



4 September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **The Duke of Edinburgh's Silver Award 2026/2027**

**We are delighted to launch the Silver DofE award again this year to our Year 10 students.**

An information meeting for the award will be held on Tuesday 15 September at 6.30pm online for you to log on and speak to me and the 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. [Click here to join the meeting.](#)

Last year, over 200 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. You do not need to have completed Bronze level previously in order to participate.

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

**Volunteering** - undertaking service to individuals or the community.

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

**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 Ms Mitchell that it will qualify for the Award.

If there is any doubt, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us. A list of ideas for activities for each section can be found [here](#). 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. To complete the expedition section students need to take part in: a **training day**, a **practice expedition** and an **assessed expedition**. 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, navigation equipment and highly qualified instructors. As part of the Award students will need to plan and provide their own food, clothing, footwear and personal equipment. Participants are responsible for arranging their own transport to and from events.

### **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.

While 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.

### **Expedition Dates**

#### **1. Training Day – 17 April 2027**

One 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 – 14- 16 May 2027**

Three day, two night practice expedition. Location: Chesham

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. Qualifying Expedition – 25 - 27 June 2027**

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.

***These dates are fixed and cannot be changed and students are required to attend all training days and expeditions in their entirety. In the event that illness or injury prevents a student attending, we will do our best to arrange an alternative but we cannot guarantee this. Any changes may be subject to an administration fee of £25.***

***If other school events clash with the training and expedition dates, we ask students and their families to make a decision on which to pursue. We of course want students to make the most of the opportunities offered to them but we are unable to accommodate changes of date for this reason.***

### **Cost of the above the Duke of Edinburgh Silver Expeditions**

We expect the cost of the expedition will be £510 - £530. 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 cost is number-dependent and may vary depending on how many students sign up.

We are asking for a **non-refundable deposit of £200**, to be paid by 9am Monday 12 October. This will be followed by the first instalment of £175 due by 9am Friday 8 January 2027 and the remaining balance to be paid by Friday 5 March 2027.

In line with the school's charging policy, parents are reminded that financial support may be available to assist families whose financial circumstances would otherwise prevent their child from participating. Applications must be made in writing to [bursar@swbgs.com](mailto:bursar@swbgs.com), outlining the reasons why support is required, as soon as possible and latest by the deadline.

Please note cancellations made within 6-10 weeks prior to the start date will forfeit 75% of the total fee and if a cancellation is made within 6 weeks of the start date, all fees will be forfeited. For those families whose financial circumstances would otherwise prevent their child from participating there are some funding opportunities but these are not guaranteed and will not necessarily cover the full amount if granted.

If you wish to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme please log onto [ParentPay](#) using your username and password to pay the deposit of £200. If you need a copy of your activation details please email [parentpay@swbgs.com](mailto:parentpay@swbgs.com).

Yours faithfully

Ms S Mitchell  
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 [dofe@swbgs.com](mailto:dofe@swbgs.com) for the attention of Ms Mitchell.
- 4) Your son/daughter signs up as an individual to the Award scheme. Groups for the expedition will be arranged by the DofE coordinator and the AAP in order to meet the DofE requirements.