

BJD/SilverIntro/LH
October 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

Your son/daughter has expressed an interest in taking part in the Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award. This letter is to inform you of what will be required of him/her over the coming months.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award is an opportunity to access a challenging programme of self-development and fulfilment. Students have the opportunity to gain recognition, along with an award for achievement in four different sections:

- Service;
- skills;
- physical recreation and
- expeditions.

The first three sections have to be completed out of school hours, not necessarily all at the same time: two sections must be completed over 6 months and one for 3 months – the service must be for at least 6 months. All participants are given the guidance needed to choose suitable activities for each section and are often given credit for things they already do. They can develop an existing skill or try something new. Participation in the award is not competitive but is based on individual improvement and achievement. Students are encouraged to set their own goals; if they aim for these and achieve them, they will achieve the Award. Previous participants undertook services at Crosshall Kids Club, Sue Ryder Care, coached young rowers and helped at Ford House residential home; skills learned included, playing the trumpet and looking after horses. Rugby and Horse-riding were both included in the Physical Recreation section.

Students will also be required to undertake a three-day expedition. Training will be during lunch sessions with Mr Dickerson and students will be notified of when these will happen. Participants are required to attend **all** training and a practice expedition in order to participate with their group in the final expedition in July. If more than two meetings are missed, without a valid reason, we will not include students on expeditions. Training includes learning about first aid, camp-craft, clothing and equipment, map-reading and route planning.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award is a voluntary charity and a vast majority of the people involved give up their free time. However, students will be required to undertake a, practice and final expedition and, in order to cover costs of photocopying, transport and fuel on trips, and the use of equipment and maps, there will be additional costs for these activities.

The estimated cost of the expeditions this year will be £110, payable at a later date, and is in addition to the enrolment fee of £28. Please note:

- The practice expedition in the White Peak area of the Peak District (20 – 22 April);
- the final expedition to The Dark Peak area of the Peak District (7 – 9 July).

Students will also be required to attend all activities with the appropriate kit. We have included a list of the main items: (Please note that tents, stoves (including cooking pots) and fuel, and maps will be provided by the school.)

- Large rucksack (approximately 55-65litre capacity);
- sleeping mat and sleeping bag;
- water bottle (to hold 1 to 2 litres);
- knife, fork, spoon, plate/bowl and mug;
- walking boots;
- walking trousers and fleece or equivalent;
- walking socks;
- waterproof over-trousers;
- cagoule/coat (it must be waterproof and windproof).

Whilst the Award is an extremely fulfilling experience, we do understand that for some the burden of paying for kit and activities can become too much. If this is a problem please let us know, as the Longsands Duke of Edinburgh Award is available to everybody no matter what their circumstances.

If you agree to your son/daughter being considered for a place on the Award, please complete and sign the attached slip **before half term (Friday, 20 October)**. Further information is available at the award website www.dofe.org but please do not hesitate to contact one of us if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely



Mr B Dickerson
Award Leader

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Return to: Mr Dickerson

Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme

I agree to my son/daughter participating in the Silver Award.

Student name: **Form:**

Signed (parent/carer)..... Date

Print name