



September 2016

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Headteacher

Robert Elsey

Dear Parents/Carers

Re: Year 9, Year 10 and Year 12 Duke of Edinburgh's Award

We are launching our D of E program for 2016/2017 this week. We now work with 2 different External Activity providers (Inspired Expeditions and Expedition Wales) to offer Bronze, Silver and Gold awards here at Edgbarrow. Pupils in Year 9 (Bronze), Year 10 (Silver) and Year 12 (Gold) will have assemblies this week with information on what is involved. There has been a great deal of change over the last few years so please read on if you are interested, even if you have had other children undertaking the award at Edgbarrow.

We would like to welcome you to a parents' information evening on Thursday 22nd September from 6:30pm until 7:15pm in the Sixth Form centre. We would encourage you **not** to bring your son/daughter as they will have already seen this information during their assemblies and it could get very busy!

Overview of award

In order to complete the award, participants must complete three separate sections outside of normal school hours for a certain length of time (see table below), ensuring they show a regular commitment of 1 hour a week to each activity. These are physical (sport), skill/hobby and volunteering work. Gold participants must also complete a residential placement of 5 days. Additionally, all participants must also complete a multi-day expedition where they journey along a pre-planned route and remain self-sufficient throughout.

	Bronze	Silver	Gold
Skill	3 months	1 section for 3 months	1 section for 6 months
Physical	3 months	1 section for 6 months	1 section for 12 months
Volunteering	3 months	1 section for 12 Months	1 section for 18 Months
Expedition	2 Days / 1 night	3 Days / 2 nights	4 Days / 3 nights
Residential	Not Required	Not Required	5 days / 4 nights

Although we will be encouraging and advising participants on the other sections our main focus within school is preparing them for their expedition. All other sections are organised and completed by the students themselves. More information is available on the www.dofe.org website. There is a brief overview and key documents available on the school DofE page – listed under the “students” button on the main page.

Expedition Section Options

We will be offering the following choices for D of E this year. Please note that the kayaking expeditions need a minimum of six participants to make them viable. The mountain biking expeditions will have an upper limit due to availability of kit. In both instances please indicate on the form at the end of this letter if you are happy to be automatically added to the walking expedition if the trip isn't viable or your son/daughter has been unsuccessful in the ballot.

Bronze D of E Walking– Year 9 only

Max Cost £275

Venues – Crowthorne (Training), New Forest and Bucklebury

Dates: 6-7 May (Training), 17-18 June, 1-2 July

Optional Extras – Personal Kit (sleeping bag, roll mat and rucksack) - £10

Includes all transport

Silver D of E Walking or Mountain Biking – Year 10 or 12

Max Cost £445

Venues – Crowthorne (Training), Brecon Beacons and Black Mountains

Dates: 25-26 March (Training), 27-30 April, 6-9 July,

Optional Extras

Personal Kit (sleeping bag, roll mat and rucksack) - £10

Mountain Biking Option (includes trailer hire) - £60. Mountain bike hire is not arranged

Includes all transport

Silver D of E – Kayaking – Year 10 only

Max Cost £570

Venues – Marlow (Training), River Thames and Norfolk Broads

Dates: 25-26 March (Training), 9-11 June, 6-9 July,

Optional Extras – Personal Kit (sleeping bag, roll mat) - £10

Includes Transport to Norfolk Broads but not Marlow and River Thames

Gold D of E Walking or Mountain Biking– Year 12 only

Max Cost £555

Venues – Crowthorne (Training), Brecon Beacons and Black Mountains

Dates: 25-26 March (Training), 26-30 April, 5-9 July,

Optional Extras

Personal Kit (sleeping bag, roll mat and rucksack) - £10

Mountain Biking Option – Trailer hire £60. Mountain bike hire is not arranged

Includes all transport

Gold D of E International Kayaking – Year 12 only

Max Cost £1795

Venues – Marlow (Training), Scotland and Norway

Dates: 1-2 July (Training 1), 8-9 July (Training 2), 24-31 July (Scotland), 24 Aug–1 Sept (Norway)

Includes train transport from Milton Keynes to Scotland.

Does not include transport to training venue, Milton Keynes or flights to Norway (approx. £100).

Time commitment

Participants will be expected to attend occasional but compulsory sessions about once every half term as part of their expedition training and for us to track their progress with the other sections. These will usually be finished by 5pm. Please be aware that the training weekend and all expeditions require compulsory attendance.

Cost and Payment

The guideline cost given in the various packages includes enrolment, logbooks, training, group equipment and expert supervision in preparation for and during expeditions. It also includes transport unless otherwise stated. Costs assume minimum numbers for Silver and Gold and therefore a worst case scenario. As we get more participants these costs will fall.

The deposit will be due by Monday 10th October. The remaining balance will be due by 10th March, before the expedition season gets underway. Please note that there will be a different payment schedule for the international kayaking with the balance due by June 5th. You may choose to pay the balance all in one go. We would ask you to use the online payment system to pay this if possible. If you have already created an online account, please use this as normal. If you have not already created an account, you should have received a letter with your pupil link code and guidance on creating the account. If you need a copy of this, please email: finance@edgbarrowschool.co.uk for a copy. If you do not use online banking, or prefer to pay by cheque, please would you make the cheque payable to Edgbarrow School and write your child's name, the award type (Gold, Silver or Bronze) and 'D of E' on the back.

Alternative to doing the award through school

There are opportunities to do D of E outside of school through the subsidised youth service of Bracknell Forest Council. There is a nominal cost for training and then charges for kit hire and transport so it is a more cost effective if less convenient alternative. The deadline for enrolment at local centres is next week. Participants would need to attend one of the following sessions to secure a place:

Monday 19th September – From 18:30 – At NRG, Coopers Hill Youth Centre, Bracknell RG12 7QS

Wednesday 21st September – From 18:30 – At The Spot, Owlsmoor Road, Sandhurst GU47 0SD

Application Process

The application deadline is Tuesday 27th September. Only the reply slip at the end of this letter ([or this online form](#)) needs to be completed/handed in at this stage. In the event that the programme is oversubscribed, participants will be chosen by ballot. All applicants will be notified regarding whether they have been successful or not on 29th September via email. Successful applicants will also receive relevant application forms. The deposit payment, along with the enrolment form and consent form, will then be required by 10th October to secure your place. Successful applicants and their parents will be invited to a launch and information evening on the following dates:

Bronze award, Silver and Gold Kayaking – 10th October 6:30pm – 7:30pm – Sixth Form centre
Silver and Gold, Walking and Mountain Biking – 11th October 6:30 – 7:30pm – Sixth Form centre

This will allow us to fully brief you on the schedule and details of how you can best support your child. These dates will also mark the formal start date for collecting evidence for the different sections (you can no longer backdate evidence).

I hope this letter has furnished you with sufficient information for now and look forward to seeing some of you at the information evening next Thursday at 6:30pm to provide more detail on the award.

Kind Regards



Mr Laurie-Pile
Edgbarrow Duke of Edinburgh Co-ordinator
Email: DLP@edgbarrowschool.co.uk

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REPLY SLIP – DUKE OF EDINBURGH’S AWARD (alternatively fill out [this online form](#))

Please return to Mr Laurie-Pile by 29th September 2016

Please tick box for chosen award package and then sign and tick general section underneath

Bronze D of E Walking– Year 9 only

Cost £275 (Deposit £130)

Silver D of E Walking– Year 10 or 12

Max Cost £445 (Deposit £180)

Silver D of E Mountain Biking – Year 10 or 12

Max Cost £505 (Deposit £180) [includes trailer hire]

Please tick if you want to be put on the Silver walking expedition if biking is not available

Silver D of E – Kayaking – Year 10 only

Please tick if you want to be put on the Silver walking expedition if kayaking is not available. Please check dates as the practice expedition is on a different weekend.

Max Cost £545 (Deposit £210)

Gold D of E Walking – Year 12 only

Max Cost £555 (Deposit £190)

Gold D of E Mountain Biking – Year 12 only

Max Cost £615 (Deposit £190) [includes trailer hire]

Please tick if you want to be put on the walking expedition if biking is not available

Gold D of E International Kayaking – Year 12 only

Max Cost £1795 (Deposit £300)

Please tick if you would rather undertake this expedition directly with inspired expeditions (no staff or support from school) at a cost of £1600 + D of E Registration (£41).

Please tick if you want to be put on Gold mountain biking if international kayaking is not available

Please tick if you want to be put on Gold walking if international kayaking is not available

General Section – please fill this in and sign

I confirm that my son/daughter _____ (participant's name) would like to undertake the Duke of Edinburgh Award and acknowledge the associated financial commitment with initial deposit due by 10th October if she / he is given a place. The full balance will be due by 10th March. I also confirm that he / she will be able to attend all expedition dates.

Please indicate kit (if any) which you think you might need to borrow/hire. Please note for some packages there is an additional charge of £10 for any personal kit you need. This is a one off charge so borrowing a sleeping bag for one expedition will cost the same as borrowing sleeping bag, mat and rucksack for all 3. See package details in letter above

Sleeping Bag

Roll Mat

Rucksack

Signed (Parent/Carer) Date