Dear Parent/Carer

**Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award: 2021 - 2022**

I would like to introduce to you the opportunity for a real adventure for your son/daughter! The Duke of Edinburgh Award is a leading youth charity that gives all young people the chance to develop skills for work and life, fulfil their potential and have a brighter future. The DofE Awards are internationally recognised and are held in high regard by colleges, universities and future employers as they know the dedication, commitment and personal development it takes to complete the award.

We will be offering the Silver Award to our year 10s and 11s. Each award is a personal programme of activities consisting of four different sections: Volunteering, Physical, Skills and an Expedition. Students get to choose what activity they would like to complete for each section and while doing so, will be involved in their community, learn new skills, get fitter and take part in a three day canoe expedition in July 2022. By taking part in the DofE they will make new friends, experience new situations and be challenged along the journey to achieving their Silver Award.

This journey will begin in September 2021 with support from trained staff members who will lead your child through their award. To increase your knowledge of the DofE Award Scheme, visit [www.dofe.org](http://www.dofe.org). Fortunately the school have received a grant which has assisted in a discounted cost in running the Award. The Silver Award will run at a cost of £220 which will cover the cost of the DofE participation fee of £23 and all training and assessment fees from our approved activity provider, Joy of Adventure which includes the cost of both the practice and assessed canoe expeditions, including use of the boats, buoyance aids, paddles and dry barrels. The school will provide tents, rucksacks and group first aid kits. Students will need to bring their own clothing, sleeping/roll mat, sleeping bag, food and welly boots.

The Silver Award consists of the expedition section culminating in a 3 day assessed canoe expedition. Meanwhile, participants should be undertaking 6 months of at least 1 hour a week for their Volunteering, a second section at 6 months (Skill or Physical) and the third section for 3 months (Skill or Physical).

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| **Volunteering** | **Physical** | **Skills** | **Expedition** |
| 6 months | One section for 6 months and the other section for 3 months | Plan and train for a 3 day/2 night canoe expedition |
| Direct entrants (No Bronze Award) must undertake a further 6 months in either the Volunteering or the longer of the Physical or Skills sections. |

**Expedition**

The Award aims to encourage commitment and dependability, so it is expected that each person spend 1 hour each week on the section. Some people choose to spend only 30 minutes and so double the amount of time spent. It is also possible to spend 2 hours a fortnight on your section but no hours above this can be included.

Students are required to attend a practice and an assessed expedition of three days and two nights on the following dates:

**Practice Expedition: Friday 24th – Sunday 26th June 2022**

**Assessed Expedition: Friday 15th – Sunday 17th July 2022**

Our approved activity provider, Joy of Adventure, provides Silver expeditions by canoe. At Silver level the expedition is 3 days with 2 overnight camps. You have to be self-sufficient on the journey and take everything with you for 3 days. It is really important that your expedition has a clear aim, which could be to explore the team dynamics of the group or develop a promotional video for the Award. At the end of the expedition you will then do a presentation of what you have discovered or achieved. The expedition is a self-sufficient journey where participants will canoe as a group and do not have a staff member with them. Therefore it is essential they are properly trained to be able to complete this section successfully.

**Canoe Training will include:**

* Canoe paddle and rescue skills
* Expedition Cooking and campcraft skills, including how to use a Kelly
* Kettle and fire box
* First Aid training
* Countryside code
* Team work and communications

As part of the training, students might be able to gain their British Canoeing Start and Discover Award (Old British Canoe Union 1 star and 2 star awards).

If your son/daughter wishes to sign up for the Award, please complete and return the DofE Participant Enrolment Form, along with a voluntary contribution of £223 on ParentPay. If sufficient funds are not raised, then unfortunately the Award will not be able to run. If necessary, you may make instalments for the Award.

* Initial non-refundable enrolment fee of £23.00 payable by Thursday 22nd July 2021
* Second non-refundable payment of £50.00 payable by Friday 1st October 2021
* Third non-refundable payment of £50.00 payable by Friday 5th November 2021
* Fourth non-refundable payment of £50.00 payable by Friday 3rd December 2021
* Final non-refundable payment of £50.00 payable by Friday 7th January 2022

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at paula.edwards@lecacademy.org.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs P Edwards

Acting Centre Manager, DofE Award

Littleport and East Cambridgeshire Academy