



Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award

Your son has expressed an interest in participating in the Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award. We will again be offering this to all students who are interested but do reserve the right to limit the participating numbers.

The Silver Award consists of the following sections:

Section	Details	Notes
Volunteering	6 months	<i>Direct entrants must undertake a further 6 months in either the Volunteering or the longer of the Physical or Skills sections. (Direct entrants are those who have not completed the Bronze)</i>
Physical	One section for 6 months and the other sections for 3 months	
Skills		
Expedition	3 day, 2 night expedition in wild country - details below	

Activities should be undertaken out of lesson time, and an adult must be able to verify a participant's contribution to the chosen task. It is always worth checking that a chosen activity is valid for a particular section of the D of E prior to starting it. I am on hand to answer any queries, and the D of E website has a wealth of information at www.DofE.org.

Please note that students will be expected to organise and fund all sections themselves. We will be happy to advise students on the best way to complete these sections both in training meetings and when required. We would expect all students to have completed their award by the Easter of Year 12.

It is the responsibility of parents and carers to satisfy themselves of the health and safety procedures of the organisation facilitating the physical, skill and volunteering sections of the award including insurance provision. This must also take child protection measures into account. St Olave's takes no responsibility for this.

Expedition

The expedition phase can be tough. It is physically and mentally demanding with students covering up to 60k in semi wild country carrying all their supplies over 3 days and 2 nights. The students will work in teams of between 4 & 7 (6 ideally), camping both in campsites & possibly wild camping with a high degree of independence; staff will check daily but will not intervene unless it is absolutely necessary.

The expedition program is detailed below. These dates are fixed and students who sign up must commit to these dates if they wish to participate with the award with St Olave's.

The expedition cost also includes the Silver Award registration pack. The total cost will be £300 with payments made in instalments on the following payment schedule:

- £100 non-refundable deposit by February 12th 2016
- £100 2nd instalment by May 13th 2016
- £100 3rd instalment by Sept 9th 2016

The deposit should be made via our on-line system (sQuid). Should you experience any problems in connection with the on-line system, please do not hesitate to contact the Finance Department by email financeoffice@saintolaves.net and they will assist with your query. Students who fail to attend the training sessions will be withdrawn from the award at full cost to themselves. A behaviour contract will need to be signed by applicants and failure to adhere to this will result in students being withdrawn from the award at full cost to the applicant.

To sign up to the Silver Award students should complete the participant enrolment form, attach evidence of previous awards (if applicable) and a payment for £100 to cover registration and the deposit (nonrefundable) and expedition fee. The cost covers:

- Training, tuition and staff supervision.
- Transportation to and from the expeditions, hire of minibuses
- Campsite fees for all expeditions
- Loan of equipment - Team kit (tents, stoves, maps, compasses, fuel)
- Personal kit (rucksacks - we have a limited supply for rental)
- Insurance

Training & Expedition Dates

Class room based training

A number of sessions will run throughout the year. These are compulsory so attendance is expected.

NB - please note absence without prior approval will result in being withdrawn from continued participation in DofE.

Training will take place on:

Wednesday	9th March 2016	13:00	Holyoak room
Wednesday	11th May 2016	13:00	Holyoak room
Wednesday	7th September 2016	13:00	Holyoak room

Practice expedition

25 - 27 June 2016

Qualifying Expedition

Early October 2016 or March 17 tbc

Students will need to supply/pay for

- Food for expeditions
- Personal kit (see separate kit list)

Expectations

To be able to do the practice expedition we expect that at least one component of the award is completed (or proof that it is very near completion) and for the assessed expedition three components are complete (or proof that they are very near completion).

By applying and signing up to participate in the Silver D of E you are confirming that you will adhere to the rules and procedures laid out.

Other information

Please find the web address for the school DofE training booklet which holds many of the questions you may have - <http://www.saintolaves.net/dofeoverview>.

Application

The Application form can be found on the School website
<http://www.saintolaves.net/?p=students/dofeawards/silver>.

Applications must be in by 12th February 2016.