



Our ref: SJW-RAA-BAF/aln/office/trips/Y10&12LaunchDofESilver

22nd September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

**Re: Launch of Duke of Edinburgh's Silver Award Scheme 2023-24**



We are excited to launch the DofE Silver Award Scheme to students in Years 10 & 12 following our success in running the Bronze Award over a number of years.

We expect Year 10 participants to have completed the Bronze Award in order to enrol on the Silver programme. We will, however, accept applications from Year 12 students who have not achieved the Bronze Award<sup>1</sup>.

The DofE is the nationally and internationally recognised award favoured by employers and universities alike.

Students participating are expected to complete the following four sections:

**Volunteering** (minimum 6 months)

*Supporting individuals or giving back to the community.*

**Physical\*** (minimum 3 months)

*Improving in an area of sport, dance or fitness.*

**Skills\*** (minimum 3 months)

*Developing practical and social skills and personal interests.*

**Expedition** (3 days, 2 nights)

*Planning, training for and completing an adventurous journey.*

\* One of these sections needs to have been completed over a six month period.

<sup>1</sup> Students who have not completed Bronze Award are required to complete one of the award sections over a 12 month period.

Students will be expected to have completed at least one of the award sections (for 3 months) and have made good progress with another prior to participating in the practice expedition.



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It is expected that students will be participating regularly in the activities and committed to their DofE Award. Each activity takes one hour a week over a set period of time and it should be easy for students to fit this in around their studies and social life. A significant number of students are already involved in volunteering, sport and other extra-curricular activities inside or outside school, which can count towards the award.

We will be running an Information Evening for interested students, parents and carers on **Tuesday 3rd October at 7.30pm in the Main Hall**, at which we will be providing further information about the Award.

In common with many other schools, locally and nationally, we will be using an Approved Activity Provider (AAP) with the skills and expertise to provide expedition training and manage the practice and assessed expeditions on our behalf. Our appointed provider is Ben Bullen Adventures <https://www.benbullenadventures.co.uk> who has supported our Bronze programme.

#### Costs and Enrolment:

This is an optional activity and therefore not essential for students to participate to fulfil any course requirements. We are therefore asking for a voluntary contribution of £415. If insufficient voluntary contributions are received the activity may not take place.

This cost covers the following:

- Award registration (participation fee) with DofE London
- Expedition training and two expeditions
- Coach travel to the practice expedition location (Kent)
- Return coach travel to the qualifying expedition (East Sussex)

Additional costs (to be met by participants):

- Personal clothing/equipment<sup>1</sup>
- Food for expeditions
- Parents will be required to collect students from the practice expedition on Sunday afternoon.

<sup>1</sup> Please note group equipment (tents, stoves and rucksacks) are provided.

The total cost to students who wish to participate in the Award Scheme will be £415, which covers enrolment and expedition fees.

We hope to be able to accommodate all those students interested in participating in the programme, specifically as a result of our appointment of an AAP in managing the expeditions. We may, however, have to manage the number of applications in the event of significant interest, beyond what we can reasonably and safely manage. In the event that the number of applicants exceeds the number of places available, places will be allocated through a ballot. In the event we are unable to allocate your child a place, we will refund any contribution made in full.

Where this is necessary, a full refund will be given.

In-order to enrol your child onto the award programme, we request that the following is completed by **Monday 16th October:**

1. The online enrolment form is completed.  
A link to this form, can be found here:  
[Silver Enrolment Form](#)
2. A non-refundable deposit of £100 is paid via Parentpay in advance of or following the information evening.



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A further two instalments will then be due as follows:

Payment 2: £150 due by Friday 23rd February 2024

Payment 3: £165 due by Friday 26th April 2024

Key dates:

Expedition training in school (1 day): Wednesday 3rd January 2024 (in-school, PD Day)

Practice Expedition (2 days, 1 night): Friday 17th May – Sunday 19th May 2024

Assessed Expedition (2 days, 1 night): Friday 12th July – Saturday 14th July 2024

For students to be able to complete the award, it is important that they are available for all of the above dates.

Further information:

Further information for parents/carers about the award, including the kit list, can be accessed via the school website <https://www.hayes.bromley.sch.uk/students/dofeathayes>

If you have any questions about the Award, we will be happy to respond to these at the Information Evening or via e-mail.

We will be supporting students in completing the DofE Award this academic year and look forward to working with participants throughout the year.

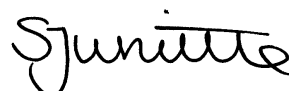
Yours faithfully



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Mr S Whittle  
Principal



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