



Dear Parent/Guardian,

I'm delighted to let you know that we have launched our recruitment for the Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) for this academic year. The Silver Award is open to all Year 10 Students as of 01 September 2024.

Why do DofE?

Doing DofE is a brilliant way for your young person to discover just how much they are capable of. It gives young people the chance to make new friends, follow their passions, learn new skills and make a difference in our community. Gaining a DofE Award is a great way to impress employers too.

How it works

Our students can enter the Silver Award as a direct entrant without having undertaken a Bronze Award. This also applies to those of our students still currently completing their Bronze Award.

Current participants can register for Silver and once their Bronze is approved the edofe system will automatically update to the new reduced timescales. Once one of their sections on the Bronze Award is complete for example volunteering, they can proceed straight away with that section on their Silver Award. So, both awards can be open simultaneously making it more achievable for those who have struggled with certain sections coming out of the covid pandemic.

Expedition

Here at Pate's, we run our expeditions based on the open expedition model. Inclusivity is an essential part of the school and DofE ethos and we have implemented this change so that each student can choose the dates that suits them without the stress of finding a group. We hope that this will also encourage them to make new friends and build confidence in working with new people.

It is important to note that it is not mandatory for our students to complete their expedition with us. Therefore, if they cannot make any of our advertised dates then they can use an outside activity provider, details can be found on the dofe website. www.dofe.org

Please note whilst attending training there will be no exceptions made for you to attend sports/other commitments at the same time so, please check your diaries and with the PE staff to ensure there is no conflict between events.

There is the option for students to canoe or walk for their silver expedition. However, we are only able to offer 48 spaces for canoeing due to the restrictions on equipment. The application form on the website will open from 9am on the 21 September to apply for either a canoeing or walking expedition.

[Expedition dates are on page 2](#)

Next steps

We hope many of our students will take this opportunity to get involved with DofE. The cost for registration is £70 per person, and applications will close on 30 September 2024.

Registration is via our website www.patesgsdofe.org/getting-started

Full information including guides for parents/carers on the Silver Award can be found at www.patesgsdofe.org/silver

Expedition Dates - All students must complete 1 each of the following:

Core Skills:

You only need to do the Core Skills for Walking if you did NOT complete the Bronze Award in Year 9.

Walking	Location	Cost
05-06 October 2024	Cotswolds	£80

If you wish to canoe at Silver, you must complete a core skills training weekend.

Canoeing	Location	Cost
15-16 April 2025	Cotswolds	£80
22-23 April 2025	Cotswolds	£80

Practice Expedition:

Mode of Travel	Location	Dates	Cost
Walking	Brecon	18-20 October 2024	£200
Canoeing	Brecon	27-29 May 2025	£240
Canoeing	Brecon	30 May – 01 June 2025	£240

Assessment Expedition:

Mode of Travel	Location	Dates	Cost
Walking	Exmoor	01-03 November 2024	£240
Canoeing	River Severn	16-18 July 2025	£280
Canoeing	River Severn	21-23 July 2025	£280

There will be a maximum number of 24 students for canoeing and 28 students for walking per event, please book early to avoid disappointment.

The prices listed above are based on an estimation of the forecasted running costs of the expeditions. While we will endeavor to keep any increases to a minimum, we reserve the right to amend the price listed.

We also reserve the right to cancel trips should we be unable to meet the minimum student attendance required to make the expedition viable.

All bookings can be made on www.patesgsdofe.org/silver-events

For all DofE enquiries please email dofe@patesgs.org