



**HERMITAGE
ACADEMY**

Hermitage Academy

Waldridge Lane

Chester-le-Street

DH2 3AD

0191 388 7161

Enquiries@hermitageacademy.co.uk

www.hermitageacademy.co.uk

Dear Parent/Carer,

Duke of Edinburgh Award (Silver) – Expedition Update Letter

Firstly, I'd like to thank you for supporting your child in completing their Duke of Edinburgh enrolment letter and for paying the £24 fee via parent pay. For all students where their fee has been received, their welcome pack has been ordered from DofE and they will be enrolled as a participant on the eDofE website. Please note, there is currently a delay in the receipt of the welcome packs due to covid19 (c.35 days) and as soon as they are received in school, they will be passed on to your child.

Presently, your child has been invited to attend a drop in session after school, to support them with logging into the eDofE platform and setting up their Programme Planner, through which they will set their goals, record their evidence and complete their award. Times and dates were communicated through the Tutor Notices, with a further session available on **Tuesday 5th April at 3pm in room MD**. Students can also access guidance direct from the DofE website, through their handy guides such as: '10 Step eDofE User Guide for Participants'. We would like to ensure that all participants have their programme planner activity choices completed by no later than Friday 8th April.

Expedition Update

We are delighted to announce that we will be working in partnership with a highly specialised and experienced team from Simonside Outdoor Adventure centre, to offer the best quality experience for this section.

The confirmed dates for the training, practice walk and expedition are:

Thursday May 26th (leaving after school) – Saturday 28th - Practise walk and training
Friday September 30th – Sunday 2nd October - Silver qualifying walk

The cost of the expedition remains as initially quoted (please note the centre has not yet updated their website with the new charges) at £250. As well as the training and walks, this cost includes:

- Transport to and from the Hermitage Academy School
- The use of kit if required, including walking boots, waterproofs, rucksacks, tents, sleeping and cooking equipment.
- All campsite fees and charges.

NB: It is the same charge, even if equipment is not borrowed from the provider.

We are in the process of arranging a parents evening with the provider, so that you can learn more about your child's expedition experience and ask any questions that you may have. We will communicate this to you as soon as the date is finalised.

Payment for the expedition can be made in 2 instalments via parent pay.

£125 (50%) due by May 16th 2022 (non-refundable)

£125 (50%) due by September 9th 2022 (please note, in the rare event that your child does not complete their qualifying walk, this second payment will be refunded).

Thank you once again for your support and encouragement as your child embarks on their Duke of Edinburgh journey. Please remind them that they can come and see myself or Mr Ward whenever they need to, for advice and support.

If there are any outstanding issues, including with parent pay, please contact the office directly who will be happy to resolve this for you or pass the information to myself to deal with.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Ford-Hutchinson (Character Development Champion/ Duke of Edinburgh Manager)