



Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award



2024 Information Pack

Dear Walderslade and Greenacre Parent

Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award Programme

We are delighted to offer Year 10, 11 and 6th form students who have completed the Bronze award the opportunity to enrol on the largest youth award programme in the world.

The cost for the award is £80 each. Additional costs will be personal clothing and food for each of the expedition days.

The above cost includes the enrolment fee, group kit such as tents, rucksacs, stoves, maps and compasses and all training, practice and qualifying expeditions.

There is also the option to pay in 4 installments:

£25 payable by Mon 27th November 2023

£13.75 payable by Mon 27th January 2024

£13.75 payable by Mon 26th February 2024

£13.75 payable by Mon 25th March 2024

£13.75 payable by Mon 22nd April 2024

In cases of hardship sometimes Medway Dof E can also fund some places up to £24. Please contact Mrs Chapman if this is the case.

Students will not be excluded on the basis of financial hardship from this award and there are usually ways of borrowing equipment or reducing the cost substantially for some students.

The Award

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme awards young people for their commitment in volunteering their time to help others in the community; to learn or develop a life skill and keeping fit by engaging in a physical activity. The award is completed by successfully undertaking an assessed two-day camping expedition. This expedition is preceded by relevant training and a two-day practice camping expedition.

The Award in brief – Silver: Year 10/11.

Volunteering	Physical	Skills	Expedition
1 hour/ week For 6 months*	1 hour/ week For 3 months*	1 hour/ week For 3 months*	Plan, train for and complete a 3 day & 2 night Practice and Qualifying Expedition
*All participants must undertake a further 3 months in the physical or skills section. If participants have not achieved the Bronze, it is a further 6 months in volunteering or longer in the physical or skills sections			

Understanding the Time Requirement

It is important to understand the time requirement for the section activities. Three or six months must be undertaken at a minimum of 1 hour per week. If attendance for a week, or more, is missed due to holiday or because the activity is seasonal, then additional weeks must be added. Six months would therefore be 26 attendances of at least 1 hour a week over at least a six-month period.

We encourage participants to complete all three sectional activities by December 2023. Attending the qualifying expedition in July 2023 is conditional on having completed two sectional activities.

Your child's involvement with the three activities (volunteering, skill and physical) can start once we have received their enrolment form.

Training and Support

Training and support towards achieving the Award takes place on a few occasions after school on Fridays. There is a **compulsory training day on Saturday 1st April** and occasional drop-in sessions in school for support or help in logging on. It is not every week like the Bronze until students are preparing for the expeditions.

If your daughter/son has not achieved Bronze then they will be required to attend some expedition training sessions after school on Wednesdays. Participants will be required to attend each of the training sessions in order to proceed to the expedition section of the award. We will also monitor participant progress through the various sections using the Duke of Edinburgh Award online management system, eDofE.

After enrolment your child will receive a Silver Participant Handbook, this contains a lot of additional information and helpful cards for sectional assessors to guide them with their assessing duties. Once an activity section is complete, either 3 or 6 months the participant will need to arrange for the assessor to complete the report card with details of the activity undertaken, this will need to be scanned and uploaded onto their personal eDofE account. Alternatively, an assessor can load a report online through the DofE website, this report will come to me for verifying. All an assessor needs to do this is your eDofE ID number (issued at enrolment).

eDofE account activation will start as soon as enrolments are underway and support will be given at a meeting on Wednesday after school date tbc.

Parental support

I am sure you will wish to support your child with their on-going commitments. The sectional activities are participant led and a comprehensive list of valid activities is on the school website, I suggest you also look at www.dofe.org for additional information about the award. We will be looking at activity examples during online training.

There are usually many clubs taking place around the school which satisfy the requirements of the activity sections, in fact it is usually possible to complete all sections of the award within school. A poster of school clubs and which section of the award they can be used for is on display on our noticeboard in the main corridor and in the sports hall classroom.

Participants will need your support with transport, vetting organisations or clubs, and general 'keep going' chats as they undertake their commitment over a long period of time.

Progression of the Silver Award Programme at Walderslade

Nov 2023		Feb - June	July	Sept	Awards Evening
Enrolment Start	Activity reviews hand out award handbooks	Expedition planning in school & practical training complete the 3m activity	Practice Expedition	Assessed Expedition Complete 6m activities.	Silver Awards Issued March

2023 Provisional Calendar of compulsory events/expeditions

These are provisional dates as we are awaiting campsite confirmation

Saturday 1st April

Training Day

Thursday 27th June – Saturday 29th June

Practice expedition - Weald

Thursday 19th – Saturday 21st September

Assessed expedition - Ashdown

Enrolment Deadline – MONDAY 27th November 2023

We encourage students to enroll as soon as possible, then sectional activities can start immediately.

How to Enroll

To enroll on the Silver Award please remove and complete the back page of this pack. This is the enrolment form and permission form. A further contact details will be sent at a later date prior to the expeditions

Log into ParentPay and select Silver 2024 to make the payment as directed.

Should you wish to discuss any aspect of the D of E Award further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

J A Chapman

Mrs J Chapman

Duke of Edinburgh's Award Manager

Head of Faculty: Sport and Food

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Walderslade Girls' School

Bradfields Avenue

Chatham

Kent ME5 0LE

Expedition Kit List

Maps, compasses, rucksacks, tents, stoves, fuel, hi visibility jackets/rucksac covers are supplied by the school. Some other personal equipment may be available to borrow. A small charge is included in the fee for the loan of some equipment and a small refund made for when the items are returned. We also have 4 sleeping bags and some waterproof outerwear if needed.

Personal kit is checked by supervisors and assessors before every expedition, this is to make sure that all essential kit is being carried and non-essential kit is left behind.

Ideally on expedition you should have 3 sets of clothing, two sets to walk in and one set to wear in camp and sleep in, this second set must be kept dry. Waterproof stuff sacks or black bin bags are ideal for this.

Personal clothing

- Strong soled walking boots or strong comfortable trainers
- Thick walking socks. One pair per day. (School/sport socks are not suitable and do not cushion the foot)
- 2 pairs walking trousers/tracksuit bottoms/leggings – **no jeans**
- 2 shirts/T Shirts
- Warm jumper
- Fleece – cotton hoodies are too heavy, particularly when wet and are difficult to dry
- Underwear
- Waterproof jacket, with hood – essential that it is waterproof
- Waterproof over-trousers
- Clothes to sleep in (kept dry).

Personal kit –

- Rucksack **
- 3 season sleeping bag + liner
- Sleeping mat**
- Personal first aid items
- Watch
- Notebook and pen or pencil
- Torch, head torch is a good option and spare batteries
- Emergency rations in a sealed bag
- Packed lunches x 2
- Snacks and sweets, cereal bars etc.
- 1 litre Water bottle
- Knife, fork, spoon; plate, mug and bowl (unbreakable)
- Toiletry bag (Tooth paste, tooth brush, small hand towel/flannel, wet wipes)
- Woolly hat & gloves
- Sun hat / cream / sun glasses
- Shorts if appropriate

Group kit (to be divided amongst the group)

- Tent, cooking stove and fuel**
- Small bottle of washing up liquid & scourer sponge
- Tea towel
- OS Map, compass & map case, high vis Jacket, permanent pens**
- Plastic bags for rubbish
- Team food-main meals only
- Gas lighter or matches (in a small container to keep them dry).

**Available to borrow from school

Mobile Phones

The use of mobile phones for social calling and texting is not allowed during the expedition including at the campsite. This is to encourage the sense of independence within the team. Phones must be switched off, placed in a water proof bag and kept in rucksacks with first aid kits and only used in an emergency or an important need to contact their supervisor.

On assessed expeditions venture projects requiring photography should be completed with a small digital camera rather than a phone camera. This will avoid the temptation to (just checking) use the phone.

There is a large selection of specialist kit available, if you have any questions about expedition equipment then please do not hesitate to speak to me, the most important single item will be your walking boots.

Buy your boots in plenty of time and go for some walks, although modern boots do not need 'breaking in' you should wear them in to reduce and even to avoid painful blisters. Wear boots with two pairs of good quality walking socks to reduce the likelihood of blisters.

Once you have your e dofe log in you will receive a discount card for use in Blacks, Milletts and Go Outdoors.

Further Expedition Information and Tips:**Important Health & Safety**

Participants should not wear head or ear phones whilst on expedition. Music is not allowed on camp so do not bring speakers. Mobile phones should not be used unless in an emergency to contact their supervisor. Glass jars are not allowed and tinned food is discouraged. Decant food from jars and tins into tupperware containers.

No Bare feet

It's very common for participants to kick their shoes off and sometimes walk around bare foot. **TOP TIP:** bring flip flops!

Hot Weather

All participants must bring a hat, small bottle of sun cream and a minimum 1 litre water bottle. The supervisors will have water containers for you to refill from during the day. The campsite has drinking water available in all the fields.

Borrowing School Equipment

Rucksacks, roll mats, tents and triangias are available the Wednesday prior to your expedition weekend. Remember to not over-pack..

Loaned equipment must be treated with due responsibility and damage through misuse or carelessness will be charged, as will non-return



Walderslade DofE Centre *Directly Licensed Centre*

Surname: _____ Forename(s): _____

Date of Birth: _____ Year & Tutor Group _____

Address: _____

Student sfl email: _____

Telephone numbers _____

Special Medical Requirements:

Doctor's Name & Telephone Number:

Any other information regarding your child which may be of use:

Provisional Silver Expedition Practice/Training and Assessed Expedition

Tbc April	Training Day	Local Medway Site
Thurs 27 th June – Sat 29 th June	Practice/Training Expedition	High Weald Area
Thurs 19 th – Sat 21 st September	Assessed Expedition	Ashdown Forest Area

I understand the nature of the activities involved and students will be remotely supervised by a DofE Supervisor and I give permission for my son/ daughter to attend these dates:

I give my permission to the Supervisor in charge of the group to authorise, on my behalf, the administration of an anaesthetic or for any other urgent medical treatment to be given, should the necessity arise.

Award Enrolment

I would like my daughter/son to be enrolled on the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme and have paid £80.00 or the deposit of £25 and understand the following 4 further installments

Signed: (Parent) Date:

Name:

Please return to the PE office at Walderslade Girls' School or Greenacre School Office