



Dear Parent/Guardian,

Starting the Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award

Your child has recently applied for and been accepted onto the Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award at OWS. They have completed an application form and given suggestions of activities they would potentially like to undertake for their volunteering, physical and skills sections. The first initial deposit payment should have also been made, allowing us to officially enrol your child onto the programme.

This letter should outline the next steps in your child's journey to completing their Silver Award.

1) Updating eDofE accounts for Silver Award

There will be a mandatory lunchtime session on **Thursday 3rd November in E66** for all Silver students. In this session, we will be officially logging students onto the online "eDofE" portal, which is used to track and register the completion of each section of the award officially with DofE. They will need to know what activities they would like to do for their Silver by this date. These can be the same or different to Bronze.

Students will be able to access the eDofE portal from an app on their phone, or via the website www.edofe.org. As with the Bronze, they will be required to enter the details of the activities they would like to do for their volunteering/physical/skills sections. These will then be approved by DofE and students can then begin to complete each of their activities for approximately an hour a week. The sections run for either 3 or 6 months. If students have already started their activities – that's great! eDofE will allow students to backdate each section by up to 3 weeks.

2) Starting volunteering/physical/skills sections

Students are responsible for keeping track of their progress with each of the three independent sections. We have provided each student with a paper log, so they can write down what they have done each week towards each activity. Students can also upload documents or photos to eDofE via the app or website.

When students complete the full 3/6 months, they must speak to the adult they have identified to act as their assessor for that section. This adult can then visit www.dofe.org/assessor and complete a short assessor's report outlining what the student has done to complete the section. Any evidence gathered by students e.g. the written log, should be shown to their assessor to allow them to write a detailed report. This will then be submitted to us at OWS for section approval.

If a student misses their activity for a week – this is fine, the sections should be the equivalent of an hour each week, so if a student needs to miss a week, they can simply do another hour at another point in time. We ask that students try to complete at least 2 of the sections before they go on expedition.

If a student can no longer complete an activity – DofE allows for one change of activity if required e.g. if a club stops running, or health issues affect completion. Students will need to check with either myself or Ms Waldron before changing an activity.

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3) Start thinking about the expedition section

Full information will be provided for students in the Spring and Summer term regarding the training and qualifying expedition. We are still finalising dates with our expedition provider, Chase Training Solutions, for the navigation day, practice and qualifying expeditions in the Summer term. We have requested that the dates do not clash with the mock exam window in June. We are hoping to run after school training in the East Hall on the following dates 3.15pm – 4.30pm:

Tuesday 17th January – Navigation skills

Tuesday 24th January – Campcraft

Tuesday 31st January – First aid and emergencies

Please note: Specific route and expedition planning will take place during lunchtimes in the week before the expeditions, once CTS have provided us with information regarding locations and campsites. We will share any information regarding expeditions with you as soon as possible.

4) Payment schedule

Thank you to everyone who made the initial deposit payment by the deadline. This money allows us to enrol students onto the award. There will be two further payments to be made over the next few months. **We have recently managed to secure funding for part of the Silver award, so the cost has now been reduced from £320 to £275.** Therefore, the next two payments will be rescheduled as follows:

Payment 1 - £40 due Friday 30th September 2022. (already paid)

Payment 2 - £80 due Friday 18th November 2023

Payment 3 – £80 due Friday 13th January 2023

Payment 4 - £75 due Friday 3rd March 2023

I hope this letter answers any questions you may have regarding the next few months of the Silver award. If students have any issues or queries, they should come speak to myself or Ms Waldron at a lunchtime drop-in session (details will be on our classroom doors). If you need any further information at this time, please email tegan.ransom@oldburywells.com.

Kind regards,



Miss Tegan Ransom
Duke of Edinburgh Manager at Oldbury Wells School