Dear Parent/Carer

Your son/daughter has expressed a desire to continue with the Duke of Edinburgh’s Award Scheme at Silver level.

**WHAT IS THE AWARD FOR?**

As you are aware the Award Scheme is a national scheme designed to encourage young people to:

* Become involved in worthwhile leisure activities.
* Contribute to the community through voluntary services.
* Provide a challenge to the individual.
* Discover the satisfaction of achievement.
* Develop self-confidence.

The Award Scheme should be both enjoyable and challenging as well as providing them with qualities which employers are looking for.

**What do they have to do?**

As with the Bronze scheme the Silver Award Scheme has four sections:

**SKILLS**

They have to choose and follow a hobby for a minimum of three months. During this period they will be assessed on effort, perseverance and progress.

**PHYSICAL RECREATION**

They have to choose an activity and participate in it for a minimum of 12 weeks. They should show an improvement over the period of participation.

**SERVICE**

This section is based on the belief that members of a community have a responsibility to each other and that voluntary help is needed. They have to show a practical involvement in voluntary service.

* For at least fifteen hours over a six month period.
* Or complete a course of specialised training and reach a required standard over a period of 8 weeks (e.g. First Aid)

**30 MILE EXPEDITION**

They have to undertake an expedition over **three** days which will include walking **30** miles, camping and looking after themselves for the **three** days. There will be two expeditions – one where the students practice their skills and the other during which they are assessed on their skills.

The students will have to do a further three months on either their chosen skill or physical recreation.

The minimum length of time this award will take is 6 months. If your son/daughter is in year 11 it is possible for them to complete the award alongside their GCSE commitments. At all times your child’s progress remains of utmost importance to us and the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme should not impact on their studies. Likewise if they are in Year 10 they can spread the participation across the 2 years although I would recommend they undertook the expeditions in Year 10.

Dear Mrs Mason

I give permission for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ undertake the Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award.

I have completed the attached enrolment form and have enclosed the £20 enrolment fee.

Signed ………………………………………………… Date …………………………

As you can imagine the students will have to be even more determined if they are to complete the silver award although at least this time they will be aware of what is required of them! Once again your support throughout the scheme will be invaluable especially with year 11 students as we get into the exam period.

The scheme should not interfere with their school work – they are required to organise their time and if they are using the Award Scheme as an excuse for not completing school work they need to consider suspending their participation until they have their school work in hand.

There is a cost involved in undertaking the DofE Award at Redbridge Community School. **The cost is £130, for this they will be registered on the Scheme; receive a record book and registration pack, with a discount card and details of other discounts available. This cost also covers the two expeditions on Dartmoor, other training sessions, a hooded sweatshirt, fuel and the majority of equipment needed for expeditions.** The only equipment students are ideally required to purchase are their walking boots.

To spread the cost we have set up a payment plan spreading it out across the months. You can of course pay in one lump sum or pay smaller amounts more often. Please make cheques payable to Redbridge Community School.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Amount | By When | What is the money being spent on? |
| £25.00 | Friday 11th December 2015 | **DEPOSIT**. This pays for your enrolment and registration on the award. |
| £25.00 | Friday 5th February 2016 | This pays for the two training walks and the hoodie. |
| £25.00 | Friday 18th March 2016 | This contributes the two expeditions in Dartmoor. |
| £25.00 | Friday 15th April 2016 | This contributes the two expeditions in Dartmoor. |
| £30.00 | Friday 13th May 2016 | **FINAL PAYMENT**. This ensures your place on the expeditions. |

**If you would like your son or daughter to undertake the award please complete the attached enrolment form and return to the office before Friday 11th December 2015. Dates for the expedition will be confirmed shortly.**

If you have any queries please contact me at the school. The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme website is also a useful reference for both yourselves and your son/daughter, especially with regards to suggested activities. The address is [www.dofe.org](http://www.dofe.org) . All this information and more will be available on the school website.

Yours sincerely

**Mrs L Mason**

**Duke of Edinburgh Award Manager**

[lmason@redbridgeschool.co.uk](mailto:lmason@redbridgeschool.co.uk)

Dear Mrs Mason

I give permission for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ undertake the Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award.

I have completed the attached enrolment form and have enclosed the £25 enrolment fee.

Signed ……………………………………………………………… Date ……………………….……

Dear Mrs Mason

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Signed …………………………………………………………………… Date …………………………