



20th July 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Duke of Edinburgh's Award - Year 11 (12) Silver Walking Award Expedition – October 23rd – 25th 2021 **Trip/Award Leader: Miss Wilband**

I am writing with the great news that the Expedition section of the Silver Award can be completed next academic year. The pandemic has obviously meant that the Academy is more restricted than normal regarding what can be offered and when. I am therefore excited by the fact that we can offer some dates for both next year's Year 11 and Year 12 to participate in their Silver Expedition Section should they wish to do so.

For the current Year 10 (soon to be year 11's) the Silver Assessed Expedition will run on Saturday 23rd of October to Monday the 25th of October. With the current guidelines, those who have completed their Bronze Award Expedition can include this as the Practice for Silver so there will be no Practice Silver Expedition for the current Year 10's. I hope that this will be overnight camping and expedition walking in the Peak District Vicinity and parents/carers will be expected to drop off and pick up their child, this will be no more than an hour's drive away.

The current Year 11's (soon to be Year 12) can also use this Expedition as their Practice Silver Expedition if they are staying on into QEGS Sixth Form. Options to do the Assessed Expedition will be available with next year's Year 10 groups if they do choose to do this. If they prefer to do their Expedition through an Approved Activity Provider, please do email me for more information (many of the Year 11's have already done this). If you do wish to do this Silver Expedition as a Practice Expedition, please do email me so that this can be arranged.

More details of the Expedition will be sent out to students and parents/carers nearer the time along with the trip payment details (this will be £140).

A full kit list will be available on the Teams channel for students to check and this will be linked to a loom video where I will explain what students must have for the Expedition and what the Academy will lend out to students.

To undertake the Silver Award Expedition, **participants need to have completed all of their Bronze Sections** (unless they are a Direct Silver participant). The Bronze Sections, need to be approved and the student be in receipt of a 'Certificate of Achievement' to be able to then start their Silver Award.

Students will also have to have completed the online training element of the Expedition section before being allowed to do the Silver Expedition if they have not done so for their Bronze. All students will have to plan their routes and have a Group project – details of this will be emailed to students nearer the time and it is therefore essential that they check their school emails regularly.

The Assessed Expedition is an essential part of achieving the Silver Award. Although, during this year students can achieve a Certificate of Achievement for completing all the other Sections of the Award if they do not wish (or cannot) take part in the Expedition Section.

If for some reason your child cannot attend this course, please let me know the reasons why via letter/email. Further opportunities to undertake the Expedition Section of the Award may be available to students next year.

Unfortunately, due to the circumstances forced upon us by the Pandemic the school cannot organise a Canoe Expedition this year alongside the Walking Expedition. If your child feels that they may like to do an 'Open Canoe Award' please do email me and I can send you information where this can be arranged independently of the school. This would involve doing a Practice Expedition and the Assessed Expedition separately and costs will be much more.

If you have any further questions or queries regarding the Expedition or the Award itself, please do not hesitate to contact me by email wilband@queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk or by phone. Alternatively, you can explore the Award on the official Duke of Edinburgh's Award website <http://www.dofe.org>. Please remember that all relevant information regarding the Award at QEGS is on Microsoft Teams Channel set up for students to access and they should do this regularly for updates.

Yours faithfully

Miss G M Wilband

Duke of Edinburgh's Award Manager

Twitter: http://twitter.com/QEGS_DofE