



Monday 17th October

Dear Parent/Guardian,

DUKE OF EDINBURGH SILVER AWARD 2022-2023

The Duke of Edinburgh Award is the world's leading youth achievement award. It encourages participants to push personal boundaries, gain new skills and enhances their CVs. The School is a great believer in it and would encourage students to complete it. Participants start on the Bronze Award in Year 9, progress to the Silver in Year 10, register for the Gold once they hit their 16th birthday in Year 11 and then complete the Gold expedition in the summer holiday between Year 12 and Year 13. The Bronze and Silver levels consist of four sections: volunteering, physical, skills and expedition. Every section must be completed to a certain standard and over a certain period of time in order for the Award to be achieved. Gold includes the same 4 sections plus a fifth – a week long residential with people that the participant has never met before. In order to succeed on each level, participants will need to commit to planning, organising and then carrying out each section, with about one hour per week being the minimum requirement needed to ensure completion of the scheme within the 'usual' timescales. Further information on the Duke of Edinburgh can be found at <https://www.dofe.org/>. The achievement of the Gold Award is recognised by universities and employers as being particularly impressive as it is the culmination of many years of commitment.

I, Miss Deveson, am the Schools Duke of Edinburgh Centre Manager, and am the main point of contact in School for all students completing Duke of Edinburgh. Assisting myself will be Mrs Lesworth (the School's Data Administrator). I will be the person to oversee and co-ordinate the scheme, and provide guidance on the completion of the Award. Mrs Lesworth will be the Awards Verifier, and her role is to be the final arbiter of whether or not the criteria for the achievement of an Award Level (i.e. Bronze, Silver or Gold) has been met.

The expedition section for all levels has been outsourced to a specialist company, Kent DofE, which is an organisation run under the Kent County Council umbrella. This means that all aspects of the training for, and completion of, the assessed expedition will be coordinated, led and delivered by their highly qualified outdoor education staff. Myself, alongside other members of Manwood's staff, will provide a staff presence in case of any pastoral issues that arise.

Before being allowed to go on an assessed expedition a participant must complete all of the specified training **and** a 2 day/1-night practice expedition. These have now been arranged for the coming academic year and the dates are as shown below. Please note that in order to complete the expedition programme participants must attend **all** of the above and for the **whole** of each day. There is no way around this proviso unfortunately so if a potential participant cannot do them, then they cannot do the expedition section with us.

Training Days:	Saturday 28 th and Sunday 29 th January (on school site)
Practice Expedition:	Friday 5 th (evening only), Saturday 6 th and Sunday 7 th May (Site - TBC)
Assessed Expedition:	Friday 7 th , Saturday 8 th and Sunday 9 th July (Site - TBC)

The cost for doing the expedition section at SRMS is £304 and this must be paid in 4 instalments - £76 by **Saturday 7th January 2023**, £76 by **Tuesday 7th February 2023**, £76 by **Tuesday 7th March 2023** and a further £76 by **Friday 7th April 2023**.



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It should be noted that this cost involves the hire of shared equipment i.e tents, cooking equipment, emergency survival bag. No student will be allowed to do an expedition section until the section is paid for in its entirety by the deadline outlined above. For pupils who are in receipt of Pupil Premium the School is able to use this source of funding to support participation in the DofE so parents of pupils for whom this applies are asked to contact Miss Deveson.

In addition to the above, it is important to be aware that participants will also need to provide their own personal equipment for the expeditions e.g. walking boots, a good rucksack and properly waterproof trousers and jacket.

In addition to the cost for doing the expedition, each participant is also required to register for the scheme and contribute to the Schools administration costs for delivery, the fee for which is £72. In order to register your child for the Silver Award, parents need to complete the Silver enrolment form and KCC consent form using the links below, as well as paying the £72 fee. The £72 needs to be paid via the School Gateway, where all Year 10 parents will find an option to pay. The deadline for the receipt of **both** forms **and** the registration/administration fee is midnight on **Monday 7th November 2022**. Please note that the registration/admin fee is non-refundable even if the participant is not able to complete the rest of the Award level for any reason.

Registration Form:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdKCWu3ad9vyrTc7ahT-15s9WO_U9sETyGoqJLu7R1-nGhimg/viewform?usp=sf_link

KCC Consent Form:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdoQt0zAgUcgbs1ELpNM2A3I99GycthWAQPkezAM_HKzk11Mw/viewform?usp=sf_link

Similar to last year, I will set up a Google Classroom for your child and the rest of the cohort to share key messages with ease. Please encourage your child to use this platform. If you, or your child, have any further questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Deveson
DofE Centre Manager and PE Teacher
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