

# QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mr S Garrity Chair of Governors: Mr C Smith



24<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

## **Duke of Edinburgh's Award - Year 10 Silver Award Expeditions 8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> May 2024 and 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> June 2024** **Trip/Award Leader: Ms Watson Jones and Mrs Wright**

I am writing to inform you about the plans for the Silver Expeditions in 2024. The Silver Practice Expedition will run from Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> to Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2024. The Assessed Expedition will run from Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> to Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2024.

### **ONLINE TRAINING**

Students will be required to complete an online training element of the Expedition section in their own time. This is similar to last year (it has been streamlined!), but if your child completed Bronze through QEGS, they will only have to do a 'refresher course'.

The link to access the online training is; [www.richadventure.co.uk/qegs24](http://www.richadventure.co.uk/qegs24) and the password for the landing page is DofE24.

**Students will then need to create an account for themselves (or use their one from last year)** to complete the online learning. On the landing page, as a parent, you will be able to access all key information regarding the expeditions.

**Please also complete the consent form.**

### **IN PERSON TRAINING**

There will be 1 afternoon of in person training; **Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

This training will start during period 5 and **finish at 4.20pm**. Students will be bringing equipment home, so a lift home for students where possible may be appreciated.

### **EXPEDITIONS**

The training days and Assessed Expedition are both an essential part of achieving the Silver Award.

On both Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May and Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June, students will need to arrive at the start location for **8.30am (locations will be given closer to the time but we aim to keep this within an hour's drive of Ashbourne)**. Students will be met in the mornings by myself and Mrs Wright and will be following a designated route with a qualified and experienced instructor who will guide each group through key map skills / survival skills etc. Please note, during the practice days students will have a qualified leader with them until they are competent in their expedition skills. We will be camping at designated camp sites (these usually have basic washing facilities / toilet / drinking water).

For the Assessed Expedition students will be supervised remotely; each group will have a GPS tracker and be met at 'check points' by their leader.

Pick up is usually around 3.30/4pm for Silver.

## EQUIPMENT

We have a very large cohort of DofE participants this year (which is fantastic!), so if anyone has suitable lightweight tents that may be able to be shared with your child's group, please do get in touch!

It is imperative that students wear suitable walking boots (not shoes), clothing is suitable for walking in (no jeans or denim) and that waterproof coat and trousers are packed, in case of inclement weather. Many outdoor retail places will do a discount for DofE students – the pack that students receive in the post should have a discount card.

Students will be lent, as highlighted on the kit list (attached and on TEAMS), a group Storm Shelter, Trangia (cooking set), a group first aid kit, related maps and route cards, and tents. The groups are responsible for the upkeep and drying out of kit, which needs to be checked back in the week after the Qualifying Expedition. It is expected that groups return the kit in a fit-for-purpose and clean condition; any damage or loss will have to be paid for in addition to the expedition cost. This equipment will be given out to students during the week prior to the practice Expedition.

Students also need to bring their own food and snacks, as well as fluids and an emergency rations pack, for the full 3-day Practice Expedition. It is important that the evening meal is cooked as a group meal and students will be briefed on what is suitable. They will also need to supply their own small camping gas (screw top attachment) canisters for this (2 needed per group).

## COSTS

If for some reason your child cannot attend the dates stated above, please let me know as soon as possible via email. Costs for the expeditions are not refundable, however further opportunities to undertake the Expedition Section of the Award may be available to students next year.

The cost for the Silver Expedition section of the Award is **£278** (this includes both trips, camping and the online training). 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 Leader qualifications with many hours of experience in their field. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award risk assessment and safety requirements now insist that qualified and approved staff must be used.

Payment for the Expedition must be paid via ParentPay:

£139 due by 4<sup>th</sup> January 2024

£139 due by 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024

If you have problems making payment via ParentPay, please contact [finance@qegs.email](mailto:finance@qegs.email) as soon as possible.

**\*\* Please note \*\*** Participants who completed Bronze MUST have been signed off on their Bronze Award and started at least 2 sections of their Silver Award before the Practice Expedition.

If you have any further questions or queries regarding the Expedition or the Award itself, please do not hesitate to contact me by email [watson-jones@queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:watson-jones@queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk). Alternatively, you can explore the Award on the official Duke of Edinburgh's Award website <http://www.dofe.org> or the school website <https://www.queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk/learning/clubs-and-co-curricular/dofe/>. Please also follow us on Twitter for regular updates.

Yours faithfully

Ms Watson Jones  
**Duke of Edinburgh's Award Manager**  
Twitter: [http://twitter.com/QEGS\\_DofE](http://twitter.com/QEGS_DofE)

Mrs Wright  
**Duke of Edinburgh's Award Manager**

*\*by clicking the "consent" button on ParentPay to confirm the payment detailed above, you are also confirming 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.*

