

21 June 2023

Dear Parents, Carers and Students



re: The Duke of Edinburgh's Silver Award (DofE)

I'm delighted to let you know that we are about to launch our recruitment for the Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE). This is available to students who completed the Bronze DofE Award last year and those that are new to the DofE programme.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is the world's leading achievement award for young people. As a Charity, they support over 275,000 young people across the UK every year and over 65,000 participants achieve a Bronze, Silver or Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award. Young people who participate in the DofE programme develop skills and attitudes which help them to become more rounded, confident adults: qualities that colleges, universities and employers are attracted to. Supporting a child's pursuit of a Duke of Edinburgh's Award is an investment in developing valuable and lasting skills which set the tone for a lifetime of achievement. This link will take you to a welcome video for further insight into the DofE programme: <https://youtu.be/yN7wTcxK408>.

Attributes young people have been seen to develop as they achieve their award include:

- Self-belief
- Self-confidence
- A sense of identity
- Initiative
- A sense of responsibility
- A genuine awareness of their strengths
- New talents and abilities
- The ability to plan and use time
- The ability to learn from and give to others in the community
- Problem solving, presentation and communication skills
- Leadership and team-working skills

The programme

The concept of the DofE is simple; anyone aged between 14 and 24 can participate in the programme at one of three progressive levels which, when successfully completed, lead to a Bronze, Silver or Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award. There are four sections of the Bronze and Silver levels and five at Gold (an additional five day residential):

- 1. Volunteering:** undertake service to individuals or the community, for instance:
 - Raise money for a charity
 - Take on the role of a football coach at the local youth club
 - Help at an after-school club
- 2. Physical:** improve in an area of sport, dance, or fitness activities, for instance:
 - Play table tennis regularly at a youth club
 - Regular running as part of a group or solo
 - Take weekly dance lessons
- 3. Skills:** develop practical and social skills and personal interests, for example:
 - Learn how to juggle
 - Take up music lessons
 - Improve cooking skills

4. Expedition: carry out planning, training, and completion of an adventurous journey in the UK or abroad. The expeditions for Silver award, the location, and the routes of the expedition are all arranged by the participants alongside the DofE supervisor and take place in the local countryside, SW coast paths, and on Dartmoor. Ahead of the expedition, students will take part in training sessions at school and conduct a practise expedition which will cover the basic expedition principles, introduce them to expedition equipment and explore the fundamentals of route planning. Participants will only be able to embark on their expedition once they have attended the organised training.

Timescales

Students will need 6 months to complete the Volunteering section, and 3 months for the Physical and Skills sections. Students must also pick one of these sections to develop for an additional 3 months. The final expedition is then 3 days and 2 nights. For more details about programmes and timescales see the [enclosed leaflet](#).

If participants have not achieved their Bronze Award, they must undertake a further 6 months in a section that is already being extended, meaning one section will take 12 months to complete.

Cost and equipment

The cost of enrolment onto the Silver Award is £30. This provides full access to the DofE online logging system for all modules, along with support and advice on the eDofE website and the DofE app. Participants can create their DofE programme and record their progress using eDofE, available online and through the DofE app which is downloadable for free from Google Play and the App Store.

There is an additional cost for the expedition section, which is likely to be around £50 for tuition, training and some equipment and will include a two-day practice expedition and a two-day assessed expedition in the summer term. We endeavour to find the most affordable options and negotiate with providers to ensure quality provision and value for money.

Participants are responsible for any extra costs incurred for the Volunteering, Physical and Skills sections (sports club fees / travel etc.). The expedition section requires some outdoor equipment which you may have to purchase, but we do have some stock of kit items that participants can borrow free of charge.

What next?

Students who wish to participate should:

1. Speak to their family about wishing to take part.
2. Complete the enrolment form through Google Forms - <https://forms.gle/SHr9Ezb4rj59t2Sq7>
3. Pay the £30 enrolment fee via ParentPay. **((The deadline for enrolment is Friday 29 September 2023)).**
4. Attend the one-off eDofE launch. This will include your log-in details and explanation of eDofE. Details of this to follow in Autumn term.

Support

We encourage parents and carers to actively follow their child's progress through the DofE process, however, Miss Prince will be supporting each student when making programme choices, either by authorising the options, or helping decide what to choose. The planning, training and assessment of the expedition section is a group event that is supported by the College. There are also weekly drop-in sessions on Monday lunchtimes in room 2107 to ask any questions or to update your eDofE.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me by email at: aprince@thespirescollege.com

Yours sincerely



Miss A Prince

Mr J Blacklock

Duke of Edinburgh Managers/ Outdoor Education Coordinators