



## Silver Award

### Information for Parents, Guardians and Pupils

Your son/ daughter has shown an interest in completing the Silver Award of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award. This information pack should help you to support your son/ daughter through the scheme. If your son/daughter participated in the Bronze Award scheme could you please ensure that they have completed their Bronze commitments and updated their Duke of Edinburgh on line account to reflect their progress.

Pupils are required to attend training sessions and monthly mentoring meetings as part of the Silver Award.

The Duke of Edinburgh Office have provided some general information on the Award Scheme. This is detailed below. Further information is available on The Duke of Edinburgh's Award website [www.DofE.org](http://www.DofE.org).

Details of how the Award Scheme operates in The Glasgow Academy are given after the general information.

If you have any questions or would like any further information about the trips please contact me by telephone via the Administration Centre or by email to

[Laura.Murphy@tga.org.uk](mailto:Laura.Murphy@tga.org.uk)

Dr L J Murphy  
DofE Manager



## WHAT WILL YOUR SON OR DAUGHTER GAIN FROM THE AWARD?



**Our aim is to bring the best out of your child in a non-competitive environment.**

- **Your child will decide exactly what activities and skills they undertake.**
- **Rest assured, we won't change their cultural outlook.**
- **We will make them more motivated, disciplined and balanced.**
- **The Duke of Edinburgh's Award will benefit your child long into their adult life.**

"Community skills, leadership and use of initiative are attributes that we value immensely and cannot be learnt through an exam. The Award enables young people to develop and hone these skills putting them at a distinct advantage when it comes to interview. The opportunities that the Award provides should not be underestimated and I would encourage every young person to take up the Award challenge."

Tom Bell, Managing Director, TNT Express Services UK & Ireland.



## CAN ANYONE TAKE PART IN THE AWARD?



- As long as your son or daughter is at least **14** and no more than **25**, they can join the Award.
- To begin the **Bronze** Award your son or daughter must be **14** (or close to).
- **Silver** Award Participants must be at least **15**.
- To start their **Gold** Award your child must be **16**.



## HOW DOES THE AWARD WORK?

- The Duke of Edinburgh's Award does not interfere with your child's schooling.
- Most activities are planned outside of school hours.
- Each Award is broken into **four** key areas.



## HOW DOES THE AWARD WORK?

### **Service**

Activities that help the communities, individuals or groups. Your child could become involved in an environmental project, work with older people or young children or help out at your local place of worship.

### **Skills**

Learn to drive or a new language, become an actor or develop their artistic talents. It's up to your child which skills they wish to pursue.

### **Physical Recreation**

Become involved in some form of dance, sport or fitness activity. Is your son the next Rooney, Tiger Woods or Monty Panesar? Or perhaps your daughter could be the next Kelly Holmes, Michelle Wie or Ellen Macarthur?





## HOW DOES THE AWARD WORK?

### **Expeditions**

Perfect for developing organisational, teamwork and physical skills. Train for, plan and complete a journey on foot, horseback, canoe, boat or bike. The expedition must have a clear aim, such as exploring the environment or undertaking a challenging journey.

**With the Gold Award you will also need to undertake a Residential Project, which involves participating in a shared activity away from home.**



## WHAT IS A DOFE PROGRAMME?

A DofE programme is a real adventure from beginning to end. It doesn't matter who you are or where you're from. You just need to be aged between 14 and 24 and realise there's more to life than sitting on a sofa watching life pass you by.

You can do programmes at three levels, [Bronze](#), [Silver](#) or [Gold](#), which lead to a Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

You achieve an Award by completing a personal programme of activities in four [sections](#) (five if you're going for Gold).

You'll find yourself helping people or the community, getting fitter, developing skills, going on an expedition and taking part in a residential activity (Gold only).

But here's the best bit - you get to choose what you do!

Your programme can be full of activities and projects that get you buzzing. And along the way you'll pick up experiences, friends and talents that will stay with you for the rest of your life.

## Silver Award

A Silver DofE programme has 4 sections, Volunteering, Physical, Skills and Expedition. You achieve your Silver Award by completing a personal programme of activities in four sections.

These sections are:

- **Volunteering** - helping someone, your community or the environment
- **Physical** - becoming fitter through sport, dance or fitness activities
- **Skills** - developing existing talents or trying something new
- **Expedition** - planning, training for and completing an adventurous journey

If you join the **Silver Award after successful completion of the Bronze Award** the requirements for Silver are outlined below.

Volunteering	Physical	Skills	Expedition
6 months	3 months	3 months	Plan, train and complete a 3 day, 2 night expedition.
You must undertake a <b>further</b> 3 months in the, Physical or Skills section.			

Those participants **who join the scheme at Silver** are required to undertake the following requirements:

Volunteering	Physical	Skills	Expedition
12 months	3 months	3 months	Plan, train and complete a 3 day, 2 night expedition.
You must undertake a <b>further</b> 3 months in either the Physical or Skills section.			

OR

Volunteering	Physical	Skills	Expedition
6 months	3 months	3 months	Plan, train and complete a 3 day, 2 night expedition.
You must undertake a <b>further</b> 9 months in either the Physical or Skills section. i.e you must complete 12 months in one activity.			

## **DofE at The Glasgow Academy**

### **Skills, Service and Physical Recreation**

These sections, along with the expedition, are essential for completion of the Award. There are hundreds of different skills, forms of service and physical recreation which are suitable for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. All of these are listed and the requirements for each described on the Award website. <http://www.dofe.org>



In school we offer many (not all may be listed) opportunities and members of staff can be approached to see if they are willing to monitor a participant's progress.

#### **Service:**

- CCF (only for Silver and Gold Awards)
- Mentoring younger pupils
- Fund raising for various charities

#### **Skills:**

- Debating
- Chess club
- Bridge club
- Cookery advice
- Gavel club
- Young Enterprise
- Marksmanship
- Learning a musical instrument
- Orchestra
- Drama
- Choir
- Languages - Spanish, French club

#### **Physical recreation:**

- Hockey
- Rugby
- Football
- Cricket
- Athletics
- Tennis

If an activity is chosen from those offered in school, the pupil **must**, as a matter of courtesy, inform the member of staff in charge of the activity **before the activity starts** of his or her intention to have it assessed as part of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. This gives the member of staff an opportunity to note the participant's contribution to see that it complies with the requirements of the Award. Mere participation is not always enough. To gain an award, there must be obvious signs of effort and commitment.

## Duke of Edinburgh's Award Expeditions



All pupils at Silver level attend a day's training within the Academy and a weekend practice expeditions supervised by qualified instructors provided by Ardmay House Outdoor Centre

Expeditions take place in the Dalmally Area and pupils receive training in all aspects of expedition work before completing both a **minimum of one practice expedition**, and an assessment expedition, at each level of the Award.

The expedition is often the most demanding section, mentally and physically, of the Award. Pupils are expected to carry their own kit unaided for the duration of the expedition.

**Please Note:** A minimum of one practice expedition is required before an assessment expedition is undertaken. After the first practice, Ardmay House staff may insist a further practice expedition is needed. This would be due to participants not meeting one or more of the Expedition Requirements set out by DofE. In the past, pupils have required to do a second practice where they were unable to put up their tent, unable to cook a meal, had poor map reading skills or were walking at less than 2 km per hour and unable to make the daily check-points. Should a further practice be needed, additional fees would be charged to cover the costs of that expedition.

## Expedition and Training Dates

June 2012	Sunday 10th	Compulsory Expedition Training day
June 2012	15 <sup>th</sup> - 17th	Silver DoE Practice Expedition
September 2012	TBC	Silver DoE Assessment Expedition

## Borrowing Kit

Pupils may borrow the following items from the expedition store:

large rucksack (approx. 55 - 65 litres capacity)

foam campmat

tents

stoves (and fuel)

trowel (for burying human waste)

Kit must be returned to the store within two weeks of completing the assessment expedition as it may be required by other pupils. Failure to do so may result in House Detention and pupils being charged for the kit. If a pupil signs out an item of kit, they are responsible for its return.

## eDofE

This year Silver participants at The Academy will be using eDofE. Evidence can be recorded in lots of different formats including text, pictures and movies. It also gives Leaders the ability to view DofE evidence and approve it easily. When a pupil signs up for DofE, they will be registered on eDofE and then given their own personal log-in details. eDofE can be accessed anywhere there is an internet connection. Pupils will be required to attend a compulsory training course on eDofE when they sign up for the Silver Award.

## Age Limit

Pupils must be 15 years old (or close to) before starting the Silver Award. Service, Skills and Physical sections of the Award can be started 3 months before the 15<sup>th</sup> birthday. If a pupil will be 15 years old by the date of their Training Weekend they may sign up for Silver

DofE in S4. As the Expedition is demanding we will not allow pupils to take part in that section before their 15<sup>th</sup> birthday. Younger pupils may complete the expedition section the following year.

## Costs

The cost of taking part in Silver DofE at The Academy is £300.

**An initial £100 deposit** is due by **30<sup>th</sup> October** and **the remaining £200** is due by **1<sup>st</sup> December**.

This cost is to cover hire of coaches for the training, practice and assessment weekends, and the payment for qualified Ardmay House instructors.

## Important Information

- Pupils will be able to sign up for Silver until the end of October.
- The £100 deposit payment must be received by 30<sup>th</sup> October to secure a place. Cheques should be made payable to 'The Glasgow Academy'. Alternatively, should you wish to pay by card, simply call the Administration Centre. Pupils must complete the attached sign up form and return the form with the £100 deposit to the Admin Centre.
- Parental consent forms will be issued to pupils once pupils have enrolled in the scheme. These must also be returned by **1<sup>st</sup> December**.
- Pupils will also attend training sessions on the use of eDofE. These sessions will be at lunchtimes or after school.
- If you have any questions or would like any further information about the trips please contact me by telephone via the Administration Centre or by email to [Laura.Murphy@tga.org.uk](mailto:Laura.Murphy@tga.org.uk)



## Silver Award

Pupil Name :

Tutor Group:

Date of Birth:

School email account (if known):

Please register \_\_\_\_\_ for The Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award.

Please find enclosed a cheque/ other for £100 to cover the cost of the initial deposit.

Signed :