

QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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25th October 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

Duke of Edinburgh's Award: Silver.
Trip/Award Leader: Miss Wilband.
Training & Trip Dates: 10th November 2018 Training Day.
7-9th June 2019 Practice Expedition (Walking Teams).
29th June – 1st July 2019 Assessed Expedition (Walking Teams).
OR
27th – 31st May 2019 Practice Expedition (Canoe/SUP Teams).
10th – 13th July 2019 Assessed Expedition (Canoe/SUP Teams).

I am writing to let you know of the exciting opportunity available to your child to achieve the Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award through the academy. The Award is an adventure from beginning to end, with students enjoying many new experiences, discovering talents that they did not realise they had, challenging their potential, and standing out from the crowd. Many businesses and universities value highly the Duke of Edinburgh's Award and believe candidates to be more rounded and employable individuals.

The Award involves four sections that students have to complete: Physical, Skill, Service and Expedition. The Expedition section of the Award is fully organised by the academy, using Approved Activities Providers.

The Silver Award is available to Year 10 students and they have until the age of 24 to complete the sections. Our aim is for students to be well on the way to completing the Award by the beginning of Year 11.

The 'Expedition' section of the Award involves two separate trips, where the students have the option of a walking expedition or a canoe/SUP expedition (Walking Expedition - three days walking and camp for two nights or Canoe Expedition - four days canoeing and three nights camping and includes a further two days training). Students need to prove that they can be self-sufficient, for a Practice Expedition and an Assessed Expedition. Both these Expeditions will be no more than an hours drive to the area either in the Peak District National Park (walking), River Trent and Soar (Canoe) and/or the surrounding area, and will be reliant on parents and carers dropping students off at the start of the expeditions, and picking them up at the end. The expeditions vary depending on groups and campsites available and further information will be given to you and your child nearer the time of the expedition. For Year 10 students, it is my initial intention that they complete the Practice and the Assessed Expedition in 2019, thus giving them ample time in Year 10 to complete the Silver before the pressures of their GCSEs in Year 11.

To conform to the guidelines set out by the Duke of Edinburgh's Award itself, students must partake in the Practice Expedition to qualify for the Assessed Expedition. If a student fails to attend any of these expeditions, further options may be available to them.

As this is a co-curricular activity, students will be expected to spend some of their lunchtimes and after school hours undertaking training in Camp Craft and Map Navigation, to enable them to undertake the expedition.

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Students will also take part in a Training Day where they will undertake some Basic First Aid, Team Building activities and Route Planning. This will take place on Saturday 10th November 2018 at the academy's Sixth Form Centre. This training will be provided by the AAP (Approved Activities Provider) that will be leading the Expedition section of the Award. Further details of this event will be sent out after the October half term break.

The total cost for the Award is **£265.00** for Walking Expeditions and **£370.00** for the Canoe/SUP Expeditions. To guarantee a place on this Award, a deposit of **£50.00** is required by the first week of November. The costs include...

	Walking Expedition	Canoe/SUP
• Enrolment fee	£30.00	£30.00
• Administration costs and deposit	£10.00	£15.00
• Training Day	£20.00	£20.00
• Expedition Fees	£205.00	£305.00

Due to the high numbers of students taking part in this Award, it is essential that students are on the way to completing all three sections that make up the Award before they will be permitted to undertake the Expeditions.

Costs are kept to a minimum and the academy does not receive any profit from this. Most of the costs are for assessors/supervisors, qualified staff with Mountain/Canoe Leader qualifications and many hours of experience in their field. The DofE Award risk assessment and safety requirements now insist that qualified and approved staff have to be used.

To secure your child's place on the Silver Award a **deposit of £50.00** will be required by **7th November 2018**, via the ParentPay system* .**The balance of £215.00/£320.00** will be required by **15th February 2019**.

I must stress that, as soon as the first payment is made, this is a commitment to pay in full, as the academy has to book the services of approved outside qualified providers to assess and supervise students. Furthermore, I must point out that your child will not be allowed to participate in the Award Expedition unless all three sections of the Award are on their way to being completed and payment is received in full by 15th February 2019.

If you have any queries or questions regarding the DofE Award, please do not hesitate to contact me by email, or through the Humanities Office at the academy, or you can explore the Award on the official Duke of Edinburgh's Award website <http://www.dofe.org>.

Yours faithfully

Miss G M Wilband

Duke of Edinburgh's Award Coordinator

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**by clicking the "consent" button on ParentPay, you are confirming that you wish your child to take part in this award, as well as confirming the payment detailed above, and that the emergency contact and medical details we have on our system are correct for your child. Please inform me as a matter of urgency should there be any changes to the details we hold.*