



2nd October 2023.

Dear Student & Parent/Carer,

## The Duke of Edinburgh's Silver Award

This is your opportunity to take part in Sharples School's Silver DofE Award programme exclusively for Year 10 students. Hopefully, many of our Bronze Award holders will want to take on the challenge of doing their Silver Award this year. However, if you have not yet fully completed Bronze, then you can still take part in the Silver Award, but you must complete your Bronze Award first. If you need any help with this then please ask us. The next step is to register for a place on the programme. Details are below.

Normally, the Silver Award is offered to students who have completed their Bronze Award in year 9 but we feel this opportunity should be offered to all students in year 10 who are interested and willing to show commitment to this more demanding award, known as a direct entry.

As a reminder, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award is the world's largest youth achievement award and gives participants the opportunity to develop skills such as independence, teamwork, community spirit and resilience, as well as trying out new activities. These are qualities that future employers and universities look for in a young adult and can be the key to unlock success.

As at Bronze, students must complete a Volunteering, a Physical and a Skill Activity over an hour a week for a three month or six-month period. However, at Silver, the Volunteering Activity must be for a six-month duration and either the Physical or the Skills Activity must also be for six months and the other for three months. These are organised by the student in their own time. Direct entry students must complete one 12-month activity, full details of this are outlined on the DofE section on the school's website (see below).

Silver students must also complete two expeditions; a practice expedition and a qualifying expedition. Each expedition will be for three days and two nights, walking and camping in the countryside, organised by the school. More details, including Silver Award FAQs and our DofE calendar for 2023-24, can be found on the DofE section of the school's website at [www.sharplesschool.co.uk/duke-of-edinburgh/](http://www.sharplesschool.co.uk/duke-of-edinburgh/).

In order to help fund registration, campsites, expedition transport and equipment the school will be asking for a total payment of £100, payable in three instalments; £30 at the start and a further two instalments of £30 in February and £40 in April, respectively. For pupil premium/free school meals students there is a reduced total payment of £50 (with instalments of £15, £15 and £20). These amounts are subsidised by the DofE, which is a charity, and by the school. More specific details of what is and is not included are on the Silver FAQs on the school's website.

**Headteacher Ms A. Webster:** [headteacher@sharplesschool.co.uk](mailto:headteacher@sharplesschool.co.uk)

**Admin Office:** [office@sharplesschool.co.uk](mailto:office@sharplesschool.co.uk)

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Please also be aware of the following: -

- As at Bronze, this is a weekly commitment in students' own time to their three Activities. Students must be sure they want to do this.
- Payment of the first instalment fee must be received before students can start the Silver Award programme. If necessary, please contact me to discuss other payment arrangements.
- Payments for the Sharples DofE Silver Award programme are not refundable, so students must be committed to completing their Award.
- **Direct entry** students must take part in a two-hour taster training walk on **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October at 9 am**. Full details will follow in the parent permission letter.

If you would like your son or daughter to take part in our DofE Silver Award 2023-24 programme then please complete the Registration Form and click to submit it online. Once this has been completed, payment details will be added to your Bromcom app.

The Registration Form is on this link:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf6AZLryZi9ldh0knFaugSMzuX8vkZSL1Fsee5Ju4OTdcxbNw/viewform?usp=sharing>

It will be much easier to click on the link to the Registration Form on the emailed version of this letter. The letter is also on the school's website.

Students can start their Silver Award programme as soon as they have registered and made the first payment. Starting during October would allow them to complete their six-month activities as soon as Easter. Students should start their Silver Award sooner rather than later, but they have until the 1<sup>st</sup> December to register, pay and start. Students who need longer than this to complete their Bronze Awards first, or who have any other difficulty with this deadline, should speak to me.

If you have any questions, please email me on [c.finney@sharplesschool.co.uk](mailto:c.finney@sharplesschool.co.uk) or call the school's phone number.

Yours faithfully,

Claire Finney

Mrs Claire Finney  
Assistant DofE Coordinator

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