



Our Ref: DFX/CDN/KON

October 2025

ALL YEAR 10 & 11 PARENTS/CARERS

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Duke of Edinburgh SILVER Award 2025/2026

This academic year we are offering the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award to pupils in Year 10 & 11. After half-term we will be offering training sessions which will be held across the spring term after school and will run from 3.10pm to 4.10pm (start date TBC). Training sessions will cover the practical skills required for the expedition section of the award, such as map reading/compass work, tent pitching, and basic first aid. Pupils will also receive guidance on the three other sections required for the Silver Award and support with EDofE. If your child took part in Bronze D or E they will not need to take part in all of the sessions.

Benefits

The award is widely recognised by employers and people involved in education. Some of the benefits to young people include developing self-confidence and self-reliance; gaining a sense of achievement and a sense of responsibility; discovering new skills, interests and talents and developing leadership skills and abilities. They can also discover exciting opportunities; make new friends; experience teamwork, problem-solving and decision-making; increase their motivation; enhance their self-esteem and develop their communication skills. They will also, of course, **have fun!**

Programme

The Silver Award has 4 sections. The sections involve:

- 1. Volunteering:** Undertaking service to individuals or the community.
- 2. Physical Activity:** Improving in an area of sport, dance or fitness activities.
- 3. Skills:** Developing practical, social skills or personal interests.

Students will select activities which they can participate in regularly for an hour a week. Pupils will be expected to complete 2 of the sections for 6 months and 1 section for 9 months.

4. Expedition: The purpose of the Expedition is to encourage students to be self-sufficient and competent, to use a map and a compass to follow a route. Students will work in group sizes of between four and seven. They will be required to complete the following expeditions in order to complete the award.

1 Day Training: Dormston School – This will take place on **Saturday 28th February 2026** – this will be a day where pupils will be given expedition specific training to prepare them for their expeditions. Direct to Silver pupils must attend this day.

Attendance is compulsory on this day. If this session is missed pupils will not be allowed to complete the DofE Award with us.

Practise Expedition:

3 days/2-night walking expedition – Cannock Chase – **Friday 20th to Sunday 22nd March 2026.**

Qualifying Expedition:

3 days/2-night walking expedition – Long Mynd – **Friday 24th to Sunday 26th April 2026.**



Further details on expeditions will be given closer to the time. To reduce the costs, stay local for the bronze award. This will require you to drop and pick up your child from the expedition location – not at Dormston School. More information will follow.

Minimum time to complete the award: Bronze = 9 months. For Year 11 pupils this will mean the award may be completed after they have left.

Students must complete all expeditions and sections to achieve the award.

Costs:

- total cost of Bronze Award is £335 (If your child is eligible for pupil premium you may be eligible for a discount – please contact school);
- students need to pay a £35 registration fee as a deposit (this includes the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme administration fee and is therefore non- refundable);
- a further £300 is then payable by instalments for the above expeditions (to include transport, camp fees for all expeditions, kit costs, instructors' fees at Gecko Experience and an assessment fee for the final expedition with an Assessor);

Equipment

Your son/daughter will be briefed on the equipment they will need to purchase and we suggest that they refrain from buying anything until then. Pupils will be required to purchase their own good quality walking boots, waterproofs and a lightweight sleeping bag. As members of the award they are able to get 15% discount from Go Outdoors, Cotswolds Outdoors, and a couple other outdoor shops who also give good advice about the correct equipment to buy. Equipment can also be purchased locally from "Go Outdoors" in Wolverhampton.

Expression of Interest

If your child wishes to be considered to participate, please complete the attached electronic reply slip by **Sunday 2nd November 2025 – no expressions of interest will be accepted after this date.**

<https://forms.office.com/e/P2JjarbWqw>

- **This form is for expression of interest only.**
- **There are limited places for this years' Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award – the award is usually over-subscribed so places will be determined via a lottery draw. Successful applicants will be notified by letter. Payments can then only be made via ParentPay which will be set up once parents/carers have returned the online Reply Slip. You will be notified when this has been done.**
- **Please note we reserve the right to bar students from the Award whose behaviour has been unacceptable to us in school.**

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

D Fox

Mr D Fox

Dormston School

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