



PARMITER'S SCHOOL

FOUNDED 1681

Headmaster: Mr M Jones BA MEd

14 July 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award 2022-2023

Parmiter's School offers students the opportunity to undertake the Duke of Edinburgh Award at Silver level during Years 11 and 12. This is a four section award consisting of:

- Service (helping people in the community and NOT for a profit making enterprise)
- Skills (covering almost any hobby/interest but NOT sport)
- Physical Recreation (sport, dance and fitness)
- Expedition

Those who have achieved the Bronze Award may continue with the activities that they undertook for that Award. It would usually take a participant about 12 months to complete a Silver Award. More information can be found at <http://www.dofe.org/>.

The overall cost for a student to undertake the Silver Award through the school is £250. This covers the initial registration, training costs, campsite fees, coach travel, equipment costs for the school, staff cover costs, staff and parent volunteer costs, a hot meal for students at the end of their final expedition and fuel costs. In addition to this is the cost of students' individual equipment, principally a rucksack, shared tent, boots, a shared stove and full waterproofs. Students will also need copies of OS Explorer Map OL24 and OS Explorer Map OL1. It is the school's policy to try to make the Award available to all students and, accordingly, we maintain a number of tents, rucksacks, stoves and boots which are available to loan for £10 per item. This will be organised once students have finalised their groups. There is also the possibility of financial assistance in case of hardship – please e-mail m.holloway@parmiters.herts.sch.uk early if you wish to be considered for such assistance. Please make your payment of £250 via WisePay, either in full on or before 1 September 2022 or in three instalments as follows:

Instalment	Due Date	Amount
Initial Instalment	30 July 2022	£50.00
Second Instalment	1 September 2022	£100.00
Final Instalment	3 October 2022	£100.00

Any outstanding amount will be available to view at all times on WisePay.

Please note that the initial charge for enrolling on the Award is £30 (included in the amount of £250 above). This payment is non-refundable in any circumstances, as it is paid to Herts CC in order to enrol the student and cover their administrative costs. Should a student drop out of the Award before completion, they will be reimbursed for any unspent monies.

In order to register participants, I must have the e-mail address for each student – the address that they commonly use - together with their full name, mobile number and date of birth. Please complete this [reply slip](#) in order to register.

In addition, a [medical form](#) must also be completed for each student and will be relied upon by the school for all training and expeditions. Should there be any changes to the information disclosed, it is imperative that the school be notified in writing.

It is a condition of acceptance onto the Award that applications are full and complete. If any requirement is overlooked, this may count against a student's acceptance onto the Award.

Students accepted onto the Award will be expected to attend all courses and practices. The practice expedition will run from 3 - 5 July 2023 (after the GCSE examinations) in the Peak District and the final expedition will be in the Autumn term of Year 12 from 27 - 29 September 2023.

The expedition section of the Award is run by the school, using suitably qualified staff, in order to keep costs down for the participants. It would cost significantly more if your child were to do this section externally and it is only possible to provide this opportunity because a significant number of staff and parent volunteers are willing to give up their own time. In the interests of enhancing the self-reliance aspect of the Award, it should be recognised that supervision is kept to a minimum after initial training. There will be staff at various points along the routes and at the campsites during the evening. This mobile phone number **07837 417235** is provided for emergencies. Please ensure that your child has written down the number in case they need it. Students will only be allowed to use mobile phones in emergencies, in accordance with the regulations of the Duke of Edinburgh Award, so please do not try to contact them during the Expeditions and do not ask them to contact you. Students can also ring the school directly (**01923 671424**) and they will relay a message to me.

It is very important that parents/carers and students realise that students will need to be self-motivated to complete the award successfully; the whole ethos of the Award is that students should take responsibility for themselves and become more independent. To that end, they should organise their expeditions themselves, identifying any items that need to be purchased and who is responsible for bringing shared kit.

Whilst it is not necessary to have undertaken the Bronze Award, additional training will be necessary for direct entrants. Students who are awaiting certificates for their Bronze Award should apply for the Silver level now.

Any behaviour on any activity connected with the Award which is considered to be inappropriate will result in the student being rejected from the Scheme without refund.

Please also note that students must have registered using eDofE and, unless they are direct entrants, finished each of their three sections (excluding the Expedition section) by 3 July, or they will not be allowed to proceed with the Award.

Yours sincerely



M Holloway
Duke of Edinburgh Co-ordinator