



Southerly Point
Co-operative
Multi-Academy Trust

9th September 2019



Dear Parent/Carer

DUKE OF EDINBURGH SILVER AWARD – ADMISSIONS

I am writing to inform you of an opportunity for your child to either continue with their Duke of Edinburgh Award or to enrol as a new participant by taking part in the Silver DofE programme during Year 10 at Helston Community College. Participants are not required to have completed a previous level to enter the Silver Award, therefore it is open to everyone. Those who are new to the Duke of Edinburgh Award and enter at the Silver level are simply required to complete a further 6 months on a chosen activity. This letter aims to outline how the Award works and make you aware of the opportunity it can offer your child whilst understanding the considerable level of commitment it requires.

The two main elements of the Award are as follows:

- **SECTIONS** - The Silver DofE programme has 3 activity sections - volunteering, physical and a skill. Participants are to spend an hour a week on each of these sections. Participants are required to invest an hour a week volunteering for the duration of 26 weeks. Participants can then choose between the physical and skills section, completing one in 26 weeks and the other in 13 weeks. The Duke of Edinburgh Award prides itself on developing skills such as team building, as such, participants will work in groups of 4 – 7. We will assist participants to find a group if necessary. Each section has to be approved and signed off by an adult, for example, if your child is using their instrumental lessons for the skills section, their Music Teacher would be required to sign off their section by completing a written report. Please note relatives cannot sign off sections. Written reports are then uploaded to the online DofE site known as eDofE by the participant.
- **EXPEDITIONS** - The Award is well-known for its expeditions, these involve attending training sessions [these sessions take place between 3.30pm and 4.30pm on a given Tuesday - to fulfil health and safety requirements, training sessions are compulsory], taking part in a practice expedition, before finally completing a three day (two night) assessed expedition. The practice expedition includes a day of micro-navigation training. Expeditions take place on Bodmin Moor and parents may be required to transport their child to various meeting and collection points. The Duke of Edinburgh Award is run by volunteers so whilst participating, participants are expected to show respect and follow instructions.

STARTING THE SILVER AWARD

Participants often find they are already involved in extracurricular activities which count towards the Award, for example gymnastics would count for the physical section. Before participants begin the Award, they must find 2 extracurricular activities to count for 2 of the 3 sections, before they can enrol. This could quite simply be that they attend Gymnastics for their physical and guitar lessons for their skill. Once they have selected their 2 activities, they can approach Mr Semmons to start their application.

Headteacher: Mr W N Jenkins
Tel: 01326 572685
Fax: 01326 572183
Church Hill, Helston, Cornwall. TR13 8NR
Email: enquiries@helston.cornwall.sch.uk
www.helston.cornwall.sch.uk



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EDOFE

Participants record their progress on an assessed site known as eDofE. Those new to the Award will be issued with a logon once they are enrolled. Participants will be required to keep their eDofE up to date by regularly accessing the site.

COST

The enrolment for the scheme is **£130**, which needs to be paid using our Parent Pay system. **£60.00** is payable by Tuesday 1st October 2019 to cover the enrolment fees for the eDofE booklet and the expedition. If your child is in receipt of free school meals, they could be eligible for financial support to help with the costs of the Award. Please contact Mr Semmons if you think you may be eligible for funding. The remaining money will need to be paid in two instalments as follows:

£40 by Thursday 5th December 2019

£30 by Thursday 7th May 2020

If you have not used the Parent Pay system before, please contact our Accounts Department at the College who will be able to assist you. *If your child decides to leave the Award or is removed from the programme at Helston Community College, then please note that all payments are non-refundable.*

HOW TO SIGN UP

If your child wishes to sign-up, having understood the elements and commitment required to successfully complete the Silver DofE Award, they can obtain an enrolment form from Mr Semmons who is based on South Site. Mr Semmons can also be contacted via email: dsemmons@helston.cornwall.sch.uk. Enrolment forms must be returned to Mrs Greig on North Site by Tuesday 1st October 2019 – we are unable to accept any enrolments after this deadline. Those progressing from Bronze to Silver, must have completed their Bronze Award by Friday 27th September 2019.

DIARY DATES

The proposed dates for the practice expedition is Saturday 21st - Monday 23rd March 2020 and the assessed expedition is Saturday 13th - Monday 15th June 2020. The first training session for the Silver Award will take place on Tuesday 1st October in the South Site Hall between 3.30pm and 4.30pm.

If you have any queries regarding the Award at Helston Community College, please do not hesitate to contact me. We look forward to the forthcoming training sessions with your child and thank you for your support.

Yours faithfully

Mr D. Semmons
Duke of Edinburgh Awards Manager
Tel: 01326 572685 Ext 300
Mobile: 07719086127