



22nd September 2022

Dear Parent / Carer,

I am pleased to let you know that The Piggott School is offering the **Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award (DofE)** to students in Year 10. This is open to both those who have completed Bronze already, and to those who have not.

The DofE is a great chance for your child to broaden their horizons, discover new interests and talents, have fun with friends, develop essential skills for their future and achieve an internationally renowned Award. As Piggott's DofE Coordinator, I wanted to tell you some information about what a DofE programme involves, the benefits for your child and how they can sign up.

About the DofE

The DofE is non-competitive and open to all young people – it's about setting personal challenges and pushing personal boundaries. There are three levels of the DofE programme which, when successfully completed, lead to a Bronze, Silver or Gold Award.

Through their DofE, students will make friends, memories and build their confidence, resilience, and independence. Participants gain skills and attributes for work and life, like problem-solving, team-working and self-motivation – and they'll achieve an Award that is recognised by employers and can help them stand out when applying for university or jobs.

The Silver Award requires the participants to commit to a range of extra-curricular activities which are assessed in four sections: **Skills, Volunteering, Physical** and **Expedition** to be completed by September 2023.

Every young person's DofE programme is personal to them – they choose one activity per section (Skills, Volunteering and Physical), most activities can count. I will provide guidance and support, and students can either choose to continue an activity they already do or discover something new.

The DofE requires commitment and perseverance. Activities for each section take a minimum of **one hour a week** over a set period of time, so they can fit around studying, hobbies and social lives. It will take you at least **6 months** for Silver if you've already achieved your Bronze, or **12 months** if you've jumped straight into Silver.

- Volunteering section: 6 months
- Physical and Skills sections: One section for 6 months and the other section for 3 months
- Expedition section: 3 days/2 nights

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



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eDofE and the DofE app

Participants create their DofE programme and record their progress using eDofE, the DofE's digital system, available online at eDofE.org and through the DofE app – downloadable for free from Google Play and the App Store. If your child decides to enrol, I will set up their eDofE account and they will receive details of how to sign in and get started.

Signing up

The cost of signing up to the DofE is **£32** per participant. This covers the DofE registration fee for your child's participation place, a contribution towards the school's admin costs and DofE licence fees, and the participant's Welcome Pack, which will be sent to their home address and includes their personalised DofE Discount Card.

The Expedition

Please find the details of the expedition on the following page. **There is an additional cost for the Expedition.**

DofE Silver Certificate of Achievement

If your child cannot, or does not wish to, take part in this expedition then the DofE offer participants a Certificate of Achievement for successfully completing the other three sections of the Award: Skills, Volunteering and Physical. More information can be found here: [The DofE Certificate of Achievement - The Duke of Edinburgh's Award](#)

Enrolment

If your child would like to take part, please complete the online [enrolment/consent form](#) and make the payment of **£32** by **Friday 30th September**. Online payment is preferred, either through the SCOPay app or via The Piggott School website: www.scopay.com/piggottschool. If you have any difficulties with accessing your SCOPay account, please contact Mrs Greatrex (Trips Administrator) on trips@piggottschool.org.

If the cost of taking part is prohibitive, or if your child is in receipt of free school meals or pupil premium, please speak to me, as there may be financial support available.

I will be running a MS Teams information session on **Thursday 22nd September at 5pm**. No need to book, just click on this [LINK](#) and use your child's Piggott account.

If you would like any further information in the meantime, please contact me. Many thanks for your support and we look forward to helping your child to achieve through their DofE.

Yours sincerely,

Rhian Cobb
DofE Coordinator
cobbr@piggottschool.org

The Expedition

The DofE Expedition section is being provided by BXM Outdoors, an outdoor education company that the school has used before.

The dates are as follows:

Saturday 28th January 2023	Training Day (at school)
Thursday 20th – Saturday 23rd April 2023	Practice Expedition (residential - location tbc)
Thursday 4th – Saturday 6th May 2023	Qualifying Expedition (residential - location tbc)

What does this involve?

Training Day: This will be an opportunity for the participants to learn a variety of skills that will be necessary for their DofE Expedition. This will include map and compass reading, cooking outdoors, what to pack and why, meal planning, the DofE 20 conditions, and route planning for their own expedition.

Practice Expedition: Day 1 will be walking in their group with an instructor putting what they learnt in their training day into practice. They will cook their own evening meal and camp overnight. Day 2 and 3 will be more independent, with remote supervision from the instructors.

Qualifying Expedition: All days are walking in their group with remote supervision. Again, they will cook their own evening meal and camp overnight. The students will be assessed on how well they have achieved the DofE 20 conditions.

To achieve the full Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award, participants must successfully complete the Expedition section, including appropriate training and practice. The training day will be held in school. Both the practice and qualifying expeditions include overnight camping and will take place at a relatively local venue. Exact timing and locations will be confirmed in due course. Parents will be responsible for transporting their children to and from the start and finish points.

Payment and Consent

The total cost of the Silver Expedition is expected to be an additional **£305** approximately per student – the exact amount will be confirmed once we know how many students wish to participate.

If you would like your child to participate in this expedition, please complete the enrolment/consent form linked above and pay the deposit. Once we have confirmed the final cost, you may pay the balance as soon as you wish, but if you prefer to spread the cost, please meet the following payment dates as a minimum:

First Deposit	£50	7th October 2022
Interim	£150	4 th November 2022
Final balance (tbc)	£105	3 rd February 2023 <i>*NB: final cost is dependent on participant numbers</i>

Should your child wish to withdraw from the expedition, we are able to issue refunds (less £5 admin) if we receive notice before the Christmas holidays. After this, refunds cannot be made for any costs which we have incurred in booking your child's place unless we are able claim on insurance.



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