



Dear Parent/Guardian,

I'm delighted to let you know that we have launched our recruitment for the Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) for the next academic year. The Silver Award is open to all Year 10 Students as of 01 September 2023.

Why do DofE?

Doing DofE is a brilliant way for your young person to discover just how much they are capable of. It gives young people the chance to make new friends, follow their passions, learn new skills and make a difference in our community. Gaining a DofE Award is a great way to impress employers too.

How it works

Our students can enter the Silver Award as a direct entrant without having undertaken a Bronze Award. This also applies to those of our students still currently completing their Bronze Award.

Current participants can register for Silver and once their Bronze is approved the edofe system will automatically update to the new reduced timescales. Also from September, once one of their sections on the Bronze Award is complete for example volunteering, they can proceed straight away with that section on their Silver Award. So both awards can be open simultaneously making it more achievable for those who have struggled with certain sections coming out of the covid pandemic.

Expedition

Here at Pate's, we are now running our expeditions based on the open expedition model. Inclusivity is an essential part of the school and DofE ethos and we have implemented this change so that each student can choose the dates that suits them without the stress of finding a group. We hope that this will also encourage them to make new friends and build confidence in working with new people.

It is important to note that it is not mandatory for our students to complete their expedition with us. So if they cannot make any of our advertised dates then they can use an outside activity provider, details can be found on the dofe website. www.dofe.org

Please note whilst attending training there will be no exceptions made for you to attend sports/other commitments at the same time so, please check your diaries and with the PE staff to ensure there is no conflict between events.

[Expedition dates are on page 2](#)

Next steps

We hope many of our students will take this opportunity to get involved with DofE. The cost for registration is £70 per person, and applications will close on 30 September 2023.

Registration is via our website www.patesgsdofe.org/getting-started

Full information including guides for parents/carers on the Silver Award can be found at www.patesgsdofe.org/silver



Once you have paid it may take up to 14 days for you to receive your log on details for edofe, however we will not be able to register accounts onto DofE until the start of the new academic year.

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Expedition Dates

All students must complete 1 each of the following:

Core Skills: If you wish to canoe at Silver, you must complete a core skills training weekend.

Canoeing	Location	Cost
23-24 September 2023	Cotswolds	£80
30 September- 1 October 2023	Cotswolds	£80

Walking	Location	Cost
07-08 October 2023	Cotswolds	£80

Practice Expedition:

Mode of Travel	Location	Dates	Cost
Canoeing	Brecon	30 Oct-01 Nov 23	£240
Canoeing	Brecon	02-04 Nov 23	£240
Walking	Brecon	10-12 Nov 23	£200
Walking	Brecon	17-19 Nov 23	£200

Planning Session (3.5 hours) & Assessment Expedition: You will need to attend the planning session that relates to the assessment you have booked.

Mode of Travel	Location	Dates	Cost	Planning	Location	Cost
Canoeing	River Severn	28-30 May 24	£280	02 Mar AM	OED	£25
Canoeing	River Severn	31 May-02 Jun 24	£280	03 Mar AM	OED	£25
Walking	Exmoor	02-04 Apr 24	£240	02 Mar PM	OED	£25
Walking	Exmoor	05-07 Apr 24	£240	03 Mar PM	OED	£25

There will be a maximum number of 24 students for canoeing and 28 students for walking per event, please book early to avoid disappointment.

All bookings are to be made via the website: <https://www.patesgsdofe.org/silver-events>

Yours sincerely,

Outdoor Education Department

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