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Starting the Silver level of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award – Year 10 2019/2020

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is a scheme of activity open to all young people between the start of year 9 until their 25th birthdays, regardless of ability or disability, which leads to certification at bronze, silver or gold levels. All participants complete 4 "challenges", which are individually set to be realistic and achievable by each individual. Completion of the award, at any level, shows organisation, perseverance and determination and is well regarded by higher education establishments and employers. The gold award is presented at St James' Palace, with Prince Phillip or Prince Edward in attendance. Bronze and Silver levels are presented locally.

The challenges

Skill – Participants will develop their skills in a non-physical pastime of their choice - e.g. photography, music, painting etc.

Volunteering – Participants spend time assisting a non-profit organisation for no pay - e.g. nursery help, charity shops, conservation work.

Physical – Participants develop their abilities in a physical activity – e.g. most sports, personal fitness and dance.

Skill, Volunteering and Physical activities require an input of approximately one hour per week spread over 3 or 6 months each, but do not need to be done all at once.

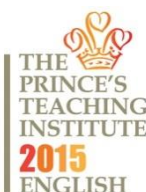
Expedition – Participants will train for and complete an expedition, (silver level – 3 days). This involves walking a pre-planned route in open countryside using a map and a compass. Groups of 4 to 7 participants work as a team, camp overnight and look after themselves for the duration of the expedition. Expeditions will be 26th to 28th April for Practice and 28th to 30th June for the Qualifying expedition.

Funding

We do not want cost to prevent students being able to do the award. Tents, Bags and stoves are available to borrow free of charge and students who are entitled to free school meals will be able to apply for a bursary to be funded for this. We will help students to complete their application,

Direct Entrants

Students can start DofE at Silver Level if they have not previously completed Bronze DofE. They will need to do some catch up expedition training and will need to do one section for 12 months instead of 6. Otherwise everything is the same.



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Requirements – all students

- The minimum age for doing the silver level is the start of year 10.
- Students need to choose and commit to activities to complete skill, volunteering and physical sections. The activities do not all need to be done at the same time, but you should record what and when you intend to complete sections. Activities can be spread over year 10 and 11.
- If the bronze level was started, you should get this finished and signed off. You will not have your silver section opened until the bronze has been finished. At the end of this term the silver level registrations will close for this year.

Expedition Kit

The school has a good selection of kit, which can be borrowed for expeditions, free of charge. There is financial help available for students who currently qualify for or have qualified for Free School Meals in the last 6 years.

Total Costs:

Due on application: £28 - Registration with the Award - (includes £6 Somerset Operating Authority Fee).

Due in February 2019 £45 - Training and Practice Expedition – 3 days on Exmoor or similar

Due in May 2019 £45 - Qualifying Expedition – Brecon Beacons (Black Mountains)

Other Costs (variable) not included:

Activities will generally cost money, but costs vary, depending on what is chosen. Physical activities are chosen from anything which involves exercise. This can involve a cost e.g. Judo club, football club fees, sailing club fees or no cost e.g. school badminton club, trampolining etc. For the Skills section, students choose a non-physical activity e.g. chess, horticulture, music etc. Extra-curricular activities at the college are free and this gives a low cost way of completing the award. **You and your child will be responsible for organising their activities. We can only take responsibility for activities organised by the school.**

Conservation – We organise conservation work with Somerset Wildlife Trust in the winter months as a possible way of completing **volunteering**. We complete one full day of work per month at the weekend. Each day counts as a whole month of activity. The cost for this is £3 per day and there will be 5 days organised. Many other volunteering options are available.

Time Requirements

	Minimum age	Volunteering	Skill	Physical	If you did not do the Bronze Level
Bronze	Year 9	6 months	One for 3 months One for 6 months		An extra 6 months in one of the 6 month activities

Summary of what you need to do:

- Students should get the bronze section completed on eDofE. Assessor reports which confirm the activity and length of time completed are required for me to approve each section.
- Students should check their eDofE accounts and check messages. Each section should be shown as complete.
- Hand the completed registration form in to Student Services by the end of November 2019.

S. Marsh

Steve Marsh
D of E Co-Ordinator

Equipment List

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme requires you to be fully equipped for all expeditions. You must have a full set of essential kit. Failure to bring anything may disallow you from taking part – so use this list to make sure you don't forget anything.

Essential Kit - personal

Clothing – 2 complete sets of clothes – **including what you are wearing**. It is essential that you keep one set of clothes dry.
Walking boots (e) (1 pair only)
Good socks (e) (2 pairs)
2 x Trousers (quick dry -not denim)(e)
2 x Shirts (e)
2 X Fleece/jumper (e)(one thin, one thick)
Spare clothes should be kept in
A waterproof bag (dry bag/plastic bag)
Waterproof Jacket (e)
Waterproof trousers (e)
Sun hat (depending on time of year)
Warm hat (e)
Gloves (e)
Survival bag (e)
Whistle (e)
money (small amount) (r)
Sleeping bag (e)
Sleeping mat or alternatives (e)
Waterproof bag for the sleeping bag (e)
Emergency rations (e)
Torch (e)
First aid kit – personal (e)
Rucksack (65litres)(e)*
Water bottle (strong – minimum 1 litre) (e) we would recommend 2litres in hot weather
Food for whole expedition (2000–3000kcal per day per person) (e)
pencil and paper
Personal medication (headache pills etc (r) and regular necessary medication eg inhalers (e) – must be brought if mentioned on medical form
Dry Bags for keeping sleeping bag and dry clothes dry. Bin liners tear too easily – rubble sacks are much better(e)

Essential Group Kit

Tent share (e)*
Stoves, fuel and pans (e)*
compass (e)
matches (e)
spare lace (e)
Wash up kit (scourer) (e)
equipment for aim (e)
toilet paper (small amount) (r)
Watch (e)
sun cream

Desirable

camera
Phone (emergencies only)
Cutlery, mug, plate
Wash kit
Small towel

(e) = essential (r) = recommended *can be borrowed from school

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