



Dear Parent

Please find information about the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme at Claire's Court for Sixth Form

For those new to the scheme...

Established in 1956 by its founder and patron, HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is a voluntary, non-competitive programme of practical, cultural and adventurous activities. This is the 60th year of the award.

In consultation with the Heads and Form teachers of Year 9 through to Year 13, we hope to engage those suitably committed to the programme for the Bronze, Silver and Gold Award. It is designed to support the personal and social development of young people aged 14-25, regardless of gender, background or ability.

The Award offers an individual challenge and encourages young people to undertake exciting, constructive, challenging and enjoyable activities in their free time.

Silver

- Silver level can be started from Year 10, however we ask that you have completed 2 Bronze sections including your expedition and started the other 2 sections.
- For those in Sixth Form we allow direct entry for those who have not previously started their Bronze award.
- The expedition will be in an area with which you are unfamiliar and which contains open countryside and/or woodland.
- It will take a minimum of 9 months to complete Silver, or 12 months for direct entry.

Gold

- Gold level can be started once you reach the age of 16, but we strongly discourage direct entry to this level due to the amount of prior knowledge and experience of expeditions and walking in wild country that is required - we have found it quicker and easier for participants to complete Silver before Gold and we are able to tailor some of the Silver training so that it is relevant for Gold, so that it doesn't have to be repeated.
- The expedition will take place in wild country, where you will be remote from towns, villages and roads, off waymarked footpaths and may not see or meet other people during the day. Typical areas include the Brecon Beacons, Snowdonia, Mid Wales, the Lake District, Dartmoor and Exmoor.
- Gold has an additional section called Residential where you spend 5 days away from family, friends and the rest of your group - this could be on a volunteering project, a study break or having an adventure. It will take a minimum of 12 months to complete Gold, or 18 months for direct entry.
- It will be possible for those undertaking Silver in Year 12 to undertake the Gold award during the October and Easter breaks of Year 13.

Further information

This can be found on our website at www.outdooreducation.clairecourt.net and www.dofe.org.



Silver Award Dates 2020	
Starter evening	Tuesday 3 March
Expedition preparation evening	Tuesday 17 March
Training & Practice expedition	31 March - 2 April
Assessed expedition	Friday 8 - Sunday 10 May

To provide the expedition section we work with a number of external instructors and companies who will supply tents, rucksacks, stoves, maps and compasses for the duration of the expedition.

Students will be required to have suitable personal equipment including walking boots with ankle support, sleeping bag (with optional liner) suitable for temperatures as low as 0degC, waterproof jacket and trousers. Expedition teams will also need to organise suitable meal plans and food ahead of the expeditions.

Costs:

- DofE Silver Award Registration £22 charged by the DofE Award Scheme
- Expedition Section £360 to cover instruction, equipment loan and campsite fees



Silver DofE Participation, Spring/Summer 2020

STUDENT NAME _____

YEAR & FORM _____

I wish my son/daughter to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme during 2020.

I understand that participating in the D of E scheme requires a commitment to the planned sessions, and that my son/daughter may be excluded from the scheme if they fail to attend the scheduled sessions.

I understand that a one-off fee of £382 is payable by 18 December 2019 (this is split £22 for DofE registration and £360 for the provision of the Expedition section).

PARENT'S SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

Places will be allocated on a first come first served basis and payment of the fee.

Please return this slip by 1 December 2019

Please return this form to Mr Paul Robson, Head of Outdoor Education.