



Our Ref: APO

October 2023



Dear Parent / Carer

Duke of Edinburgh Award: SILVER AWARD

Following past success, we are proud to be running the Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Award for another year at Rednock School. Consequently, I'm pleased to let you know that we are offering the Silver DofE Award to students in Year 10, 11 and in Year 12 and 13 in 2023.

The DofE is a great chance for your child to broaden their horizons, discover new interests and talents, have fun with friends, develop essential skills for their future and achieve an internationally renowned Award.

As Rednock's DofE Manager, I wanted to send you some information about what a DofE programme involves, the benefits for your child and how they can sign up.

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. If your child has missed out on the opportunity of doing Bronze, with a positive approach, they can achieve their Silver without doing their Bronze!

Through their DofE, students will make friends and memories and build traits like confidence, resilience and self-esteem, which can benefit mental health. They'll 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 university or jobs.

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

Every young person's DofE programme is personal to them. Skills, Volunteering, Physical need to be done for 6 months, they can choose what they'd like to do and most activities can count. These will also need to be assessed. In addition, either physical or volunteering must be done for a further 6 months if they are direct entrants and have not done their Bronze. They can start their journey at Rednock, complete it in a year, or take their programme with them and finish it off when it suits them. Their enrollment will be dated to 1st September so anything they have already started will count towards it.

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. We will provide guidance and support, and students can either choose to continue an activity they already do or discover something completely new. For more details about programmes and timescales visit DofE.org/do.

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 three days and two nights in the countryside travelling by canoe.

Ahead of this, they will take part in training sessions and on the water or on land, covering basic expedition principles and introducing them to expedition equipment, some possibly in school in which your child and their group will plan their route. Participants will only be able to do their expedition if they attend the organised training and practice.

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 and through the DofE app – downloadable for free from Google Play and the App Store. If your child decides to enrol, 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 and lunchtime support sessions. They need to come with an idea of what they want to do for their sections and who will assess them.

Signing up

The cost of taking part in the Silver DofE Award this year is **£356 (£80 of which is non-refundable)**. This covers your child's participation place and Welcome Pack, which will be sent to their home address and includes their personalised DofE Discount Card. In addition your child will receive training, map reading skills, basic first aid, camp craft and all camping fees, hire of canoes, expedition costs organised by an approved licensed outside provider, use of school equipment, tents and cooking equipment are included.

If your child is interested in participating, we would like you to attend a parents' information evening on **Wednesday 11th October at 6pm**. This will explain how it is run at Rednock.

Please note these important calendar dates:

Silver Information Evening for Parents and Students:

Wednesday 11th October 2023 at 6pm

If your child is interested in taking part in this award, please complete [this google form](#) and we look forward to seeing you at the meeting on **11th October 2023**.

Once you have completed the google form, the £80 deposit will appear on your Parent Pay account and this needs to be paid by **23rd October 2023**. Following receipt of the deposit, your child will be enrolled and be expected to take responsibility for their own programme on the DofE website, sign up to Google Classroom for DofE which will be one of the main forms of communication, attend training sessions and lunchtime support meetings. If your child is entitled to pupil premium and you would like any financial assistance with the cost of this award, please indicate this on the google form.

	Amount	Due By
Payment 1 - Non refundable deposit	£80	23rd October 2023
Payment 2	£150	16th December 2023
Payment 3	£126	31st March 2024

We look forward to seeing you and your child on **11th October 2023** and if you have any questions in the meantime, please send an email to me at dofe@rednockschool.org.uk.

Yours sincerely

Andrea Porter
Duke of Edinburgh Manager

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