

**Duke of Edinburgh**

**Silver Award 2017-2018**

**Information Pack**



November 2017

Dear Families,

I am pleased to be able to inform you that we are able to offer the Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award to students in Years 10, 11 & 12. This is an exciting development for the Duke of Edinburgh programme at Teddington which I hope students are keen to take advantage of. As you will be aware from your child's participation in the Bronze Award this is a challenging programme of activities which help the individual to learn new skills, help others and experience adventure and it will give your child a great sense of achievement. Many organisations such as employers and universities take a positive view of The Award, particularly at this higher level, and what it says about the person who has achieved it. I have enclosed an overview of the Silver Award, which outlines what your son/daughter will be committing themselves to if they choose to join the scheme.

The cost of the full Silver programme is £310. This fee covers all training and expedition costs, including group equipment, as well as the Duke of Edinburgh enrolment fee. We will again be bringing in the support of a specialist expedition provider to enhance the programme and offer the highest possible standard of expedition in the more challenging terrain required for the Silver Award.

If you would like your son/daughter to take part in the Award Scheme then please return to me the completed Duke of Edinburgh enrolment form by **Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December**. A non-refundable deposit of £40 must also be paid at this time to process the enrolment. Please make cheques payable to Teddington School. Once enrolled the final balance of £270 can be paid via parentpay and this must be done before the practice expedition on **5<sup>th</sup> May 2018**. There will be the option to pay this in installments and the school would like to make it clear that the payment deadline should not in any case prevent you from taking this opportunity. We are happy to speak to families about making arrangements to pay if financial difficulties are preventing participation.

Yours Faithfully,



Miss N Harrison  
Duke of Edinburgh Award Leader

## General Overview of the Award

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is a voluntary, non-competitive programme of activities for anyone aged 14-25. It offers an individual challenge and encourages young people to undertake exciting, constructive, challenging and enjoyable activities in their free time.

The Award is a four section programme with three progressive levels: Bronze, Silver and Gold. The Sections are: Volunteering (helping the community); Skills (a hobby, skill or interest); Physical Recreation (sports, dance, fitness); Expeditions (on foot). The sections are explained in more detail below:



This Section is based on the belief that members of a community have a responsibility to each other. Students give up a minimum of one hour a week to help others (without being paid!). This can be at school (e.g. after school clubs) or in the community (e.g. helping at an old persons home).

Young people should identify the voluntary service required to gain some knowledge of the needs of those whom they are assisting and then receive briefing and training in the skills required to give that service. The value of participation in the Service Section comes from training, giving practical service and appreciating the needs of the community.

You are required to carry out **6 months** of volunteering for the Silver Award. Sectional activities need to average an hour a week, with the first and last activities being the full section duration apart. For longer sections at Silver and Gold it can help for the activity to be longer (in terms of hours per session) but less often. This can be particularly good for the Volunteering section to allow participants to take on more interesting, challenging and responsible activities.



This Section should encourage young people to pursue activities within a wide range of practical, cultural and social environments. The Skills Section offers young people a wide choice depending upon their personal preferences, abilities and the opportunities available. The skill may be an existing interest or something entirely new. Examples include learning a new language, learning to play a musical instrument or being involved with a drama or music production. ***The skill chosen must not be a sport or physical activity.*** The skill can be the same as that chosen for the Bronze Award but must show clear development and progression.

You are required to carry out either **6 months or 3 months** depending on the length of time chosen for the physical activity



This Section offers a wide range of programmes in the belief that:

- involvement in some form of enjoyable physical activity is essential for physical well-being
- a lasting sense of achievement and satisfaction is derived from meeting a physical challenge
- sports are enjoyable in themselves and can lead to the establishment of a lasting active lifestyle
- young people should have the opportunity to make a choice, then discuss and agree a personal programme of participation and achievement

Any sport or physical activity (for example dance or aerobics) would be considered suitable. Sectional activities need to average an hour a week, with the first and last activities being the full section duration apart. In the Physical section it is usual for activities to be weekly at all DofE levels. However, condensed schedules (in terms of hours per session) can allow participants to undertake more expensive or difficult to get to activities like horse riding, surfing, climbing, and so on.

You are required to carry out **6 months or 3 months** of the physical activity depending on the length of time chosen for the skill section



All participants have to undertake an adventurous activity in unknown territory. They have to plan and complete three days of walking with 6 hours journeying each day, camping out for 2 nights. Participants are encouraged to be self-reliant throughout the two days this includes carrying all their own equipment, pitching their own tents and preparing their own meals. Participants will be in groups of 4-7 and although unaccompanied during their final walk, they will be supervised closely at all times. When camping at night staff will be present to supervise the groups. Participants a full training day in school and a practice expedition prior to their assessed expedition

## Time scales

<b>Volunteering</b>	<b>Physical</b>	<b>Skills</b>	<b>Expedition</b>
6 months	3 months	3 months	Plan, train for and complete a 3 day, 2 night expedition
<i>All participants must undertake a <b>further</b> 3 months in either the Physical or Skills section.</i>			

## Key Information

- Complete Duke of Edinburgh enrolment form as and return to Miss Harrison at school by **Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2017**
- Pay deposit of £40 (non refundable) by **Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2017**
- Final balance of £270 to be paid via parent pay by **5<sup>th</sup> May 2018**

### Expedition dates

- Practice expedition 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> May 2018
- Assessed expedition 14<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> July 2018 (Includes training & route planning day)

