



Pensby High School

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Headteacher: Mr K Flanagan

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Dear Parents & Carers,

I would like to invite you to take part in the next academic year's **Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award** which will start September 2021. This fantastic opportunity is open to all current Year 10 pupils from September 2021, effectively starting Year 11 with a new programme. It is very important that you read all of the letter before you make any decision about signing up for the award.

Due to the Covid -19 Pandemic and everything being displaced throughout this past 16 months, it became clear that the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak was going to be long-lasting and that this was going to affect the ability of DofE centres to run expeditions over time. The reality was that they all stopped.

I am very aware that many of you when in year 9 enrolled onto the Bronze level of the award had been completing your award sections. We had been due to start our expedition season the week after we had to close, School refunded the expedition payments that had been made for those forthcoming trips.

From March 20th 2020 when we had to close, the very next week the changes made to the way the award could still be completed were put onto the school website #DofEWithADifference.

These changes had been made to enable you to continue to complete the Skills, Physical and volunteering section of the Bronze award even whilst being at home or in a lockdown situation – These changes are still in place now. To this end, DofE extended their accolade to recognise the fantastic accomplishments of these young people with – the 'Certificate of Achievement'.

Certificates 'Certificate of Achievement' are still available to all participants who have completed their Skills, Volunteering and Physical sections at Bronze, Silver or Gold level, but haven't been able to do their expedition.

We had simply not been able to run anything, lockdowns meant lots of the schools pre-planned timetable/activities could not happen. This does not matter as you can still progress to the Silver award level with Pensby High School and onto the Gold Award at your next steps destination.

If you had enrolled on the Bronze award and you had not been able to complete the Bronze Expedition section (due to Covid-19) you can use the Training Expedition of the Silver Award as your Bronze Award Assessment Expedition to complete the full Bronze award. Then as normal, use the Silver Assessment Expedition for that purpose.

If you did not enrol on the Bronze Award you can still become a Direct Entrant onto the Award at Silver level, it will just take you slightly longer to complete (see attached timescale)

This is the fifth year that the school has offered DofE to all students within a year group, we initially introduced DofE, because we know that it has a huge impact on young people. It gives students leadership skills, confidence and belief in themselves and allows students to discuss a range of opportunities that might not otherwise be available to them, students find this an immense help when they apply for

university, college or employment. This year we had a fantastic response and currently have over one hundred and fifty students participating in the award. We hope that everyone within the current year can take up this offer.

What is it?

The Duke of Edinburgh, or DofE, is the world's leading youth achievement award, giving millions of 14 to 25 year-olds the opportunity to be the very best they can be. It is a voluntary, non-competitive programme of practical, cultural and adventurous activities, designed to support the personal and social development of young people aged 14-25. It offers an individual challenge and encourages young people to undertake exciting, constructive and enjoyable activities in their free time, with a well-recognised award at the end to show a possible employer their determination to commit and undertake challenges.

What does the programme consist of?

It is a four Section Programme with three progressive levels:

- Bronze
- Silver
- Gold

What do the Sections involve?

- Volunteering - Helping other people in the local community
- Skills - Covering almost any hobby, skill or interest
- Physical Recreation - Sports, dance and fitness
- Expeditions - The Expedition section requires participants to undertake a 3-day, 2-night backpacking Practice Expedition (This can be used for your Bronze Award expedition Assessment) and an Assessed 3-day, 2-night backpacking expedition.
- Participants will need to attend all expedition training sessions and complete both 3-day, 2-night events.

How long will it take?

It takes at least six months for Silver if you have already achieved your Bronze or **12 months if you've jumped straight into Silver**. This means you will need approximately four hours after school dedicated to this Award. Included in that is 1 hour per week after school for the Expedition training (days to be arranged) and 3 hours for your chosen activities over the week. The activity sections - volunteering, skills and physical sections can often be completed in School using the extra- curricular activities available, or activities that you may already do outside of School.

How much will it cost?

- £25.00 for the registration welcome pack and the eDofE account. You will receive a certificate and badge on completion (The £25.00 is non-refundable as it is paid to DofE) You will have to register and pay the £25.00 for the Silver award registration even if you had previously registered and paid for the Bronze – this is the normal route.
- Expeditions – £120.00 for the 3-day practice expedition and then £120.00 for the 3-day assessment expedition. That is £240.00 in total for the expedition section.
- Financial support may be available in certain cases. Please contact me at school if you would like to discuss this
- Volunteering - usually little or no cost
- Skills - cost depends on the skill chosen and can be negligible
- Physical Recreation - costs depend on the sport chosen and on local availability.

Direct Entrants

You can register for the Silver award if you had not previously enrolled on the Bronze Award, but please be aware that "Direct Entrants" must do a further 6 months in the volunteering or the longer of the Physical or Skill sections. This also applies if you do not complete your Bronze Award if registered, you would be treated as a direct entrant on the Silver Award.

Pupils will have assemblies during the Autumn term informing them all about this fantastic opportunity available to them here at Pensby High School. The Silver Award is being offered to Year 11's. There is no longer an age restriction so they can start at the beginning of the academic year. Please note that this award is a remote supervision activity and when the students are on their expedition the teachers will only meet them at checkpoints on their route and will be supervised at the campsite.

Duke of Edinburgh meetings

During the year, your child will attend a DofE Lunchtime and after school meetings when required. Attendance is crucial to ensure that participants are keeping up to date with their sections and that your child is fully trained for unaccompanied expeditions. Each participant will have to have a completed training log in order to take part in the expeditions. They also need to have 50% of their other sections completed before undertaking the expedition.

Additional Information

The school budget is such that there is not the ability for the school to fund school trips, without having a detrimental impact on the funds available for teaching and learning across the school, therefore voluntary contributions are required to allow trips to happen. The money given by parents/carers is used to pay for transport, entrance fees, tickets etc. that allow the trip to take place. Money is not held by the school, it is passed to a third party.

For the avoidance of any doubt the school does not provide refunds if your child is unable to go on the trip for any reason. If your child is ill then you may claim on your own travel insurance if it covers such eventualities - the school does not have such insurance for your child.

If your or your child's actions cause them not to be able to go on the trip (for example not returning signed permission by the required deadline, being excluded from school, being told their behaviour in school is such that they can no longer go on the trip) then the school will not provide a refund of any monies paid.

If your child would like enrol in the DofE Silver award please return the enrolment form online via the link: https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=vNYRPidMlkaKp_BnFqvJAtiJfFitFBtMikroNUce7GFUMkRENzNWNu1YV4ySkFSWjRDSkFOTy4u along with the registration fee of £25.00 before the end of term or by **Friday 3rd September 2021**. Payment should be made online using ScoPay; if you don't already have an account please contact the school office who will send you details. Alternatively, payments can be made by cash or cheque, cheques should be made payable to Pensby High School. I am looking forward to guiding the students through this exciting challenge. Please encourage your child to have a look at the DofE website.

The Duke of Edinburgh website has more details on the scheme www.dofe.org or if you have any further questions please contact me at School.

Yours sincerely

A. Davies

Mr Davies

Duke of Edinburgh Award Manager

www.dofe.org