

November 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

**Duke of Edinburgh Achievement Award – Year 10 Silver 2021/23**

I am delighted to introduce myself as the Kings of Wessex Academy's dedicated D of E Award Co-ordinator. 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 Achievement Silver Award this term. This Award has four elements: 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 starting in January 2022; which will ensure the following:

- Participants are registered to the online scheme and they 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 to the 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 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 2022 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 2023 (dates TBC but not clashing with revision sessions), with the expedition practice and assessment taking place immediately 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: Easter 2023

Practice Expedition: July 2023

Assessed Expedition: July 2023

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

Cost per student of £314.00, 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. 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:**

Silver walking training day: Easter 2023

Silver walking practice: July 2023

Silver walking assessed: July 2023

There is no limit to the number of places available. Any student who misses 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 £273.00, 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 and food, and for making their own transport arrangements for the training day and both expeditions.

**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 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 during the Easter Holiday 2022, all expeditions will take place during Summer Holiday 2023 after GCSEs.

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.somersetyouth.co.uk/club/youth\\_equipment\\_store/167](http://www.somersetyouth.co.uk/club/youth_equipment_store/167)

If you would like your child to participate in the Award, we ask that you pay the registration fee of **£32.00** and a non-refundable deposit of £120.00 towards the Expedition. 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 15 January 2022. The final payment is due by 29 March 2023.

Please forward the attached parental consent form and the DofE Enrolment form to the school office for the attention of Esther Bryans, Duke of Edinburgh 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. 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.

Yours sincerely



**Esther Bryans**  
Duke of Edinburgh's Award Coordinator  
[ebryans@kovessex.co.uk](mailto:ebryans@kovessex.co.uk)

**PARENTAL CONSENT FORM**

**The Kings of Wessex Academy, Cheddar**

**Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award Training and Assessment**

**Please delete as appropriate:**

**Your choice of expedition**                      Option 1 – Canoeing / Option 2 – Walking

Completed Bronze Award previously?      Yes / No

As parent/carer of \_\_\_\_\_ Tutor Group \_\_\_\_\_

I acknowledge that my son/daughter needs to complete all sections of the DofE Award before he/she will be allowed to move forward with undertaking the expedition training.

I give my permission to be contacted by email in connection with Duke of Edinburgh. My email address is \_\_\_\_\_

I have read, fully understood and am satisfied with the details supplied about the above-mentioned activity and agree to my son/daughter taking part in it. I know of no medical reason why he/she should not participate. I am aware that

- a) Except for visits abroad, insurance arrangements are the same as those for pupils in the Academy, i.e. only provides cover if negligence is proven or accepted by the Academy and/or its employees.
- b) I should consider making my own insurance arrangements for personal accident cover for my son/daughter for Academy activities in the UK
- c) If a medical condition is diagnosed after final payment parents may choose to withdraw their child. Equally if the Academy feel they cannot accommodate the student within the pre-existing arrangement for the trip, the Academy reserve the right to withdraw the student place.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM AND ENROLMENT FORM TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE FOR THE ATTENTION OF ESTHER BRYANS, DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD COORDINATOR**