



Sherburn High School

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Dear Parents/Carers

Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme – Silver Award

I'm pleased to let you know that we intend to offer the Silver Award over the course of the next 12 months. We're determined that young people shouldn't miss out on doing their DofE because of the coronavirus outbreak and to support this, DofE have introduced some temporary changes which will be in place until 31 July 2021.

If you started your Bronze last year, participants who have completed their Skills, Physical and Volunteering sections – achieving the DofE Certificate of Achievement – will be treated as if they have completed the previous Award level when it comes to the time they need to commit to their sectional activities. This means they'll only have to complete six months of activity, not 12.

Bronze participants who progress to Silver in this way will be able to use their Silver practice expedition as their qualifying expedition at Bronze, enabling them to achieve both their Bronze and Silver Awards.

Students do not need to have completed the Bronze Award to register at Silver. It is possible to start the Silver Award if any section has been started at Bronze level. The Bronze and Silver Awards can then be run together, but a section must be completed at the Bronze level before it can be started at the Silver level.

For students who have not done the Bronze Award, they will begin the Silver Award as a direct entrant, register as new and must complete an additional 6 months of activity on one of the longer sections they choose. So, you can still do Silver – it will just take a bit longer.

The DofE and COVID-19

Your child can still have the full DofE experience, safely and in line with Government guidance, during the COVID-19 outbreak. The motivation and focus the DofE gives, and its positive impact on mental and physical health, can play an important role in helping your child navigate our 'new normal', safely expanding their world and giving them skills and experiences to open doors in the future.

As participants can choose and change their activities, they can pick ones that they can do while social distancing or from home. At the moment, residential trips are not allowed so we will need to wait and see when we can do the expedition section. In the meantime, participants can work to complete the other three sections and receive a certificate of achievement from the DofE.

Signing up

Because of current restrictions, I propose to initially only charge the registration fee of £50. This covers your child's participation place and Welcome Pack, insurance and school's administration fees and is **non-refundable**. This would enable your child to begin the other three sections, complete them, receive the certificate of achievement and be ready to participate in the expeditions when we are allowed to run them. They would then receive their award certificate(s). I'll let you know the proposed costings for the expedition section closer to the time when I know how they will be run.



If your child would like to take part, please complete the slip below, log onto ParentPay and pay the registration fee of £50. Please also complete the attached DofE enrolment form and medical forms and return them directly by email to me at dofe@tgs.starmat.uk **by Friday 18 December 2020**. If you have any questions I can be contacted by email or my mobile on: 07906 478272. For further information on the award please visit www.dofe.org.

Many thanks for your support and we look forward to helping your child to achieve through their DofE.

Yours sincerely
Mr D Sanderson
DofE Coordinator