the Volunteering or the longer of the Physical or Skills sections.

You also have to spend an extra three months on one of the Volunteering, Physical or Skills sections. It's your choice which one and, though you can change your mind later, you should decide which section you want to do for longer at the beginning. Knowing how long you're going to do it for will help you to choose your activity and set your goals for each section.

Expedition Dates

Please note the dates for the expedition including training are below:

- Thur 25th-27th April 2024 – (evening of Thurs 25th camp – walk & camp Fri 26th – camp & walk Sat 27th)
- Qualifying Fri July 5- Sat 7th July 2024 – (evening of Fri 5th camp – walk & camp Sat 6th – camp & walk Sun 7th)

Next steps

We hope lots of our young people will take this opportunity to get involved with DofE. The cost is approximately £265 per person and once you have confirmed interest we will request payment after half term. We divide collective costs between students so this should come down depending on the numbers of students that enrol to do DofE. Once we have accurate numbers we will be able to give you a final cost. It calculates as about £50 a day and we will be out walking for 5 days : 2 day on the practice walk and 3 days on the final. This amount includes all the cost of training of which there is an in-person training evening of 25th April at the campsite. Supervision and training from experienced instructors. As well as use of all group kit – tents, stoves, fuel, group shelters, maps and compasses, an accredited assessor for the qualifying expedition and campsite fees.

We estimate these will be an additional £80 approximately for the investment in walking boots, and waterproofs, thick socks etc. .

If your child is interested in taking part but the cost is prohibitive, please do speak to me as we are able to arrange financial support, including a bursary to help with equipment costs if you meet the criteria.

Thank you for your support. I hope you'll agree that the DofE is the perfect way for your young person to feel ready for anything.

There will be an assembly after half term and a drop in session on Monday 30th October in 5C if your child has any questions about the award.

How to sign up

If they are interested in taking part please fill out this sign up form:

<https://forms.office.com/e/VRJNzYkxPU>

Finally, a picture has a thousand words and I recommend this video: [Silver | start your DofE](#)

Yours faithfully,

Miss Dos Remedios

Please ONLY use the below email address in regards to communication regarding the award.

DofE@thamesmead.surrey.sch.uk

Follow this link for further information:

<https://www.dofe.org/>