



Bath Rd, Frome, Somerset BA11 2HQ
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Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Starting the Silver level of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award – Year 10 – 2024/25

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is a scheme of activity open to all young people between the start of Year 9 until their 25th birthdays, regardless of ability or disability, which leads to certification at bronze, silver or gold levels. All participants complete 4 "challenges", which are individually set to be realistic and achievable by each individual. Completion of the award, at any level, shows organisation, perseverance and determination and is well regarded by higher education establishments and employers. The gold award is presented at St James' Palace, with Prince Edward in attendance. Bronze and Silver levels are presented locally in school.

The challenges

Skill – Participants will develop their skills in a non-physical pastime of their choice - e.g., photography, music, painting etc.

Volunteering – Participants spend time assisting a non-profit organisation for no pay - e.g., nursery help, charity shops, conservation work.

Physical – Participants develop their abilities in a physical activity – e.g., most sports, personal fitness and dance.

Skill, Volunteering and Physical activities require an input of approximately one hour per week spread over 3 or 6 months each, but do not need to be done all at once.

Expedition – Participants will train for and complete an expedition, (silver level – 3 days). This involves walking a pre-planned route in open countryside using a map and a compass. Groups of 4 to 7 participants work as a team, camp overnight and look after themselves for the duration of the expedition.

Funding

We do not want cost to prevent students from being able to do the award. Tents, bags and stoves are available to borrow free of charge and students who are entitled to free school meals will be able to apply for a bursary to be funded for this. We will help students to complete their application.

Direct Entrants

Students can start DofE at Silver Level if they have not previously completed Bronze DofE. They will need to do some catch up expedition training and will need to do one section for 12 months instead of 6. Otherwise, everything is the same.



Requirements – all students

- The minimum age for doing the silver level is the start of Year 10.
- Students need to choose and commit to activities to complete skill, volunteering and physical sections. The activities do not all need to be done at the same time, but you should record what and when you intend to complete sections. Activities can be spread over Year 10 and Year 11.
- If the bronze level was started, you should get this finished and signed off. **You will not have your silver section opened until the bronze has been finished. On Friday 18 October** the silver level registrations will close for this year and will be capped at 40 places.

Expedition Kit

The school has a good selection of kit, which can be borrowed for expeditions, free of charge. There is financial help available for students who currently qualify for or have qualified for Free School Meals in the last 6 years.

Expedition dates

- **Practice - 2-day walking and 2 nights camping 4 - 6 July 2025**
- **Qualifier - 3 days walking and 2-night camping 20 - 22 July 2025**

Total Costs:

Due on application (deadline on ParentPay is Friday 18 October): £30 - Registration with the Award - (includes £6 Somerset Operating Authority Fee).

Due in April 2025 - £90 - Training and Practice Expedition cost – location TBC

Other Costs (variable) not included:

Activities will generally cost money, but costs vary, depending on what is chosen. Physical activities are chosen from anything which involves exercise. This can involve a cost e.g., Judo club, football club fees, sailing club fees or no cost e.g., school badminton club, trampolining etc. For the Skills section, students choose a non-physical activity e.g., chess, horticulture, music etc. Extra-curricular activities at the college are free and this gives a low-cost way of completing the award. Most teachers know how to fill in the assessor reports. I have 2 places to volunteer on a Wednesday 3.15pm - 4.15pm with me in DofE. Simon Baldwin who runs the Frome darts club also has 2 spaces so get in touch with me please and I will contact him. **You and your child will be responsible for organising their activities. We can only take responsibility for activities organised by the school.**

Time Requirements

	Minimum Age	Volunteering	Skill	Physical	If you did not do the Bronze Level
Silver	Year 10	6 months	One for 3 months One for 6 months		An extra 6 months in one of the 6-month activities

Summary of what you need to do:

- Students must get the bronze section completed on eDofE if they have been completing it. Assessor reports which confirm the activity and length of time completed are required for me to approve each section.

- Students should check their eDofE accounts and check messages. Each section should be shown as complete.
- If students want to start on their various sections now then that is fine, we can back date their silver enrolment by 2 months.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Theo Pavli', with a small flourish at the end.

Theo Pavli
D of E Co-Ordinator