

3 March 2023

Dear Parent / Carer

Subject: Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE), Silver Programme 2023

We are offering select Silver Duke of Edinburgh participants in the 2022-23 cohort the opportunity to complete their expedition section through school.

The 4 sections

As you will already be aware, the award includes four sections. All require regular commitment over a given period of time:

- **Volunteering:** service to the community – 1 hour+ per week during a 6 month period.**
- **Physical:** improve an area of sport, dance or fitness – 1 hour+ per week during 3/6* month period.**
- **Skill:** develop an area of interest, e.g. photography, instrument, language – 1 hour + per week during 3/6* month period.**
- **Expedition:** develop navigation, campcraft, teamwork and first-aid skills – training sessions (see dates below), 1 practice walk (Saturday), and two weekends (Thursday-Saturday).

**One section for 6 months, the other for 3 months*

*** If you haven't completed the Bronze, you must undertake a further 6 months in either the Volunteering or the longer of the Physical or Skills sections.*

Participation in the programme need not necessarily take a great deal of additional time out of students' schedules; your son/daughter may already take, for example, music lessons, play in a team or help out in a non-profit organisation regularly. Many activities can simply be continued to count as sections.

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Tel **01895 234342**

office@vynersschool.org.uk
www.vynersschool.org.uk

Mr Gary Mullings BA (Hons)
Headteacher

Dates

Students are only able to take part in the current expedition season if they are able to attend **all** of the following dates. If unable to attend any, it would be better to find more suitable opportunities via the [DofE Opportunity Finder](#).

Event	Dates
Preparation sessions (Thursday 3.10-4.30pm unless indicated otherwise) <i>Some extra preparation will be required at home in the lead up to expeditions.</i>	1. Thursday 15th June 2. Thursday 22nd June 3. Wednesday 28th June 4. Thursday 6th July 5. Wednesday 12th July
Silver Expedition Trips: 1. Day Walk (Chorleywood) 2. Practice (Chilterns) 3. Assessment (Dorset)	1. Saturday 17th June 2. 29th June - 1st July (Thu, Fri & Sat) 3. 13th July - 15th July (Thu, Fri & Sat)
Returning equipment Not returning equipment in adequate condition on this date could result in forfeiture of deposit.	Wednesday 6th September 7:45 - 8:10

Cost

The **cost of the expeditions is £182**, covering internal administration costs, resources for training sessions, transport and campsite fees. **Please be sure your child is willing to participate and can attend all of the dates, as this fee is non-refundable.** Other costs not included in the amount will include walking boots and expedition food.

In addition, we will ask you for a **£50 refundable equipment deposit**. This will be refunded in full if all borrowed equipment is returned on time and in appropriate condition. This includes individual kit, such as rucksacks, and group equipment such as tents, cooking stoves & fuel, maps and compasses. **The return of group equipment in good condition is the responsibility of the whole group, and a deduction will be made from each group member's deposit if group kit is not returned or damaged.**

This will appear as a single payment of £232 on Squid. Once you know your child is able to participate (please see Expedition Opportunity section), please make payments as soon as possible. All payments will be required by **Friday 21 April**. Students will not be able to participate unless their place is paid for in full by this date.

Cost does not include public transport fees for students to travel to and from expeditions. **The expectation is that students will travel in groups via public transport to and from the start and finish points for the practice walk and practice expedition** - there are not suitable car drop-off or pick-up areas at start and finish points, and we are encouraging independence and the use of sustainable forms of transport.

If your child is in receipt of Pupil Premium and this is likely to prevent your child applying, please contact Mr Sankey at tsankey@vynersschool.org.uk. The school may have some funds available to facilitate student participation in these circumstances.

Equipment

The school has a stock of items which may be borrowed, for example tents, maps, compasses, sleeping bags, rucksacks and bag covers. Hire forms will be distributed on Google Classroom closer to the expedition dates, and it will be essential that students complete these on time to ensure enough equipment is available. Some items, such as walking boots and expedition food, will need to be obtained by the participants themselves.

Health and safety

Vyners School has in place detailed procedures for ensuring that expeditions are well planned and that the health, welfare and safety of students is protected. A written risk assessment has been carefully prepared for this programme and adequate student supervision and insurance arrangements will be put in place.

It is expected that all students will observe the highest standard of politeness, courtesy and conduct at all times. Our students are representing Vyners School and it is expected that they will do everything in a way that reflects positively on themselves and the school. The School's Behaviour Policy continues to be in force throughout expeditions. Should it prove necessary to send a student home for misbehaviour, parents / carers will be expected to meet all extra costs incurred. In the event of a student being refused participation on an expedition before departure because of poor behaviour or lack of preparation, any contributions already paid will also be forfeit.

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Enrollment

Please complete the permission form on sQuid along with payment to enrol your student. Students unfortunately cannot be a part of the programme unless payment has been made.

If you require more information please do not hesitate to contact me at **tsankey@vynersschool.org.uk**. You may also find out more about the scheme on the DofE website (**www.dofe.org**).

Yours sincerely



Mr T Sankey
Duke of Edinburgh Coordinator

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