



September 2017

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Dear Parents/Carers

Re: Duke of Edinburgh's Award – Registering your interest. Deadline 13th October.

We are launching our D of E program for 2017/2018 this week. We now work with 2 different External Activity providers (Inspired Expeditions and Expedition Wales) to offer Bronze, Silver and Gold awards here at Edgbarrow. Pupils in Year 9 (Bronze), and Year 10 (Silver) will have assemblies this week with information on what is involved. There has been a great deal of change over the last few years so please read on if you are interested, even if you have had other children undertaking the award at Edgbarrow.

We would like to welcome you to a parents' information evening on Monday 25th September from 6:30pm until 7:15pm in the School hall. We would encourage you **not** to bring your son/daughter as they will have already seen this information during their assemblies and it could get very busy! If you are unable to make it then please don't worry - all the information we will be sharing is on the www.dofe.org website. There is a useful subset of information on the school website under students/Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

Overview of award

In order to complete the award, participants must complete three separate sections outside of normal school hours for a certain length of time (see table below), ensuring they show a regular commitment of 1 hour a week to each activity. These are physical (sport), skill/hobby and volunteering work. Gold participants must also complete a residential placement of 5 days. Additionally, all participants must also complete a multi-day expedition where they journey along a pre-planned route and remain self-sufficient throughout. Please note the direct entrants (who have not completed the previous award) need to do additional time in their longest sections.

	Bronze	Silver	Gold
Skill	3 months	1 section for 3 months	1 section for 6 months
Physical	3 months	1 section for 6 months	1 section for 12 months
Volunteering	3 months	6 months	12 months
Expedition	2 Days / 1 night	3 Days / 2 nights	4 Days / 3 nights
Residential	Not Required	Not Required	5 days / 4 nights
Direct entrants	N/A	6 months extra	6 months extra

Although we will be encouraging and advising participants on the other sections our main focus within school is preparing them for their expedition. All other sections are organised and

completed by the students themselves. More information is available on the www.dofe.org website. There is a brief overview and key documents available on the school DofE page – listed under the “students” button on the main page.

Expedition Section Options

We will be offering the following choices for D of E this year. Please note that the Canoeing expedition needs a minimum of ten participants to make it viable. The mountain biking expeditions will have an upper limit due to availability of kit. In both instances please indicate on the form, or email us, if you are happy to be automatically added to the walking expedition if the trip isn't viable or your son/daughter has been unsuccessful in the ballot.

Bronze D of E Walking– Year 9 only

Max Cost £275. Deposit £130

Venues – Crowthorne (Training), New Forest and Bucklebury

Dates: 28/29 April (Training), 19-20 May, 30th June -1 July

Optional Extras – Personal Kit hire (sleeping bag, roll mat and rucksack) - £10 for whole season

Includes all transport

Silver D of E Walking or Mountain Biking – Year 10 or 12

Max Cost £430 (+£60 for Mountain bike trailer hire and transport). Deposit £180

Venues – Crowthorne (Training), Brecon Beacons and Central Wales

Dates: 24-25 March (Training), 3-6 May, 5-8 July,

Optional Extras

Personal Kit hire (sleeping bag, roll mat and rucksack) - £10 for whole season

Mountain bike hire is not included or arranged

Includes all transport

Silver D of E – Canoeing – Year 10 only

Max Cost £560. Deposit £210

Venues – Marlow/ River Thames (Training & Practice) and Norfolk Broads

Dates: 3-6 May (Training and Practice), 12-15 July Assessment,

Optional Extras – Personal Kit (sleeping bag, roll mat) - £10 for whole season

Includes all transport and dry bag for kit

Gold D of E Walking or Mountain Biking– Year 12 only

Max Cost £545 (+£60 for Mountain bike trailer hire and transport). Deposit £190

Venues – Crowthorne (Training), Brecon Beacons and Central Wales

Dates: 24-25 March (Training), 2-6 May, 4-8 July,

Optional Extras - Personal Kit (sleeping bag, roll mat and rucksack) - £10 for whole season

Mountain bike hire is not included or arranged

Includes all transport

Time commitment

Participants will be expected to attend occasional but compulsory sessions about once every half term as part of their expedition training and for us to track their progress with the other sections. These will usually be finished by 5pm. Please be aware that the training weekend and all expeditions require compulsory attendance.

Cost and Payment

The guideline cost given in the various packages includes enrolment, logbooks, training, group equipment and expert supervision in preparation for and during expeditions. It also includes

transport unless otherwise stated. Costs assume minimum numbers for Silver and Gold and therefore a worst case scenario. As we get more participants these costs will fall. Last year the costs were around £20 less once we had all applications in.

The deposit will be due by [Friday 13th October](#). The remaining balance will be due by [9th March](#), before the expedition season gets underway. Please do not pay the deposit until you have received confirmation that you have got a place on the award (see below).

Alternative to doing the award through school

There are opportunities to do D of E outside of school through the subsidised youth service of Bracknell Forest Council. There is a nominal cost for training and then charges for kit hire and transport so it is a more cost effective if less convenient alternative. The deadline for enrolment at local centres is imminent. Participants would need to attend one of the following sessions to secure a place:

At NRG, Coopers Hill Youth Centre, Bracknell RG12 7QS
At The Spot, Owlsmoor Road, Sandhurst GU47 0SD

Application Process

Firstly you need to notify us of your interest by filling in this online form ([click this link](#)). If you cannot access it then please email smi@edgbarrowschool.co.uk and state which package you are interested in and whether you will require personal kit hire (sleeping bag, roll mat and rucksack). This is so that we can calculate accurate costs and do a ballot if we are oversubscribed. Please only register your interest if you are serious about doing the award as it may prevent others from having a chance if you pull out. Please also double check dates! The deadline for this is [Friday 29th September](#). All applicants will be notified regarding whether they have been successful or not on [2nd October](#) via email. Successful applicants will also receive relevant application forms. The deposit payment, along with the enrolment form and consent form, will then be required by [13th October](#) to secure your place. Successful applicants and their parents will be invited to a launch and information evening on the following dates:

Bronze award and Silver Canoeing – [16th October](#) 6:30pm – 7:15pm – Sixth Form centre
Silver and Gold, Walking and Mountain Biking – [6th November](#) 6:30 – 7:15pm – Sixth Form centre

This will allow us to fully brief you on the schedule and details of how you can best support your child. Please note that sections can be backdated to the start of September so students can start collecting evidence and doing their sections even before they have been officially enrolled.

I hope this letter has furnished you with sufficient information for now and look forward to seeing some of you at the information evening next Monday at 6:30pm to provide more detail on the award.

Kind Regards



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