



3rd October 2025

Dear Students & 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.

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.

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 2025-26, can be found on the DofE section of the school's website at 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 £145, payable in four instalments; £40 paid before Friday 24th October, £40 by 19th December, £35 before 13th February and the final instalment of £30 paid by 27th March. More specific details of what is and is not included are on the Silver FAQs on the school's website.

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.
- There will be a training walk on **Saturday 8th November at 9 am**. Full details will follow in the parent permission letter.

Headteacher Ms C. Molyneux: headteacher@sharplesschool.co.uk

Admin Office: office@sharplesschool.co.uk

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Registered Company No: 09677469 Registered office address: Sharples School, Hill Cot Road, Bolton, BL1 8SN



If you would like your son or daughter to take part in our DofE Silver Award 2025-26 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 MCAS 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 1st December at the very latest 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 or call the school's phone number.

Yours faithfully,

Claire Finney

Mrs Claire Finney
Assistant DofE Coordinator

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