



Hall Green School An Academy

November 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award 2021/2022

Following on from the successful completion of the **Bronze Award** last year, your son/daughter is now invited to sign up for the Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award. **If your son/daughter did not complete their Bronze award, but would like to sign up for Silver, they are more than welcome to join us.**

Naturally, there are higher demands on students wishing to complete the Silver Award. Students need to do six months of Voluntary Work, three months of Skill Training and three months on a Physical Activity. They then need to complete a further three months on **one** of these sections. For students who did not complete their Bronze award, they need to complete their volunteering section for 12 months. A list of the activities your child can choose can be found on the following website: www.dofe.org. Please click on “**Doing your D of E**” to find out all information.

It may be possible for your son/daughter to continue with the activities they carried out for Bronze level, if they can show an increase in their development and responsibility. However, this should be checked with me before they sign up.

The **expedition** requirement at Silver level is a three day, two-night walking expedition. Students will work in group sizes of between four and six. To prepare for this, students will attend a practice afternoon walk to revise their navigation skills before the practice and assessed expeditions. See below for dates:

- 1) **Training Day 1– Saturday 9 April 2022 Venue TBC**
- 3) **A practice expedition –5, 6 and 7 May 2022 Bakewell**
- 4) **An assessed expedition – 22, 23 and 24 May 2022 Church Stretton**

All participants must attend all training sessions and dates are now calendared and will NOT be moved under any circumstances. Please be aware that assessed expedition dates are likely to fall within Ramadan – students undertaking the expedition will NOT be able to fast due to the nature of the expedition.

Please note during expeditions, staff will not be walking with students but will be on check points to ensure students are navigating correctly or remotely supervising students. Staff will be present on the first night campsite overnight but students will be left on their own for the second night at a different campsite to encourage independence and prepare them for the possibility of the Gold Award on completion of their Silver. We have run the trip in this way and had no concerns with leaving students. Should you have any concerns please contact me at school. Travel will be by mini bus, driven by staff.

The costing of the trip will depend on the number of students who sign up. We have an **estimated cost of £160.00** per student but a final costing will be sent home to those pupils who express an interest and wish to do the award. This will cover all camping costs, transport, stoves, tents, compasses, rucksacks and maps for all expeditions.

To secure a place for your son/daughter on the Silver Award a **non-refundable deposit of £50.00** is payable by no later than **Monday 6 December 2021** via ParentPay. Any monies paid are non-refundable unless the award does not run due to lack of numbers.

It is essential that all payment deadlines are adhered to; any students that have not paid by this date will not be permitted to participate in this trip. Deadlines are set to ensure the school can make payments to the organising company in advance of the trip taking place. Payment also signifies parental permission for the pupil to attend the trip. If your child is eligible for the Pupil Premium we may be able to help meet part of the cost of this trip. If financial help is required, please contact Mrs Dickerson via the usual school number.

Please note: During trips and visits, members of the public often comment upon the good behaviour of our pupils and how they are ambassadors for our school. It is important to reiterate that if your child fails to meet the school's Expectations for Learning, displays unacceptable behaviour (in or out of school) or shows a poor attitude towards staff, the privilege of attending may be revoked at any time at the Head Teacher's discretion. If your child is removed for any of these reasons, no refund of any monies paid will be made.

If you have any further questions I can be contacted at school.

Yours sincerely

Miss T Smith
Duke of Edinburgh Manager
Head of Lorien House.

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