



**HERMITAGE
ACADEMY**

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Dear Parent/Carer,

Duke of Edinburgh Award (Silver) – Expedition Update Letter

Firstly, I'd like to thank you for supporting your child in continuing their journey with Duke of Edinburgh. We are so proud of their achievements at Bronze level and look forward to seeing their progress throughout Silver. Following a successful funding bid, we were delighted to be able to offer Silver enrolment free of charge, to allow your child to continue their DofE journey. Welcome packs have been ordered and the Silver level has been added to their eDofE account. Students are to follow the same processes as at Bronze, by completing their programme planners on eDofE for approval and adding evidence of their activities to each section.

As a reminder, we run a DofE drop in session, every Friday, in HUM5. Please encourage your child to attend should they have any queries or concerns whatsoever, so that we can offer support and guidance and keep them on track.

Expedition Update

We are delighted to announce that we will be once again 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 (attendance is compulsory to complete the award and both include 2 overnight stays):

Friday 20th – Sunday 22nd September – Silver Practice walk and training

Friday 4th – Sunday 6th October - Silver qualifying walk

We are also pleased to announce that the cost of the expeditions is cheaper than initially quoted and remains at last year's price of £250. As well as the training and qualifying walks, this cost also 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.
- Insurance

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

We have arranged for a representative of Simonside Outdoor Adventure centre to attend school. They will provide details of the expeditions and give all parents/carers the opportunity to ask questions and seek clarity on any uncertainties that you may have.

The parents' evening will be held in the school's **main hall** on **Tuesday May 14th between 5:00pm and 5:45pm**. We encourage the Duke of Edinburgh students to attend with their parents/carers.

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

1) £125 (50%) due by June 28th 2024

2) £125 (50%) due by September 1st 2024

If there are any 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.

Finally, whilst we are delighted that all of our silver students have accepted a place at Hermitage 6th form, should your child decide to further their education in September with a different provider, **they will still be able to attend the expedition**, as a direct participant of Simonside Outdoor Adventure. We would advise informing the new provider of the expedition dates, so that they are aware of the reasons for absence on Friday 20th September and Friday 4th October.

Yours faithfully,

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