THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

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Principal ~ Mr Andy Smith

Dear parent or carer,

I'm delighted to let you know that we are about to launch the Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE).

Please find attached information about the Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award. If you are happy for your son or daughter to participate in the Duke of Edinburgh Award, then please complete the consent form on the back page. We will use this information to create your child's DofE account and enrol them onto the Award. There is no cost to the Award and it is open to everyone.

What award can they do?

Silver Award

About the DofE

The DofE is non-competitive and open to all young people – it's about setting personal challenges and pushing personal boundaries. Students will make friends and memories and build traits like confidence, resilience and self-esteem, which can benefit mental health. They'll gain skills and attributes for work and life, like problem-solving, team-working and self-motivation – and they'll achieve an Award that's recognised by top employers and can help them stand out when applying for university, college, or jobs.

What do they have to do for Silver?

Complete four sections:

- Physical challenge (one hour per week for 6 months)
- Learn or develop a skill (one hour per week for 3 months)
- Volunteer (one hour per week for 6/12months)
- Complete a three day expedition (3 days/2 night)

Every young person's DofE programme is personal to them – they can choose what they'd like to do for their Skills, Volunteering and Physical sections, and most activities can count. We will provide guidance and support, and students can either choose to continue an activity they already do or discover something completely new.

Activities for each section take a minimum of one hour a week over a set period of time, so they can fit around studying, hobbies and social lives.

Sections FAQs

How will you know my child has definitely done each section?

They will need an Assessor for each section, someone who is willing to sign their log book to say that they have completed their activity for that week. If they are doing their activity from home, this can be a teacher and they will need to have some proof, such as a photo, that they did it.

Can they change their minds?

They are encouraged to show that they can persevere with their chosen activity but it is okay to do more than one activity per section. For example, if a club is no longer running they could change. They cannot drop out of their DofE once they have enrolled.

Can they do their sections from home?

Yes, they would need to provide evidence such as a photo or explain what they did. As long as their Assessor is sure they did it, then their log book can be signed.

Can they do their sections as part of another activity or group they are in?

Yes, if they attend a club for example Citizenship, Dance, Acting, Arts Award, they can use this towards their DofE as well. This can be an in-school club or at the weekend with another provider.

What costs are involved?

School will pay for the award which is approximately £270 per scholar excluding transport costs. School will provide rucksack and sleeping bag for the expedition however, all other kit must be provided by scholars. (please see kit list on last page)

The expedition

If they have completed over 100% of their first three sections, they will be allowed to undertake the expedition section in the summer term.

The expedition will take place in a rural location in the countryside and involves three days of walking and two overnight stay on a camp site in which they have to erect their own tent and cook their evening meal.

In the weeks leading up to the expedition, and as part of a small team, your child will plan their route and undertake training that will support them such as First Aid, Navigation, Camp craft, and Teamwork.

Ahead of this, they will take part in 1 day of expedition training to help them develop confidence, skills, and understanding ready for the final expedition.

Expedition FAQs

What happens if my child gets lost or there's an emergency?

All groups receive detailed training on how to navigate and what to do if they do get lost in order to minimise this possibility so we very much hope that this doesn't happen. However, one of the '20 conditions' that participants must meet when doing the expedition is that they must stay in their group and never split or go off alone. So if your

child is lost then they should be lost with the rest of their group. All groups will be allowed to carry a mobile phone which can be used in an emergency, such as getting lost and not being able to navigate their way to the right path. Our safety protocol for the expedition also means that there is a window of time in which we know the group should arrive at their checkpoint. If they do not arrive within this window, we will begin tracking them down by following the pre-considered possible error points on the map (we mitigate for this during the planning phase of the expedition). In extreme circumstances such as darkness falling or extreme weather, we would initiate our emergency plan which would be to contact the emergency services including the Mountain Rescue Team. We would have no hesitation in doing this in order to keep your child safe.

What level of supervision will there be?

Staff will be present at the beginning of the hike, at checkpoints, and at the campsite. As groups navigate around the location, staff will travel in cars towards the pre-arranged checkpoints and use binoculars to oversee the groups when possible. It's important to realise that there ***will*** *be times when we will not be able to see or supervise your child. At the campsite, the scholars will be in one part of the campsite, and the staff in another so there is a sense of separation although staff will be in view to oversee the scholars, usually around 50-100m away.*

Who will my child sleep with in their tent?

They will sleep with one other person of the same gender or on their own if they are the only person of their gender in their group.

Can they do the expedition without camping overnight?

No. They can complete their sections to receive the Certificate of Achievement but they cannot return home between the two days' hiking.

Where will they be going?

We haven't yet decided but it will include rural or countryside terrain which may include, woodland, moorland, country roads, and rocky areas. It is likely to be within a 40 minute drive of Nottingham.

What happens if they are sick or injured?

Each group will carry a First Aid kit for small injuries and staff will carry a more substantial one. If they are unable to continue their expedition then they will be able to use their group's phone to contact us and we will immediately locate them and ensure they are brought back to the campsite where further arrangements will be made for them to return home. We will notify you of any injuries or sickness at the earliest and most appropriate opportunity.

Logging evidence

Once your child has enrolled, they will receive a DofE pack that will have all their DofE details on. They will then be able to log in to the eDofE website where they must state what they will do for each section. Once they have done this, they will be able to log their progress towards each section. There is also a DofE app which they can also use.

If your child decides to enrol, we will set up their eDofE account and they will receive details of how to sign in and get started.

DofE costs

Djanogly City Academy currently receive funding to support our DofE programme so, for this year, **there will be no cost for the award however, some equipment will need to be provided by parents/carers**. The Academy also has a varied and inclusive enrichment programme of after school activities enabling your child to undertake activities for their other three sections at no additional cost. If you are happy to pay for them to participate in activities outside of school then these can, of course, be used as part of the DofE evidence.

Selection process

We have 28 spaces available for the Silver award and it is selected via an application process. It will also take into consideration your child's attendance, proactive study and progress exam results.

If your child would like to join, please complete and return the enclosed enrolment form by **Friday 14th November.** The information on the form will be shared with the Duke of Edinburgh school team which includes myself and the sixth form team. We suggest you allow your child to use an email that they have regular access to whether that be yours or theirs.

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

Any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me via my email m.bools@djanogly.notts.sch.uk.

Kind regards,

Ms Bools

DofE Manager

Kit list required for expedition section

Item needed	School can provide
1 pair of walking boots with ankle support	
4 pairs of walking sock/thick socks	
3-5 t-shirts	
2 fleece tops or similar	
4-5 walking trousers (joggers, leggings etc. not jeans)	
Underwear	
Nightwear	
Trainers for camp site	
Warm hat	
Pair of gloves	
Waterproof over trousers	X
Jacket/coat	
Rucksack (65-70L)	X
Rucksack Liner	X
Sleeping Bag	X
Sleeping mat	
Waterproof bag	
Whistle	
Torch	
Personal first aid kit	X
Expedition food	
Water bottle (2x1L)	
Knife, Fork, Spoon (Plastic)	
Plate/Bowl (Plastic)	
Mug/Flask (Plastic)	
Box of matches (in waterproof container)	X
Wash kit/personal hygiene items	
Towel	
Small quantity of money (optional)	
Notebook/Pen	
Gas Canister self-sealing C100/C250	X