

February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Duke of Edinburgh's Award – Year 10 Silver 2020/22

I am delighted to inform you that The Kings of Wessex Academy has a dedicated Co-ordinator especially for the Duke of Edinburgh Award. My role is to support students in all sections of their DofE journey. I will be monitoring students' progress throughout their award and will be available to support students in finding suitable evidence for each section of the award.

The Academy is delighted to be able to offer Year 10 students the opportunity to enrol on the Duke of Edinburgh's Silver Award this term. 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 gain experience of working with others, developing their practical skills and physical stamina. The qualification may lead onto participation in the Gold award in Year 12.

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

- Participants are registered to the scheme online and will receive their welcome packs through the post
- Participants have appropriate placements for the volunteer element
- Participants have 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 and complete all sections. This year, to ensure that students are committed to the award, only those students who have started all sections of the award and entered this information on their eDofE account by 1 November 2021 will go forward to complete the expedition training. All sections of their award will need to be completed before a place on the assessed expedition can be guaranteed.

The Expedition training will take place in the Easter Holidays 2022 (dates TBC), with the expedition practice and assessment taking place after their 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: Easter 2022

Practice Expedition: July 2022

Assessed Expedition: July 2022

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

The total cost, per student, will be £295.00, to include training, practice expedition and assessed expedition. It would also 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 and food and for making their own transport arrangements for the training day and both expeditions.

OPTION 2 - Silver walking expedition:

There is no limit 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.

The total cost, per student, will be £227.00, to include training, practice expedition and assessed expedition. It would also include the provision of qualified instructors and an assessor, group equipment, tents, stoves, and maps. The students would be responsible for personal kit and food and for making their own transport arrangements for the training day and both expeditions.

Silver walking training day: Easter 2022

Silver walking practice: July 2022

Silver walking assessed: July 2022

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 undertake an additional days training to bring them up to the necessary standard. This specific one-day additional training will take place Easter 2022, all expeditions will be during summer holiday 2022 after GCSE's.

Participants will need to provide their own personal clothing, footwear, rucksack and sleeping bag for undertaking a walking expedition in the hills. Detailed kit lists will be issued at the first training session. The county run a 'loan' scheme for most personal items. Details can be found at the following website;
www.somerset-youth.co.uk/club/youth_equipment_store/167

If you would like your child to participate in the award, we ask that you return the full amount for the registration fee on to the Scheme of £32.00 and a non-refundable deposit towards the Expedition of £150.00. Payment is made online via ParentPay. If you are unable to pay online, you can pay by cash at a store showing the Paypoint Logo. You will need a Paypoint letter which is available from the school office. The letter has a barcode which is unique to this activity. The deposit must be made by Friday 28 May 2021 and the final payment is due by Tuesday 29 March 2022.

Please email the attached parental consent form and the DofE Enrolment form to the school office for the attention of Esther Bryans, Duke of Edinburgh's Award Coordinator.

As with all Academy trips students will be expected to uphold the reputation of the Academy, therefore exceptional behaviour is expected at all times throughout the day and in the lead up to the trip.

Yours sincerely



Esther Bryans
Duke of Edinburgh's Award Coordinator
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