



# MAIDEN ERLEGH

## SCHOOL

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Dear Parent/Guardian

### **Year 10 Students in September 2021- Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award**

I am writing to you today with exciting news of a fantastic opportunity for our current Year 9 students going into Year 10. We are very pleased to inform you that our students now have an opportunity to achieve a Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Silver Award. The DofE Award is a well-established and world renowned extracurricular programme, designed to help young people develop new skills, volunteer to help their community, improve their levels of fitness and provide them with opportunities that build their character, confidence and competence.

#### **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 DofE programme which, when successfully completed, lead to a Bronze, Silver or Gold Award.

Through their DofE, students will make friends and memories and build traits like confidence, resilience and self-esteem, which can benefit mental health. They will gain skills and attributes for work and life, like problem-solving, team-working and self-motivation – and they'll achieve an Award that's recognised by top employers and can help them stand out when applying for college, university or jobs.

To achieve their Silver Award, participants must complete four sections: Skills, Volunteering, Physical and their Expedition.

Every young person's DofE programme is personal to them – they can choose what they would like to do for their Skills, Volunteering and Physical sections, and most activities can count. We will provide guidance and support, and students can either choose to continue an activity they already do or discover something completely new.

During and in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, participants who complete their Skills, Volunteering and Physical sections will also receive a DofE Certificate of Achievement – a formal recognition, by the DofE, of their efforts at this extraordinary time.

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. For more details about programmes and timescales visit the Duke of Edinburgh aware website ([dofe.org](http://dofe.org)).

## About the Expedition

The Expedition section involves your child working as part of a small team to plan their expedition's aim, choose a location and do some training to make sure they're fully prepared – before spending two days and one night in the countryside.

Ahead of this, they will take part in a 3 day and 2 night training expedition covering the basic expedition principles and introducing them to the equipment.

There will also be a number of training sessions run weekly after school in which your child and their group will plan their route and prepare. Participants will only be able to do their expedition if they attend the organised training.

## The DofE and COVID-19

Your child can still have the full DofE experience, safely and in line with Government guidance, during the COVID-19 outbreak. The motivation and focus the DofE gives, and its positive impact on mental and physical health, can play an important role in helping your child navigate our 'new normal', safely expanding their world and giving them skills and experiences to open doors in the future.

As participants can choose and change their activities, they can pick ones that they can do while social distancing or from home. The DofE has provided useful advice and information, including activity and volunteering ideas, at [DofE.org/DofEWithADifference](https://www.dofe.org/dofewithadifference).

The DofE has also introduced a number of flexibilities to allow expeditions to take place safely, in line with social distancing restrictions and Government guidance. While your child's expedition may look slightly different to those in previous years, they will be able to do theirs safely and with all the benefits and memories they'd get at any other time.

## eDofE and the DofE app

Participants can create their DofE programme and record their progress using eDofE, the DofE's digital system, available online at [eDofE.org](https://www.edofe.org) and through the DofE app – downloadable for free from Google Play and the App Store.

If your child decides to enroll, we will set up their eDofE account and they will receive details of how to sign in and get started. We will also hold an eDofE launch session.

## Signing up

The cost of taking part in the DofE Silver Award is approximately £140.00 per participant. This covers all aspects of your child's participation, including; an official welcome pack, equipment (such as maps and tents), campsite, transportation costs and contingency plans which will be sent to their home address and includes their personalised DofE Discount Card.

If your son/daughter would like to participate in the DofE Silver Award, please ask them to complete the expression of interest form on the Silver DofE Google Classroom (**Code: u2or32u**). This should be accessed through their school email address. We would appreciate it if this can be completed by **Wednesday 16 July**. Please note, this does not confirm you child a space on the programme next year, and spaces will be finalised in September. This will allow us to plan for the next phase of establishing a robust programme, tailored towards the student's interests and motivations. Should your child be entitled to pupil premium support, please contact your child's pupil premium champion, following the process of requesting financial support as detailed in previous correspondence.

Letters will be sent in September to all students who have expressed interest in completing their Silver DofE Award with final details including dates and costs. It is important to emphasise that places will be offered on a first come first serve basis as there may not be enough spaces for everyone who wishes to go.

If you would like further information about the award please visit the DofE website. Additionally, please feel free to get in touch if you have any further questions via the email address [MESDofE@maidenerleghtrust.org](mailto:MESDofE@maidenerleghtrust.org).

Many thanks for your support and we look forward to helping your child achieve through the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Yours sincerely

*Miss M Longdon*

Miss M Longdon  
Duke of Edinburgh Award Manager