



November 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

### Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award

Your child has the opportunity to apply for a place on a very popular Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme which will commence from December this year.

The Silver programme has 4 sections: Volunteering, Physical, Skill and Expedition. To be successful, every participant must complete a block of work of at least 3 months' duration in voluntary work, in a physical exercise activity and in developing a skill. Two of these areas also need to extend to a total duration of 6 months (unless your child has completed the Bronze Award the timescale is reduced to 2 sections of 3 months and 1 at 6 months). In addition, they must plan and train for a 3-day (possibly 2-night) expedition, which they will carry out in the summer of 2025. At Barnwood Park we will provide the training and opportunities to complete the expedition; however, it will be your child's individual responsibility to complete the other three sections and anyone who has not started each section by the Easter break will not qualify for the expedition.

Students who complete their Physical, Skill and Volunteering sections will receive an eCertificate of Achievement directly from the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme once these sections are complete.

One important aspect of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme is for participants to be committed and well organised throughout the year. During term time there will be regular meetings after school together with additional skills days taking place at weekends. They must also successfully complete two expedition weekends, dates and further information will be communicated in Term 4. Before being able to attend the assessed expedition in the summer term, a participant must complete a series of practical training sessions run throughout the academic year. I will arrange a parent meeting during Term 1 to deliver expectations.

There is a charge of £120 for the Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award which enrolls every participant on to the programme; each participant will receive a welcome pack and an online account. It also covers the following expenses: Operating License fee, Expedition training and assessment including some equipment use and Badges and Certificates.

The cost does not include food for the expedition weekends or personal equipment. All participants must provide their own walking boots, a full set of waterproofs and a large capacity (65 litres) rucksack. The school will provide stoves, fuel, and tents, if required, following Covid guidelines. A full kit list will be provided during Term 4.

We will be in touch early in Term 4 with your expedition information, drop off and pick up times and venues. We are completely aware that this Award will be slightly different and there may be barriers to some of the sections. Please be assured that these alterations are in line with the recent changes to the Expedition Section made by the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme and will make sure that, on completion, you gain your full Silver Award.

If your child would like to participate in the Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award, they must complete and return the attached form along with your deposit of £60, you can pay via the ScoPay Online Payment system which can be accessed from the school website. Alternatively, cash or cheque payable to Barnwood Park School by Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2024. The attached slip must be completed and returned indicating how you are paying and put in the blue box. *(Please note that once your child has registered for the Award it will not be possible to reimburse the registration fee if they then change their mind as we will send the fee off immediately to register for the scheme).* The final payment of £60 is due by Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact me at school. Alternatively visit the Duke of Edinburgh website: <http://www.dofe.org/en/content/cms/parents/>

Yours sincerely

Rachel Aboud

Duke of Edinburgh scheme manager

Mr S Derry, Headteacher of Barnwood Park School & Henley Bank High School

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## REPLY SLIP FOR DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD - SILVER

Please place this reply slip into an envelope entitled 'Duke of Edinburgh Silver' and ask your child to place it in the blue box.

1. I am fully aware that the registration fee is non-refundable as it is to register my child with the national Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme.
2. I understand that a further payment of £60 is due by Friday 14 March 2025.
3. I am fully aware that in order to go on the assessed expedition my child must have completed the practice expedition in its entirety.
4. I am fully aware that if my child fails to complete their expedition section, for whatever reason, the cost is non-refundable as the school will be charged for the number originally signing up.
5. I am fully aware that the cost covers training, a practice expedition and an assessed expedition. If my child fails the assessment but wishes to repeat it, I realise that I will be charged for the repeat assessment.

By signing and dating this reply slip I am acknowledging that I understand and agree to all of the points above.

I have paid via ScoPay Online Payment System.

I enclose cheque/cash payment of £60.00

**STUDENT'S NAME:** ..... **FORM:** .....

**Signed:** (parent/carer)..... **Date:** .....

*In signing this, the school assumes that you have the permission of the person with parental responsibility*

Mr S Derry, Headteacher of Barnwood Park School & Henley Bank High School

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