

November 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Duke of Edinburgh's Award – Year 10 Silver 2023/25

I am delighted to inform you that The Kings Academy has a dedicated Duke of Edinburgh's Award Coordinator. 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 Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Achievement 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 direct emails to the coordinator and, when requested, a drop-in session on Tuesday lunchtime; which 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 and qualifier Expeditions. This element of the Award will be delivered by a DofE Approved Activity Provider
- 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 and assessor reports 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 10 November 2023 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 2025 (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 Academy students only.

OPTION 1 - Silver Canoeing Expedition:

Training date: Easter 2025

Practice Expedition: July 2025

Assessed Expedition: July 2025

The total cost of the Silver Award will be **£368.00** which includes training, practice Expedition and assessed Expedition. The enrolment cost is **£33.00 and this is non refundable.**

The first payment for the Expedition is £167.50 and will need to be paid by 31 December 2024. The final payment for the Expedition is £167.50 and will need to be paid by 1 March 2025.

The cost quoted includes the provision of qualified instructors, an assessor, boats, dry bags, buoyancy aids, and for group equipment, tents, stoves, and maps. Students will 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 some extra training for the Expedition is also required. These students would need to undertake an additional day's training to bring them up to the necessary standard. This specific one-day additional training will take place Easter 2025, all Expeditions will be during the Summer holiday 2025 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

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.

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's Award Coordinator.

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

Yours faithfully

Esther Bryans

Esther Bryans
Duke of Edinburgh's Award Coordinator
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