November 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

**Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award – 2026/27**

I am delighted to announce the launch of the Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

To achieve the award students must complete a personal program of activities in four sections; volunteering, physical, skills and an expedition. The award is designed to enable young people to help others in the community, get fitter, develop skills and go on an expedition. It can be done as a continuation from the completed Bronze award, or it can be done even if you haven't participated in the Bronze award. The award is internationally recognised and is looked at favourably by employers, colleges, and universities.

Similarly to Bronze, as a school we deliver the expedition section of the award and support students with the other sections however it will be the student's responsibility to organise and complete three sections on their own.

**Next steps**

I have attached the relevant information to this letter via a PowerPoint and a Key Information Word document. If you cannot access the PowerPoint, please let school know and we will issue your son/daughter a hard copy of all the key information.

Due to the Silver award being a step up from Bronze and due to transport limitations, we are only able to accept 14 students. If we have more than 14 apply, students will be selected based on their performance and progress with their Bronze award and within school.

The cost is £200 per person (If your child receives Free School Meals then the cost will be £100.) This is payable in 4 instalments and £50 of this will be the deposit to secure your child's place. The fee will cover logbooks, maps, expedition training and final expedition, training, instruction, equipment, and insurance. Please be aware that some equipment and all food and campsite fees, will also need to be paid for by the participants.

All sessions are compulsory as they form an essential part of the expedition training and our health and safety risk assessments. I have listed several dates on the PowerPoint and key information letter. Please be aware, some of these dates may have to be altered nearer the time due to unforeseen circumstances.

There is a substantial time commitment to the award therefore, if unsure, we advise that you consider your son/daughter's priorities and seek guidance from Form Tutors. There is also an

expectation for you to support your son/daughter during the award and communicate with school as and when required.

As a school we have run DofE successfully for many years now. It is an award which encourages independence, resilience and team work. We welcome all applications for this award as it is such a valuable course to complete. If your son/daughter would like to take part in the scheme and you would like more information, please do not hesitate to contact me at school. For additional information please visit http://dofe.org/.

If your son/daughter would like to participate in this exciting programme, please click here to fill in the enrolment and consent form.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Couldwell
DofE Manager