

9th November 2022

Dear Parents / Guardians

**Re: Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award**

We are writing to inform you that Ruislip High School is now enrolling our current Year 10 students for the Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme is a fantastic and prestigious achievement, is great fun and provides many opportunities but also involves a lot of hard work.

The Silver Duke of Edinburgh programme is broken down into four sections:

- Volunteering
- Physical recreation
- Skill
- Expedition

Students need to be 14 years old to begin a Silver programme and must complete six months' volunteering, six months' skill and three months' physical, or complete six months' volunteering, three months' skill and six months' physical depending on personal preference. If students have not previously completed the Bronze Award level an additional six months will need to be completed in either their volunteering or physical / skills section to make one section a total of 12 months.

The award consists of one in-house training session led by mountain leaders, which all students will be expected to attend and two expedition camping weekends, each lasting for three days and two nights to include the pre-assessed and assessed expedition. On expeditions students are expected to be completely self-sufficient, carrying a large backpack, planning their routes and meals and working as a team.

The dates for these events are as follows:

- **In-house training at school to be led by Mountain Leaders on Sunday 19th March, 2023**
- **Pre-assessed Silver expedition which will be in Chesham on Saturday 29th April, Sunday 30th of April and Monday 1st May, 2023 (a bank holiday).** The pre-assessed expedition is a dry run for students;
- **Assessed Silver Expedition in the New Forest:** Friday 30th of June Saturday 1st of July and Sunday 2nd of July, 2023; a trained Duke of Edinburgh assessor will be closely monitoring the progress of students to ensure they meet the expedition criteria.

In order to participate in the expeditions there is an expectation of a good behaviour record in school and demonstration of a strong commitment to the award throughout the course of the year. If a student falls below these expectations a decision may be made by the Head of Year and the Senior Leadership Team to remove them from the scheme. If a student is removed from the scheme by the school due to poor behaviour, all costs incurred by the school up to that point will need to be covered by the parent/guardian. Refunds will be given for any costs that can be refunded.

The cost of the course is approximately **£300**. This is dependent on the intake of students attending Silver Duke of Edinburgh this academic year, and this price could fluctuate slightly. We will of course update you on the final cost once we have attendance figures. At this point we ask that a deposit of £50 be paid via ParentPay.

Payment and confirmation of attendance need to be completed by 30th November 2022 to secure your child's place. Please click [here](#).

Payment schedule via ParentPay as stated below:

30 <sup>th</sup> November 2022	£50	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2023	£50
29 <sup>th</sup> December 2022	£50	26 <sup>th</sup> April 2023	£50
28 <sup>th</sup> January 2023	£50		
25 <sup>th</sup> February 2023	£50		

The cost of the award scheme is approximately £300 per student as stated. This will cover their logbook, in-house mountain leader training and close supervision on both trips by mountain leaders to consist of two weekend trips; transport to and from for both expeditions; kit hire; camping fees; minibus hire; direct licence fee and the cost of assessors on the final expedition.

Please note that once logbooks and the direct licence fee is designated to participants, there will be no refund from the initial payment of £50 due in November 2022.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award is a fantastic opportunity for Ruislip High students. It will enable them to develop widely recognised life skills and provide them with a sense of adventure. In addition, students will make a difference to other people's lives within the Ruislip community through their volunteering. They will become fitter and healthier, make new friends and return with memories that will last a lifetime.

For more information on the award scheme, please visit: [www.dofe.org](http://www.dofe.org). Should parents/guardians have any queries, please contact Ms K Hunter via the main school office.

Yours sincerely



Ms K Hunter  
Duke of Edinburgh Coordinator