

SEVENOAKS SCHOOL

High Street, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 1HU
Telephone: 01732 455133 Fax: 01732 456143
Email: csw@sevenoaksschool.org



September 2011

DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD SCHEME – SILVER

Dear Parent

I very much hope that your son or daughter enjoyed taking part in the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award last year. As you may already be aware, your son or daughter has the opportunity to participate in this scheme at Silver level in Year 11. This letter is to let you know more about the commitment involved in terms of cost and your child's time.

Before participating in the Award at Silver level, it is expected that students have completed their Bronze Award in full (i.e. completely signed off on eDofE) by 15 October. This is to encourage fulfilment of a commitment, something which the Award depends upon its participants doing. Once this has been done, achieving the Silver Award comprises completing the same four sections of activity as at Bronze level (Volunteering, Skill, Physical and Expedition), although the timescales involved are slightly longer. It is possible, however, to have completed the entire Silver Award by the end of Year 11. Full details of both timescales and requirements can be found on the Award website at www.dofe.org.

It is up to your son or daughter to arrange to complete the Volunteering, Skill and Physical sections of the Award, although guidance and support is available in school, and some activities undertaken in school, for instance music lessons or VSU, can count towards these sections.

Expedition training during Year 11 is given in school during lunchtimes in the Michaelmas term; attendance at these sessions is a prerequisite for taking part in any school-run expedition, since during the practice and qualifying expeditions students journey in small groups independently in open country, for which rigorous training is essential for safety. The expeditions themselves consist of three days' walking and two nights' camping; although final details of these expeditions will be sent to you in due course, to help plan your year, the dates for these are as follows:

Practice Expedition (Sevenoaks Area) – end of the Easter break

Starts: 08.30 Saturday 14 April

Ends: 18.00 Monday 16 April

Qualifying Expedition (South Dorset) – last week of the Summer term

Starts: 16.00 Monday 25 June

Ends: 22.00 Thursday 28 June

It is the responsibility of each participant to provide appropriate personal kit and to make arrangements with other group members for the provision of group items, as no-one will be allowed to take part in any expedition with inappropriate clothing or equipment. Suggested kit lists can be found on the school intranet and the D of E website; I cannot stress enough the importance of high-quality waterproofs and sensible walking boots. Walking shoes are not considered sturdy enough.

If you would like your son or daughter to be registered for the Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award, please encourage them to attend the preliminary meeting at short break on Friday 9 September; should your son or daughter decide after this meeting that they would like to register for the Silver Award, please then fill in the online form at www.sevenoaksschool.org/dofe-Silver to confirm that you are happy for them to participate and for the cost to be added to your school bill. The cost of participating in the Silver Award is £165; the £14 eDofE registration fee will be billed towards the end of the Michaelmas term, and the balance of £151, for the expeditions, in the Lent term.

Should you have any questions about the Award, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

Clare Watson
Silver Award Coordinator