



Our ref: APO|VST|001

28<sup>th</sup> November 2024

Dear Parent / Carer,

**RE: Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award**

I'm pleased to let you know that Rednock School offers the SILVER Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) to students in Year 10. 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.

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.

Skills, Volunteering, Physical need to be done for 6 months. 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 enrolment will be dated to 10th October so anything they have already started will count towards it.

Every young person's DofE programme is personal to them – they can choose what they'd like to do for their Skills, Volunteering and Physical sections, and most activities can count. We will provide guidance and support, and students can either choose to continue an activity they already do or discover something completely new.

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. For more details about programmes and timescales visit [DofE.org/do](http://DofE.org/do).

**About the expedition**

The Expedition section involves your young person 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 traveling 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 young person and their group will plan their route. Participants will only be able to do their expedition if they attend the organised training and practice.

### **Proposed dates are:**

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 6:00pm – 6:45pm** - Parents presentation evening at Rednock School with The Oxford Boat Company (our Provider). This is an information event for parents and students.

**May 2025** – Training day

**16<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> May 2025** - Practice expedition

**13<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> June 2025** - Final expedition (this will affect the last day of Work Experience)

### **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.

### **Signing up**

The cost will cover your child's participation place and Welcome Pack, which will be sent to their home address and includes their personalised DofE Discount Card, the training, map reading skills, basic first aid, camp craft, camping fees, hire of canoes, expedition costs, use of school equipment, tents and cooking equipment.

To provide consent for your son/daughter to take part in the Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award, please complete this Google form [here](#) and pay the deposit of **£80.00**, via Parentpay, by **Tuesday 17th December**.

Once signed up, your child will 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. Please discuss the programme planner with your son/daughter so they can get started.

Many thanks for your support and we look forward to helping your child to achieve through their Silver DofE. If you have any questions, please contact me on [dofe@rednockschool.org.uk](mailto:dofe@rednockschool.org.uk).

Yours faithfully,

Andrea Porter  
**DofE Co-ordinator**