

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.			

To give you a flavour of the range of activities your child can do, you can see a list of ideas from the DofE website [here](#). 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 1<sup>st</sup> March 2026. 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 1<sup>st</sup> March 2026

Practice Expedition – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2026 (after school departure) – Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2026

Qualifying Expedition – Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2026 (morning departure) – Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2026

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 – £81

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 £81 by Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October; this can be made via parent pay. Enrolment forms should be completed online at the link at the bottom of this letter.

There will also be a **student and parent information evening** on **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> October at 6pm** in the school hall. This will be for students who did not do their bronze award last year and is an opportunity to get more information on the award, understand how you can support your child and ask any questions you may have.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award website is an excellent resource and has more details on the scheme (<http://www.dofe.org>); please encourage your child to have a look to help them decide whether to undertake this challenge. We are also developing the school DofE website page, which can be found [here](#).

Online forms to complete:

[Parent Information Evening](#)  
[Enrolment Form](#)

Yours faithfully

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