



June 2023

Dear Participant, Parent and/or Carer

Congratulations on completing your Bronze DofE Award. This is a tremendous achievement of which you should be rightly proud.

If you enjoyed your Bronze award, I am pleased to say that we are accepting students who have completed their Bronze in year 9 to enrol to take part in the Silver award in the academic year 2023-2024 whilst they are in year 10.

Some aspects of the Silver award will be very familiar to students. The Physical, Skill and Volunteering sections are predominantly managed by the students and are overseen by an assessor of their choosing and an award leader. The students record their activities on the eDofE website. These three sections **must** be completed before a student can take part in the expedition section. Students can choose a new activity for their next level or choose to keep getting better at the ones you've just been doing – whatever interests you most.

For the expedition section, the training programme consists of three elements. Completing the training programme is a key requirement of the expedition section.

1. Weekly training sessions.

These sessions will happen in school, from 4pm-5pm, giving the participants time to take part in other extra-curricular activities beforehand. The students will be put into groups and will be expected to attend training every other week. The groups and dates to attend will be published on the DofE Noticeboard as well as on the Silver DofE 2023 Teams account. These sessions will run throughout the academic year, and students will be expected to maintain a good level of attendance.

2. Training walk and overnight camp.

Students will be in school as normal on the Thursday, dressed in their expedition kit. They will meet at the end of the school day, walk in groups to our campsite, cook and eat together, then camp overnight. On the Friday, they will pack up their campsite and walk back to school, putting into practice some of the navigation techniques the learnt on the Thursday.

3. Practice expedition.

At Silver, students take part in a practice expedition prior to their final. Students will be in school as normal during the Tuesday, dressed in expedition kit. They will leave their expedition packs in a safe place during the day. We will leave by bus and the students will take part in a short walk on the Tuesday evening. They will then cook, eat and camp, before taking part in day 2 of their expedition, travelling to a new campsite. They will again cook, eat and camp before completing the 3rd day of their planned route. Once completed, the students will be transported back to school.



Headteacher:

A J O'Sullivan BA, MA

Director of Resources:

H Charlton BA, MBA

Deputy Heads:

J Bell BSc, MA
R McFadden MEng
M J Wright BA

Assistant Heads:

A Lennon BA
S A F McArdle BSc
N Weaver BA



Final Expedition

For their final expedition, the students will plan their route, menu and activities, during the weekly training sessions. They will work in groups of between 5 and 7 to execute their plan, travelling between the start, first camp, second camp and finish.

Further information about the practice and final expedition will be available nearer the time.

The cost of the programme is currently estimated to be approximately £200, but this may increase due to the current financial climate. The cost covers registration into the scheme, the training programme, group equipment and accommodation on expeditions. Food and personal equipment for the practice and final expeditions is not included. To prevent students paying for activities in which they do not take part, this can be payable in either a lump sum or in four £50 instalments. Students are encouraged to raise funds themselves to take part in the programme; advice and support with this will be available in school. If the cost of the award presents a financial barrier to taking part, there is some discretionary funding available, please speak to Mrs Gibb through the school office.

Students must have completed their Bronze award before moving onto their Silver award. The date of enrolment onto their Silver award can be up to a maximum of 2 months before the enrolment form is processed, meaning that students can continue to use similar activities for their Silver award, if they enjoyed them whilst completing their Bronze award.

Taking part in the Silver award does not guarantee a place on the Gold programme. The opportunity to take part in the DofE award through Durham Johnston School is only available to students at Durham Johnston School. Students leaving the school to continue their education with other providers will need to explore other opportunities to complete the Gold award, if they so wish.

If your child wishes to continue to take part in the award programme, please complete and return the enrolment form attached to Mrs Gibb in Sc4 and pay the initial deposit on ParentPay by **Friday 14th July**.

Further information about the award can be found at <http://www.dofe.org/>. If you have any queries, please contact either Mrs I Gibb through the school office.

Yours sincerely

Mrs I Gibb

Durham Johnston DofE Manager

Silver DofE 2023-24 – Key Information

Enrolment Form – Friday 14th July.

Key Dates - Expeditions

1. Silver training walk – Thursday 12th October - Friday 13th October,.
2. Silver practice expedition – Tuesday 25th June - Thursday 27th June.
3. Silver final expedition. Monday 8th July - Wednesday 10th July.

Key Dates – Activity Sections

1. All sections to have plans submitted on eDofE - Friday 22nd September 2023
2. One section to be completed, and signed off on eDofE - 31st December 2023
3. All three sections to be completed and signed off on eDofE - Friday 31st March 2024

Key Dates – Payments

1. Initial deposit – £50 - Thursday 13th July 2023
2. Instalment 2 – £50 - Friday 31st October 2023
3. Instalment 3 – £50 - Friday 27th January 2024
4. Instalment 4 – £50 - Friday 31st March 2024