



29 September 2022

Dear Parents

The Duke of Edinburgh's Silver Award 2022/2023

Your child has expressed an interest in doing their Silver DofE Award

Information on the award will be held on Wednesday 5 October from 8pm online for you to log on and speak to myself, DofE Representative and School of Outdoors team with any queries you may have. Please follow the link in the attached letter from School of Outdoors to join online. [Virtual Meeting Link](#)

Unfortunately due to ever increasing costs and lack of companies supplying it we are no longer able to offer paddling at this level. They will have the opportunity too at Gold.

Last year, almost 210 students took part in the Duke of Edinburgh Awards at Borlase. The DofE Silver Award is open to anyone over the age of 15; however you can start the Award with the school in Year 10 when you are 14!

The Award involves completing four sections: the physical; volunteering; skill and expedition sections.

Physical - improving in an area of sport, dance or fitness activities.

Volunteering - undertaking service to individuals or the community.

Skill - developing practical and social skills and personal interests.

Activities do not need to be completed at school: where students take part in activities outside school and when the activity is appropriate, it can be counted towards the Award. All activities must be done on a voluntary basis and students are encouraged to organise their own activities. Before undertaking any external activity, please confirm with Mr Stevens that it will qualify for the Award.

Please note; the use of physical recreation section as skills may not be suitable as the Award has categorised activities and we are bound by these.

If there is any doubt, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us and at the end of this letter you will find a list of programme ideas for each section. All students taking part in the Award will need to attend meetings throughout the year where they will receive support in completing their Award.

Expeditions

All expeditions are facilitated by an external company called School of Outdoors. The students are required to undertake 7 hours of 'planned activity' during each of the 3 days of the expedition. All expeditions are not a guarantee pass as students can be deferred if deemed to be under performing.

As part of the cost for the Duke of Edinburgh Award, the following kit is included by SoO Activities: tents, stoves, and navigation equipment. As part of the Award students will need to plan and provide their own food and personal equipment.

Supervision

The Duke of Edinburgh Award requires participants to be unaccompanied and self-reliant on expeditions. Hence, provided students have demonstrated the required level of competence and have shown suitable behaviour during training, they will not be directly supervised during the expedition. Appropriately qualified expedition staff will remotely supervise each group and they will be met at checkpoints along their planned route. Students will have been briefed and trained on what to do in case of emergency. Expedition staff will be on site at the campsite overnight.

Whilst on expedition any communication between parents/guardians and students will need to go through expedition staff as it is a requirement of the Duke of Edinburgh Award that direct communication is not permitted.

As well as the training expeditions explained below, there will also be sessions held throughout the year at lunchtimes and after school to make sure participants are keeping on top of all things Duke of Edinburgh.

Expedition Dates

1. Training Day – 5 March 2023

1 Day training. Location: SWBGS

During this training navigation, route planning, first aid, emergency procedures, camp craft, expedition cooking and kit requirements will be covered.

2. Practice Expedition – 21-23 April 2023

Three day, two night practice expedition. Location: Tring

This will include a mixture of directly supervised and remotely supervised planned activity where the participants will develop their skills learned in the training weekend and apply them to expedition life.

3. Assessment Expedition – 5-7 May 2023

Three day, two night assessed expedition. Location; Surrey Hills

The assessed expedition is the final part of the expedition section where the participants can prove to the assessor what they have learnt and how they have developed as young people.

Cost of the above the Duke of Edinburgh Silver Expeditions

The cost of the expedition will be £420-460. Please note that transport will not be provided. The cost to register for the Award has been included in the cost of the expedition. This is all number dependent and may vary depending on how many sign up.

We are asking for a **non-refundable deposit** of £150, to be paid by Monday 31 October. This will be followed by the 1st instalment of £150 due by Friday 3 December 2022 and the remaining balance to be paid by 6 January 2023.

Please note cancellations made within 4-8 weeks prior to the start date will forfeit 75% of the total fee and if a cancellation is made within 4 weeks of the start date, all fees will be forfeited. For those families whose financial circumstances would otherwise prevent their son/daughter from participating, please email the Business Manager, John Clegg, on finance@swbgs.com outlining the reasons why support is required, as soon as possible and at the latest by Friday 25 November.

If you wish to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme please log onto www.parentpay.com using your username and password to pay the deposit of £150. If you need a copy of your activation details please email parentpay@swbgs.com.

Yours faithfully

Mr D Stevens
DofE Coordinator

DUKE OF EDINBURGH SILVER Award – Year 10

It is important that you are aware of the following when paying your deposit:

- 1) It is essential that your son/daughter attends all of the published dates for the training, practice and assessed expeditions according to the published information. We are unable to offer alternatives if your son/daughter is unable to attend.
- 2) Your son/daughter must complete the previous section of the expedition Award to proceed to the next section i.e. in order to complete the practice expedition you must complete the training and in order to complete the assessment you must complete the training and practice expeditions.
- 3) Once paid the initial deposit is non-refundable, along with any subsequent payments. A payment schedule will be published for each programme. Between paying the deposit and the deadline for the final payment you will be required to pay any cost incurred on your child's behalf if you cancel e.g. registration fees. If you cancel within 4 weeks of the start you will be required to pay the full amount. If you decide to cancel you should send an email to parents@swbgs.com for the attention of Mr Stevens
- 4) Your son/daughter signs up as an individual to the Award scheme. Groups for the expedition will be arranged by the DofE coordinator in order to meet the DofE requirements.