

February 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

## Bronze/Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award Opportunities

I am writing to you to offer your child the exciting opportunity to complete their Duke Of Edinburgh Award this year at Holbrook.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award is a recognised mark of achievement; respected by employers.

There are [four sections](#) to complete at Bronze and Silver level. They involve helping the community/environment, becoming fitter, developing new skills, planning, training for and completing an expedition.

Through a DofE programme young people have fun, make friends, improve their self-esteem and build confidence. They gain essential skills and attributes for work and life such as resilience, problem-solving, team-working, communication and drive, enhancing CVs and university and job applications.

Applicants for the Bronze Award undertake 3 months each of volunteering, physical and skilled activity, for one hour a week. They then choose to continue one of these activities for a further three months.

Applicants for the Silver Award should either have already completed Bronze, or should be able to demonstrate their competence in navigation and walking through similar programmes eg a scouting organisation. We will only be enrolling students in Year 10 at this level. Silver applicants undertake similar activities to Bronze, but over six/nine months instead.

The final part of the Bronze award is a two day expedition with an overnight camp. They complete this twice - once as a practice and training exercise, then again in a different area with remote supervision. This trip is a compulsory assessment of your child's competency in navigation and hiking and the final of the four strands that comprises the Duke of Edinburgh award.

The Silver Award expedition is three days instead, tackling more challenging navigation and with reduced supervision.

Expedition dates:

From	To	Award	Type
10/4/2024 (WED)	13/4/2024 (SAT)	<b>Silver</b>	Training / Practice
27/04/2024	28/04/2024	<b>Bronze</b>	Training + NAV Day
04/05/2024	05/05/2024	<b>Bronze</b>	Qualifier
05/07/2024 (FRI)	07/07/2024	<b>Silver</b>	Qualifier

All our expeditions are organised through East Coast Outdoors, a company that comprises colleagues known to the school's DofE team for as long as we have been running the award. East Coast are meticulously organised, provide exceptional instruction, and support the expedition with kit, logistics and tracking. You can find out more about their work here: [East Coast Outdoors CIC](#)

The school has a limited number of free enrolments for both Silver and Bronze. These will be allocated on a first come, first served basis, but are unlikely to run out unless there is exceptional interest. The usual cost for enrolment is £24.

The cost of the expeditions this year is £146 for the two Bronze weekends, and £280 for the Silver weekends. Students will need some outdoor kit, some of which the school can loan for free. Other items can be loaned from East Coast for a nominal fee.

To enrol your child in DofE this year, please complete the attached form and return this to me by **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February**. Payment for the expeditions can then be made through School Gateway using the appropriate 'DofE' icon. For convenience, payment can be made by instalments – for the Bronze award, two instalments of £73; and for the Silver award, two instalments of £140. All payments must be received by 15<sup>th</sup> April 2024 for the Bronze award and 25<sup>th</sup> March 2024 for the Silver award.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me – [kerrick.newstead@holbrookacademy.org](mailto:kerrick.newstead@holbrookacademy.org)

Yours sincerely,



Kerrick Newstead  
Assistant Headteacher

