

HENDON SCHOOL

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'Learning Together Across the World'

6th October 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

I would like to take a moment to introduce you to the Duke of Edinburgh Award that your child now has the opportunity to apply for here at Hendon.

First of all, **a huge congratulations to your child for successfully coming to the end of their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award!** Their commitment, resilience, and teamwork were outstanding, and we are incredibly proud of what they achieved.

Now, it's time to take the next exciting step: **the Silver DofE Award**. Building on the skills and confidence gained during Bronze, **Silver** offers even greater challenges and rewards.

If however, your child is new to the award, I warmly welcome them to DofE.

What is the DofE?

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) is a youth programme that helps young people develop confidence, skills, fitness, and leadership through volunteering, physical activities, skills, and expeditions. Founded in 1956 by HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, it was created to help young people build character and life skills beyond the classroom, and has since inspired millions of participants across the world.

Why take part in DofE?

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is a fantastic opportunity for young people to discover their potential and develop confidence, independence and resilience. Participants are encouraged to make new friends, pursue personal interests, learn new skills and make a positive contribution to the community. Achieving a DofE Award is also highly regarded by colleges, universities and employers.

The programme is non-competitive and inclusive, supporting every young person to build self-belief, regardless of background, interests or ability.

Why Progress to Silver?

- Your child has already proven they can succeed – **Silver** will push them further and help them grow even more.
- It's a fantastic way to develop independence, leadership, and problem-solving skills.
- Employers and universities value the **Silver** Award highly – it shows determination and achievement beyond the classroom.

- Remember, once the **Gold** award is achieved, your child will be invited to Buckingham Palace to receive their award from the Duke of Edinburgh himself.

What's Different at Silver Level?

- **2x Expeditions:** Two nights away and three days walking. This means two separate expeditions during school holidays, giving plenty of time for preparation. Comprehensive training will be delivered in advance to ensure all students are fully prepared and able to enjoy the experience safely.
- The volunteering section will last 6 months. Your child will choose another section to do for another 6 months and the remaining section will be only 3 months.

How the programme works (If you are new to DofE).

There are three levels of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award: Bronze, Silver and Gold. Students in Year 10/11 will be completing the Silver Award this academic year.

To achieve the award, students must complete four sections:

- Volunteering
- Physical
- Skills
- Expedition

Students may choose their own activities, ideas for suitable activities can be found [via the DofE website](#).

The Expedition section involves a three-day, two-night journey in a rural (countryside) environment. Comprehensive training will be delivered in advance to ensure all students are fully prepared and able to enjoy the experience safely.

When will it be?

The award will last the entire year with students partaking in their chosen activities from November to July. It will be their responsibility to organise their activities and to collect evidence of their progress.

Training nights will also be on Tuesday's after school where I will teach the students the essentials to campcraft, navigation and online DofE account information. Depending on how popular the award is this year, these sessions will either be weekly, or every few weeks.

Most importantly, the expedition dates are going to be roughly these dates below.

- Practise Expedition: School field **late March 2027**
- Actual Expedition: Phasel's Woods **late June/ early July 2027.**

All efforts will be made to plan these 3 day expeditions with exams and revision time fully considered.

***Please ignore the August dates on Arbor, they are not to be used or remembered.**

Next steps and costs

All payments must be made via Parents' Arbor Accounts.

The total cost of the Silver Award is **£75**, payable in two instalments:

- **First payment:** £41 due by **2nd November 2026** (This covers the registration fee)
- **Second payment:** £34 due by **1st February 2027** (this covers campsite hire)

Once the first payment has been received, your child will be registered for an online eDofE account. This account will be used to select activities and upload evidence for the Volunteering, Physical and Skills sections.

Important – enrolment form

To complete the enrolment process, please scan the QR code or click the following link [The Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award 2027 - Enrolment Form – Fill in form](#)

This will direct you to a Microsoft Form where we collect essential student and emergency contact information. **Please note that eDofE login details will not be issued until this form has been completed.**



Equipment

Students are required to obtain their own personal equipment as listed on the official DofE website (www.dofe.org). Group equipment, such as tents and stoves, will be provided by the school at no additional cost.

Personal equipment can also be hired from Barnet Council for approximately £40. However, we recommend purchasing personal kit where possible, as it can be used for future expeditions. The full equipment list can be found via the DofE website: [DofE Expedition Kit List - The Duke of Edinburgh's Award](#)

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. The DofE website (dofe.org) also has lots of useful information.

We look forward to seeing our students embrace this exciting journey, overcome challenges, and develop skills that will empower them for life.

Kindest regards,

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Elyas Ramjhon'.

Mr Elyas Ramjhon

Teacher of Geography and Duke of Edinburgh Lead.

Email: Ramjhon@hendonschool.co.uk