

Education Department

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Dear Parent/Carer

The Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award

Your child should now have completed their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award. This is a fantastic achievement and reflects their hard work and commitment. They now have the opportunity to continue on to the Silver Award. The Silver Award requires the participants to continue with activities or take up new activities in the three sections: Skill, Volunteering and Physical. They must undertake at least 1 hour a week for each of these sections. Participants must also complete a Practice and Qualifying Expedition.

Skill Section An existing hobby/club that your child participates in may be suitable to meet the requirements for this section. Alternatively, they may choose a new activity. Suitable examples include playing an instrument, learning a language, cooking, computing course, collecting, poetry, book reviews, photography, caring for animals, learning to knit, darts or snooker. Sporting activities do not qualify as a skill but do fulfil the Physical section (see below). Parents will need to be supportive and responsible for pupils, as the bulk of activities will take place outside of school hours.

Volunteering Section Volunteering must be for a non-profit making organisation. For example; helping in a council run nursery, after school/lunch clubs, with a Brownie or Scout group, riding for the disabled, in a charity shop, home for the elderly (not helping with care but chatting, playing games), council run sport clubs or an environmental group. Volunteering at a commercial organisation does **not** qualify, for example private vet practice, private sports club, private kennels, equestrian centre, a private dance school or restaurants are **not** eligible.

Physical Section An existing sports activity that your child participates in may be suitable to meet the requirements for this section. Alternatively, they may choose a new activity. Suitable examples include swimming, running, cycling, golf, skiing, dancing or they may attend a gym to create and follow a workout programme.

The www.theaward.org website has many examples. You will also find information on the **school website in the pupil section**.

Section Durations The sections have requirements for the time commitments required to qualify.

Volunteering Sections: Pupils must undertake the volunteering section for **6 months**.

Physical and Skills Sections: Pupils undertake one of these sections for **6 months** and the other section for **3 months**. It is their choice which section to use for the 6 months and which to use for the 3 months.

Direct Entry Pupils entering the Silver award without completing the Bronze award must undertake a further 6 months in either the Volunteering or the longer of the Physical or Skills sections. This will mean that they will have completed 12 months in total for one section.

Pupils must fully complete **two** of the above sections before they can continue to the Expedition.

Expedition Section A company called Adventure Expeditions runs the Expeditions using qualified instructors (www.adventure-expeditions.net/) to supervise pupils. Pupils will complete a 3-day Practice Expedition and a 3-day Qualifying (Assessed) Expedition. Both Expeditions are 30 miles and include camping overnight for 2 nights at campsites.

Practice Expedition- August 2020 Exact dates TBC. Skiddaw Area Lake District.

Qualifying Expedition- September 2020 Exact dates TBC. Loch Lomond/Trossachs National Park Area.

As part of the Expedition section, groups must have an aim e.g. land uses, vegetation and wildlife, history, weather or tourism impacts. They complete a presentation of their findings in the form of a video diary, poster or PowerPoint after their Expedition.

eDofE Account

Pupils will be registered and receive a record pack and an online account. It is important they keep their login and password safe. The pupils use the eDofE account to record their skill, physical and volunteering activities. It is important that pupils update their online accounts regularly with evidence to show what they are doing. In order to achieve the Award they must have at least **eight photographs** and a detailed **weekly activity word log** describing what they did each week. When pupils complete a section they must add an **Assessor's Report** that can be scanned in or completed directly online using their ID number. It is important that the assessor is not a family member or friend. The school website has information on completing awards and the minimum requirements. There will be lunchtime drop in sessions in the computer room to give assistance using eDofE.

Cost

The total cost to complete the Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award will be approximately **£330**. This cost includes:

- Administration/Registration fee for the eDofE account, logbook, training sessions, compass, route cards and a training booklet £25
- Two fully supervised 3-day Expeditions by the Adventure Expedition Leaders. (£45 per pupil per day, £45x6= £270). This includes Assessor fees, campsite costs and provision of group equipment, tents, maps, cooking pans, stoves and gas, group shelters and first aid kits.
- Transport costs – coach to and from the Practice and Qualifying Expedition routes approximately £35. The costs for the transport will be subject to revision when pupil numbers and expedition location are finalised.

In order to guarantee a place on the Silver Award the **£25** Administration/Registration fee must be paid using Parent Pay by **Thursday 25 July 2019**. Please make sure the payment is made on time because the pupils that were unable to get a place on the Bronze Award in S3 will be offered the spare places. The remaining payments will not be required until closer to the Expeditions.

It is essential pupils understand the time, responsibility and commitment that the Award will take. It is very important that they meet deadlines and attend all meetings.

If you have any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to get in contact.

Yours faithfully

K Ward (Duke of Edinburgh Coordinator)