

15<sup>th</sup> November 2016

Dear Parent / Guardian

### **Duke of Edinburgh's Award – Silver 2016/17 Year 10 (direct entry) and Year 11**

I am delighted to introduce myself as the Duke of Edinburgh Award Co-ordinator for The Kings of Wessex Academy. My role is to support students in all sections of their DoFE journey. I monitor students' progress throughout their award and provide support to students when providing suitable evidence for each section of the award.

The Academy is delighted to be able to offer Year 10 and 11 students the opportunity to enrol on the Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award. This award has four elements to it; Volunteering, Physical, Skills and Expedition.

Students who decide they would like to take part in the award will develop team skills and experience working with others alongside developing their own practical skills and physical stamina. The qualification may lead onto participation on the Gold award.

To support students working towards their Silver Award specialist support and guidance will be available through a weekly optional drop-in session on Tuesday lunchtimes, this will ensure the following;

- Participants are registered to the scheme online and understand how to use their record books and upload their evidence files
- Participants have appropriate placements for the volunteer element
- Participants have an identified an appropriate skill element
- Participants have appropriate evidence for the physical element
- Organise for participants to complete expedition training, a practice expedition and qualifier expeditions. This element of the Award will be delivered by a DoFE Approved Activity Provider (see below)
- Support for Participants to plan their expedition routes once training has occurred

Participants complete the volunteering, skills and physical elements in their own time. They will upload their evidence on to an eDoFE profile to show completion of each section. Participants will need to identify suitable placements and assessors for each of these sections to complete all sections. This year, to ensure that students are committed to the award; only Year 11 students, who have three sections of the award live on eDoFE by 1<sup>st</sup> March will go forward to complete the expedition training. Students will need to have completed all three sections to undertake the practice and assessed expedition.

Year 10 students are being offered the opportunity to undertake their Silver Award as direct entrants in order that they have a full year to complete all other sections therefore guaranteeing their entry in Year 11 on to the expedition.

The Expedition training for Year 11's will take place in the Easter Holidays 2017 (dates TBC), with the expedition practice and assessment taking place after GCSE exams in the summer term. Somerset Adventures will provide all the support and training required for the entire Expedition section. Students will be required to attend all the training outlined below as well as a practice weekend and a three day practical assessment. The training and expedition dates are for Kings of Wessex students only.

This year we are offering two alternatives for completing the expedition:

#### **OPTION 1 - Silver canoeing expedition:**

Training date: 9 April

Practice Expedition: 5-7 July

Assessed Expedition: 19-21 July

Places are limited to 24 maximum. Places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

Cost per student of £275, to include training, practice expedition and assessed expedition. The cost quoted would include the provision of qualified instructors, an assessor, boats, dry bags, buoyancy aids, and for group equipment, tents, stoves, and maps. The students would be responsible for personal kit, food and for making their own transport arrangements for the training day and both expeditions.

#### **OPTION 2 - Silver walking expedition:**

There are no limits on the number of places available. Any student who misses out on the opportunity to undertake their expedition in canoes, due to over or under subscription, will be offered the chance to undertake a walking expedition instead provided there is four more students wishing to undertake this option.

Cost per student of £195, to include training, practice expedition and assessed expedition.

The cost quoted would include the provision of qualified instructors and an assessor, group equipment, tents, stoves and maps. The students would be responsible for personal kit, food and for making their own transport arrangements for the training day and both expeditions.

Silver walking training day: 12<sup>th</sup> April  
Silver walking practice: 2<sup>nd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> July  
Silver walking assessed: 16<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> July

#### **Year 10 Direct Entrants**

Students who have not previously completed a Bronze Award are welcome to apply to go direct to a Silver Award. Where this is the case, extra time needs to be taken to complete the different sections of the award and some extra training for the expedition is also required. These students would need to join the Bronze groups undergoing basic training in school in September 2017.

Specific Training one day Silver Level training will take place Easter 2018, all expeditions will be during Summer Holiday 2018 after GCSE's.

If you would like your child to attend, we ask that you return the amount of either £195 or £275 to the main office by 19<sup>th</sup> December 2016. All cheques should be made payable to **The Kings of Wessex Academy**, or alternatively, you can now pay online by logging onto the Academy website. Simply click onto the parents' link and select 'Internet Payments' from the menu. Payments must be accompanied with the parental consent form below, along with the attached D of E Enrolment form.

As with all Academy trips students will be expected to uphold the reputation of the Academy therefore impeccable behaviour is expected at all times throughout the course. Students are also expected to demonstrate excellent behaviour in Academy. Failure to do this could result in them losing their place if they do not demonstrate good behaviour in the lead up to the trip.

Absence following a school activity (for example: tiredness due to a late return, or sore feet following an extensive day walking) will not be authorised unless medical certification is provided. Without this evidence, students may not be allowed to attend further Academy enrichment activities.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



**Esther Bryans**  
**Duke of Edinburgh's Award Coordinator**  
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