

Our Ref: AJG/sch

27th September 2017

Dear Parents / carers

RE: Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award 2017-18

I am in the process of planning the Duke of Edinburgh Awards for this year. Students are required to complete 4 sections which make up the award: *Volunteering, Physical, Skill, and the Expedition*. Further information can be found on www.DofE.org which gives details about time requirements. Sections currently being completed may be backdated to September.

We will be staffing the Silver Award by employing Challenge Adventures, qualified mountain leaders, who will be completing the assessment of the expeditions. I will also be attending along with a number of Poynton High School staff who also have a wealth of experience from expeditions that we have run in the past. The 2017-18 programme dates are outlined on the reverse of this letter.

The cost will be £360. This will cover registration, expeditions and administration. We also loan tents, bags, stoves and pans. All other kit needs to be sourced by the student; any kit loaned must be returned promptly in the same condition as borrowed. I have also attached a visit form which must be completed and returned.

If your son/daughter is interested in undertaking the Silver Award this year, Bronze must have been completed first, although direct entry is possible; students would be required to accompany year 9 on any Bronze training days. I am initially asking for confirmation of your permission to reserve a place. You will then be asked to pay a deposit of £50.00 on Parent Pay to confirm your place. A second instalment of £150 will be due on 18th December 2017 and a final payment of £150 will be due on 5th March 2018. This can all be done via ParentPay, including the deposit.

Please can you and your son/daughter complete the details on the back page, and return the following **Thursday 5th October 2017** ;

- Reply slip (attached to this letter)
- Cheshire Council Educational Visit form
- DofE application form (direct entry applicants only)

Yours faithfully

A. Graham

Mr A Graham
ajg@phs.cheshire.sch.uk

Silver DofE Programme 2017-18

Activity	Who	Date	Tick when Done
Introduction to DofE and programme for the year	All	Year Assembly	
Welcome – eDofE Lecture (Autumn or Spring Term)	All	Thursday 28 th September 2017	
Collect evidence and upload (9 Month Period)	All		
Complete Volunteering , Skills and Physical Sections	All		
Expedition			
<i>*please note that practice walks do not take place through school for Silver award, as the Bronze award has already formed your training. You are, of course, strongly advised to ensure adequate levels of fitness before embarking on both the practice and assessed expeditions.</i>			
Practice Expedition (Peak District) 3 Days	All	Sat 14 th April to Mon 16 th April 2018	
Assessed Expedition (Yorkshire Dales) 3 Days	All	Fri 13 th to Mon 16 th July 2018	

Return Slip for Silver Award 2017-18

Name: _____

Form: _____

In order to complete the award I understand my son/daughter will be required to undertake the following:

- Complete online Volunteering, Skills, Physical and Residential proposal
- Complete and evidence Volunteering, Skills and Physical sections on eDofE
- Complete any relevant lectures and practice walks posted prior to expeditions
- Complete the Qualifying and Assessed expedition (three days and two nights).
- Kit loaned will be returned promptly in the same condition as borrowed

I give my permission for my son/daughter to undertake the above walks/expeditions. Whilst completing the Volunteering/Skill/Physical sections I accept responsibility for the supervision of my child.

I understand that the cost of undertaking the Silver Award at Poynton High School is £360 and that a deposit of £50 is required to confirm my place, followed by a second instalment of £150 by 18th December and third payment of £160 by 5th March. I understand that it may not be possible to supply a refund if my child drops out because external agencies will have been booked. Bronze award **must** have been completed before beginning Silver, unless direct entry.

The preferred method of payment is via the online ParentPay system. Your ParentPay account is the one set up initially to pay for School Meals. Please contact school if you have problems accessing this account.

The deposit request will be set up on ParentPay only when we have received your initial permission slip. Your place will then be confirmed once the deposit has been paid.

Please put your reply slips/ Educational Visit Form in an envelope and write the student's name and form class clearly on the front. This should then be handed to Student Services.

Parent /Carer signature: _____ Date: _____

- Please return this to student enquiries by Thursday 8th October 2017