

September 2009

Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, Silver Awards 2009 – 2010.

As you will be aware, «Pu_GivenName» has expressed an interest in doing the Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award in the current academic year. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme is a personal programme of activities divided into four sections. The sections are as follows:

Volunteering:	involves a period of service to an individual or the community.
Skills:	involves developing an existing talent or trying something new.
Physical Recreation:	involves developing physical fitness through sport, dance or fitness training.
Expedition:	involves planning, training and completing an adventurous journey.

For further details visit www.theaward.org

In order to gain the award, participants must complete all relevant sections. Each section needs to be done without being under an official obligation and broadly speaking should take place outside the formal school day. Each activity must be assessed by a suitably qualified adult to ensure that the relevant criteria are met.

Participants need to show a significant degree of initiative, because **the Expedition section is the only part that the school organises**. The other parts of the scheme must be arranged by «Pu_GivenName», although we will be happy to advise. The initiative required to undertake the programme is part of the challenge, but alongside it comes a considerable degree of choice about which activities to pursue.

The Expedition section consists of two parts: a practice and an assessed expedition. As preparation for these Expeditions, there will be two training weekends based at Birkenhead School, involving a morning of intensive instruction and a day excursion to practise navigation skills. Following training, there will be separate Gold and Silver practice expeditions at the beginning and end of the Easter Holidays. The qualifying expeditions are also separate and take place after exams at the end of the summer term and in the first week of the summer holiday. **Provisional** dates for these events are as follows:

First Training Weekend	Saturday 27 & Sunday 28 February 2010
Second Training Weekend	Saturday 6 & Sunday 7 March
Silver Practice Expedition	Thursday 15 th April – Sunday 18 th April
Silver Qualifying Expedition	Wednesday 7 th July – Saturday 10 th July

The Silver expedition takes up three days and two nights. The dates above include an equipment check day at the start of the expedition.

There will be a charge of £190 per pupil starting the Silver scheme. This is largely to cover the costs of accommodation, training, transport, and assessor fees. There will also be a charge of £11.50 for the 'Welcome pack' which includes:

- A booklet explaining the requirements of all DofE programmes
- A 16 page booklet with space to record DofE activities
- Assessor cards to facilitate assessment of each section
- A 15% discount card to be used at 'Cotswold' outdoor shops
- An eDofE internet account, to be used as an alternative way of recording activities.

If you are happy for «Pu_GivenName» to proceed with the scheme, please print and complete the consent form below and return it to Mr G.R. Hill at Birkenhead School.

With many thanks,

Graham Hill.
George Manley

DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD SCHEME - SILVER AWARD 2009

Please complete the form below and return it to Mr GR Hill at Birkenhead School.

I am willing for «Pu_GivenName» to participate in the Silver section of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme and to meet all the costs outlined in this letter of introduction.

Payment arrangements

Our preferred method of payment is direct debit and payment will be collected as follows:

- **Direct debit payments of one payment of £59.00 then 3 consecutive direct debits of £47.50.**

If you do not already have a direct debit arrangement in place for the payment of fees, either monthly or termly, please call Mrs Burgess on 0151 651 3013 to set up a direct debit for the payment of extras, such as this trip.

For parents who do not wish to set up a direct debit arrangement, we require payment for the full amount by debit card or cheque as soon as possible.

Please note that we are unable to accept payments in cash or by credit card.

Withdrawal

In the event of withdrawal of a pupil, a refund will be made, based upon the full cost of the trip less the deposit, a share of costs already incurred and other unavoidable costs.

SILVER DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD 2009

PUPIL NAME : «Pu_GivenName» «Pu_Surname»

FORM: «ClassName»

- Please collect the balance of the cost by direct debit (preferred option)
- I wish to set up a direct debit
- Payment by debit card. Please phone Mrs Burgess on 0151 651 3013
- I enclose a cheque for £201.50 made payable to Birkenhead School

or

or

or

PARENT SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____