



20 September 2024

Dear Parent / Carer,

Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award Programme 2024-25

As part of our extracurricular programme, we are delighted to announce that we are running the Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award for Year 10 students only, this academic year.

The Duke of Edinburgh's award is a challenging, but ultimately rewarding experience for all participants. Students will learn lifelong skills, helping to make our young people more well-rounded individuals. Duke of Edinburgh certificates are viewed favourably by college and university admissions, as well as prospective employers.

Students wishing to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh are required to be registered; of which there is a non-refundable registration fee of £50.00. This fee includes the cost of registering the student with the DofE, purchasing their Silver DofE Participant handbook, polo shirt and associated school license fee. There will be additional costs involved whilst completing the award, all of which are outlined below.

This award is an extra-curricular activity; students on the award must be willing to give up a large proportion of their own time to attend training sessions and complete all components listed below. The award will take a minimum of 6 months to complete, and will challenge the mental, physical, and social capability of each individual.

The course consists of four blocks of activity, completed for a minimum of one hour per week, over consecutive weeks. All four blocks must be completed successfully and evidenced before the award is accredited. The sections, methods, and approximate costs involved are listed below.

1. Physical

An activity that involves a sport or physically exerting activity. For example, hockey, dance, rock climbing, football, swimming, yoga. This could be an activity students already participate in outside of school, or they can try something new.

2. Skill

The skill component can incorporate a variety of activities. These can include leadership, creative arts, and performing arts, care of animals, cookery, music, life skills, media, science and the natural world.

3. Volunteering

Students have two options available to them regarding this section. Students can independently organise to attend a local organisation, club, group, or charity in the community, and offer their services as a volunteer. Students may also volunteer to support extra-curricular clubs run within school.

4. Qualifying Expedition

The expedition process for Silver award is much more intense than at Bronze. Students will be required to undertake two expeditions, one practice (two days and two nights) from 5 - 7 June 2025 and one qualifying (three days and two nights) on 11 - 13 July 2025. The qualifying expeditions are assessed by a qualified DofE Assessor. There will be a cost involved with this section of £225.00pp. There will be

some additional training that is necessary for the expedition section, and this will take place on the weekend of the 15 and 16 March 2025 – further details about this to follow. Additional equipment, clothing, walking boots, and food costs should also be taken into account when planning for this. The school does supply much of the equipment and that is incorporated into the cost but there will be a need to have some kit and participants' food supplied by home. Further details of this were shared on the Parental Engagement Evening and can be asked for upon request.

For those students who attract Pupil Premium, there is potentially some limited funding on a discretionary, individual needs basis. Please contact me (Mr Barrett) in the first instance should you so wish to apply or for further information. Please be aware that any equipment supplied on this discretionary basis would remain the property of NLS for future students to access.

If you would like your child to participate in The Duke of Edinburgh's Silver Award, you will need to complete all details on ParentPay no later than Wednesday 23 October 2024 with a £50 initial payment also paid by that time via ParentPay - students cannot be registered and begin logging their award without prior payment of the registration fee, but if they are keen, they can begin the volunteering, physical and skills' sections of their award immediately and can back date their efforts once registered and online.

At a total cost of £275: £50 registration fee by October 23rd; £125 by January 31st and £100 by March 31st. Please note that once you have committed, all deposits and monies paid will be non-refundable should your child withdraw.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me using the below details.

Yours faithfully,



Mr James Barrett
DofE Coordinator
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