

# Year 11/12 Silver Award

## February 2023



### General information

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We are pleased to be able to shortly begin DofE training and expeditions and are looking forward to working with our students again in the great outdoors! Please read the information below about our plans for the coming months and what is required for the completion of the Silver Award.

All students have an eDofE account that can be accessed through the internet but there is also an easy-to-use eDofE app for mobile phones that we suggest you download and use.

#### Silver Direct - Getting onto eDofE and requesting activity approval

Silver Direct students should have received a username and password from DofE to access their eDofE account. Students need to log on and enter their personal details so that a Welcome Pack is automatically posted to your home address. If you have not received an email from DofE please contact us at [dofe@arthurterry.bham.sch.uk](mailto:dofe@arthurterry.bham.sch.uk).

You then need to enter the details of each activity (Volunteering, Physical, Skill) and submit for approval from us (don't save it as a draft and choose either Mr Withey or Miss Wilson as your leader). Then you are insured to carry out each activity. Please ensure the start date of each activity is accurate, even if it is backdated. Your assessor must not be a family member and if we have agreed to assess you 'remotely' you will need to upload plenty of evidence to help us write your final assessor report. **Many students are yet to submit their activities for approval - please do this as soon as possible.**

#### Completing each section

There is no requirement to upload any evidence to eDofE apart from an assessor report (unless Mr Withey or Miss Wilson are remotely assessing you). Once your 3 or 6 months of activity is completed, your assessor needs to write a report. There are 2 ways they can do this:

- Completing an online form at this website: <https://www.dofe.org/assessor/>. The assessor only needs your eDofE number to do this. The dates are entered automatically, and it will be sent to us to put onto your eDofE account. **This is the easiest way to get each section completed!**
- Give the assessor report card from your Welcome Pack to your assessor to complete a written report. You must make sure that the dates match what is on eDofE and that the report is signed and dated after the end date of the activity. Then you will need to take a clear picture of the report card and upload this to eDofE marking it as the assessor report. Not doing this correctly takes up quite a lot of our time so please make sure you get this right.

**Keep reading...**

## Silver Expedition Training/Planning Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March (9am-1pm)

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Expedition training/planning is a compulsory part of the expedition section for all participants and takes place at Arthur Terry on B2-floor (IT department) on the first weekend after half term.

We will expect students to wear sensible clothing, bring their own lunch, and they will be required to remain in B-block at all times as they must be supervised on site.

As a reminder, students are required to walk in expedition groups of **6 or 7 people only** (no more and no less). We suggest that they come to the training already organized into a group if they can. If they are not already in a group, staff will allocate them to an expedition group.

## Silver 'Direct' Expedition Training Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March (9am-3pm)

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Students who are 'Silver Direct (having not done Bronze), are also required to attend the basic expedition training on the following weekend too. This is also a compulsory part of the expedition section and takes place at Arthur Terry in the science department for a full day (D2-floor).

This day includes map reading, navigation skills, campcraft, first aid and safety. Students will attend training sessions delivered by our staff team and this will include outdoor practice of putting up tents and using stoves. We will expect students to wear sensible clothing, bring their own lunch, and they will be required to remain in D-block at all times as they must be supervised on site.

## Expeditions: Essential information/reminders

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- Students should pack their own bag so that they know where all of their kit is.
- Nothing should be outside of their rucksack except for a roll mat wrapped in a tough black bag to keep it dry. Everything inside should be wrapped in black bags to keep everything dry, especially clothes and their sleeping bag.
- Students will be given an expedition manual on the training day that has all the information they need (how to pack a bag, suitable food and emergency rations to bring, our emergency mobile numbers on the front, first aid kit requirements etc.). They should bring this with them on expeditions. Student who have already completed their Bronze Award can find a copy on our website.
- Mobile phones are strictly forbidden on expeditions with the exception of one 'emergency mobile' per expedition group which remains turned off throughout the weekend unless there is an emergency.
- Please ensure you are on time as the whole group cannot leave by coach until everyone is here!

All students must have:

- Suitable clothing (Students will need to wear clothes suitable for walking). Jeans are not permitted. A waterproof coat (and preferably waterproof trousers are also required)
- **For Silver, you must have a pair of proper walking boots!**
- Toiletries
- A Compass
- Large rucksack
- Sleeping bag and sleeping mat.

Each expedition group will also need:

- Tents of suitable size that the group can sleep in along with their rucksacks (double-skinned)
- Cooking stoves for the group (Trangia or resealable gas burning stoves - please check before purchasing these to check if they are suitable, or you can hire one from us instead)

Further information about equipment can also be found on our website:

<https://arthurterry.bham.sch.uk/students/duke-of-edinburgh/expeditions-equipment/>.

We are able to loan certain equipment if necessary and students will need to see Miss Wilson in C3.8 with their request and payment before Easter. Details of kit hire can be found here:

<https://arthurterry.bham.sch.uk/students/duke-of-edinburgh/kit-hire/>

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## Silver Practice Expedition    Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> - Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March

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Students will be required to arrive at school no later than 8am on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March entering the green gate (Parents are not permitted to come in with them) and gathering in the atrium with their group for kit checks.

We will travel to the expedition area by coach, camp for TWO nights and return to school at approximately 5:30pm on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March.

After half term we will email you to check that emergency contact details & medical needs are correct. We will also provide you with the DoFE mobile numbers in case of emergency.

**The campsite we will be staying at on both nights is Hardhurst Farm, Hope Valley S33 6RB (If unable to contact us on our mobile phones 01433 620001)**

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## Silver Assessed Expedition    Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> - Monday 26<sup>th</sup> June

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This date is now confirmed and is after the GCSE exams. We will be planning routes during the training in March and more details/timings will be shared closer to the time.

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## Going for Gold?

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Year 12 students wishing to do their Gold Award will have to finish their Silver Award by 1<sup>st</sup> July because they need to enrol on Gold before the practice expedition. The Gold Practice Expedition is 15<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> July.

We hope you are excited about the next few months. The whole staff team are really looking forward to working with you.

**Mr Withey & Miss Wilson**

[dofe@arthurterry.bham.sch.uk](mailto:dofe@arthurterry.bham.sch.uk)