



HEADTEACHER: Mr K Ford

28th September 2022

Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award 2022/23

Dear Parent/Carer

I am pleased to let you know that Great Marlow School offers the Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) to students in Year 10. I have delivered an assembly to Year 10 students (presentation attached), detailing the benefits and requirements of the Silver level of the Award. **Students do need to have achieved the Bronze level of the award to take part in the Silver level- they can access Silver as a direct entrant.**

The DofE is a great chance for your son/daughter to broaden their horizons, discover new interests and talents, have fun with friends, develop essential skills for their future and achieve an internationally renowned award.

As Great Marlow School's DofE Manager, I wanted to send you some information about what a DofE programme involves, the benefits for your son/daughter, and how they can sign up.

About the DofE

The DofE is non-competitive and open to all young people – it's about setting personal challenges and pushing personal boundaries. There are three levels of DofE programme which, when successfully completed, lead to a Bronze, Silver or Gold Award.

Through their DofE, students will make friends and memories and build traits like confidence, resilience and self-esteem, which can benefit mental health. They'll gain skills and attributes for work and life, like problem-solving, team-working and self-motivation – and they'll achieve an award that's recognised by employers and can help them stand out when applying for college, university or jobs.

To achieve their Silver Award, participants must complete four sections: Skills, Volunteering, Physical and their Expedition.

Every young person's DofE programme is personal to them – they can choose what they'd like to do for their sections, and most activities can count. I will provide guidance and support, and students can either choose to continue an activity they already do or discover something completely new.

Activities for each section take a minimum of one hour a week over a set period of time, so they can fit around studying, hobbies and social lives. For more details about programmes and timescales look at the school website, or visit the DofE website: www.dofe.org

About the expedition

The Expedition section involves your child working as part of a small team to plan their expedition's aim and do some training to make sure they're fully prepared – before spending two days and one night in the countryside completing their qualifying expedition.

WithDave are an experienced expedition company, who offer young people challenging and adventurous expeditions. Silver and Gold level GMS students have participated in the paddling expeditions they provide, and have thoroughly enjoyed their experiences. WithDave will be delivering training and expeditions on the following dates:

Training weekend/Practice expedition: Saturday 13th-Tuesday 16th May 2023 (leaving GMS at 5pm on Friday 12th May)

Assessed expedition: Friday 7th- Sunday 9th July 2023 (leaving GMS at 5pm on Thursday 6th July)

The cost for this Silver level expedition package is approximately £500, depending on student numbers.

Alternatively, DofE participants can use the 'Opportunity Finder' on the DofE website to find an Approved Activity Provider (AAP) offering an expedition package which suits them. There are plenty of AAPs in the Southeast region offering a variety of expedition transport options: walking, kayaking, mountain biking or even horseback! By using the Opportunity Finder, participants can also choose dates for their training and qualifying expedition which fit in around any other extra-curricular activities and commitments they may have.

Students are required by the Duke of Edinburgh's conditions to attend all the expedition training and to have demonstrated the required level of competence and behaviour in order to be able to participate in the final assessed expedition.

***The 20 expedition conditions can be found on the DofE website.**

eDofE and the DofE app

Participants can create their DofE programme and record their progress using eDofE, the DofE's digital system, available online at eDofE.org and through the DofE app – downloadable for free from Google Play and the App Store. If your son/daughter decides to enrol, we will set up their eDofE account and they will receive details of how to sign in and get started.

Signing up

The cost of registering for the Silver level of the DofE Award at GMS is £30 per participant, payable via WisePay before Friday 21st October 2022. This covers your son/daughter's participation place, Welcome Pack, and Licensed Organisation fee. The Welcome Pack will be sent to their home address and includes their personalised DofE Discount Card.

If your son/daughter would like to take part, please view the Silver DofE Presentation detailing the requirements of the Award on the school website under 'School Life',

Please be aware that the cost of the Duke of Edinburgh Award does not guarantee the award being completed and achieved, the time and effort must come from the participants. However, I will endeavour to provide all students with the opportunity to complete the sections necessary to achieve their Silver award. If you would like any further information in the meantime, please feel free to contact me.

Many thanks for your support and I look forward to helping your son/daughter to achieve through their DofE.

Yours faithfully

Helen Murray

DofE Award Manager

Great Marlow School

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