

Dear Parents

Your child has shown an interest in joining our Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Silver Award group. This is an internationally recognised award for young people, designed to encourage them to develop independence, commitment, leadership and teamwork through being involved in a personalised programme of activities.

At Sheldon we offer the Bronze, Silver and Gold awards. In Year 10 students can sign up for the silver award we welcome those students who completed their bronze award in Year 9 **and** students new to the award (direct entrants). Direct entrants will have to do one section for a longer time period than those who have completed bronze.

Similar to the Bronze Award, Silver is split into four sections: Volunteering, Physical, Skill, and Expedition. However, the length of these activities increases.

Volunteering	Physical	Skills	Expedition
6 months	One section for 6 months and the other section for 3 months		Plan, train for and undertake a 3-day, 2-night expedition.
Direct entrants (who have not completed Bronze) must undertake a further 6 months in either the Volunteering or the longer of the Physical or Skills sections.			

I have included an ideas sheet that offers some suggestions for participants for each section. It is important that there is progression from the Bronze level and students should set themselves more challenging targets within each section particularly if they are doing the same activity.

### Expedition Section

The Expedition section requires participants to undertake an assessed 3-day, 2-night backpacking expedition. Before this, participants need to attend an expedition training day and take part in a practice expedition. The area that the expeditions take place will be more challenging and less familiar than those that were experienced for Bronze. H5 Adventure will be running the training day at school on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2024. Students **must** attend this session in order to go on to complete the expeditions. There will also be some extra after school route planning sessions between the practice and the qualifying expedition. Although H5 Adventure will run the training day, I will be running the expeditions, with Sheldon staff.

The expeditions dates are:

Training Day – Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2024

Practice Expedition – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2024 (after school departure) – Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Qualifying Expedition – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2024 (morning departure) – Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2024

Participants will be expected to have their own personal kit. School will provide tents, cooking equipment and maps. Sheldon has a limited number of individual items (sleeping bags/roll mats/rucksacks/waterproofs/fleeces) that students can borrow for the events.

### **Costs**

There are costs to participating in this award, which I have identified below:

Initial Payment: DofE registration fee, H5 Adventure training day, license fee cost and insurance – £70

Practice & Assessment Expeditions – transport, food and camp site fees – approx. £60 per expedition

I am going to be trying very hard to keep the expedition costs as low as possible and would not envisage the total cost for the award to be more than £250. If you need assistance with any of these costs please get in contact with me.

If your child would like to take on the challenge of the Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award please make the initial payment of £70 by Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October; this can be made via parent pay. Enrolment forms should be completed online at this [link](#). There will also be a parent information evening for all levels of the award on **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October at 6pm** in the school hall. This is an opportunity to get more information on the award, understand how you can support your child and ask any questions you may have.

I look forward to guiding the students through this award. Please encourage your child to have a look through the DofE website which has lots of useful resources to help them decide on whether to take on this challenge.

Yours faithfully

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