Bridgewater High School

Upper School
Years 10-11
Broomfields Road, Appleton,
Warrington, Cheshire,
WA4 3AE

Lower School
Years 7-9
Hall Drive, Appleton,
Warrington, Cheshire,
WA4 5JL

Upper School: T. (01925) 263919 F. (01925) 861434 | Lower School: T. (01925) 263814 F. (01925) 861449 | Email. enquiries@bridgewaterhigh.com Website. www.bridgewaterhigh.com

Y10 – D of E SILVER AWARD 2020

m.harnden@bridgewaterhigh.com

11/12/2019

Dear Parent / Guardian

The Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award is now available to Year 10's and it is hoped that starting the Award during this school year can then take the pressure off the prospect of participation alongside year 11 Exams.

Students are equally welcome to register for the Award whether they have participated at Bronze level or not. Participants who skipped Bronze are known as 'direct participants' (participation works in the same way but timescales for commitments are longer). For those who signed up in Yr 9, (Bronze Level) we appreciate that many are still working towards completing this. However, I would just like them to be aware that, so long as they have finished a section at Bronze they can move on to start participation at Silver. Therefore, even if you have not completed Bronze in full just yet, you can still sign up to Silver now if you are sure you wish to continue with the Award Scheme.

Further information is available through the DofE website and students are welcome to get in touch and discuss direct, with either myself or Mrs Barlow before they commit.

The Award is an enormously valuable achievement and is recognised worldwide. Universities and employers are looking for more than just good grades and extra-curricular activities. They are looking for evidence that shows more than your academic achievements alone, so emphasising involvement on a UCAS or Job Application, can convey to an institution or employer that you are ambitious, committed and have a wide range of interests and skills. It will certainly help a young person stand out from the crowd.

A whole host of further information, advice and 'how to' guides are freely available on the internet and I would thoroughly recommend taking some time to access www.edofe.org for more information before committing to any payments.

The costs to cover registration with the charity itself and the expeditions are **£280 for Silver.**

Parents/Guardians may wish to know. The school delivers the expeditions on a non-profit basis. Only the direct costs of the expeditions together with the Silver welcome packs are met through these charges. Equipment such as, tents, stoves, rucksacks can all be borrowed from the school free of charge and any monies remaining in budgets at the end of each financial year are reinvested within the D of E programme.

The school will open an enrolment window from Tuesday 10th December until Monday 6th January for Y10 participants to secure a place. During this period, an initial deposit of £100 will need to be made via either SCOPAY.com or by handing in a cheque to the school Finance Office. A completed reply slip will also be required to support your initial payment and again we ask this is returned for the attention of the Finance Department. Please ensure cheques are; made payable to 'Bridgewater High school', and are clearly marked on the back with 'DofE', 'Your Childs Name' and 'form'.

Silver balances should be paid, in full **by Monday 24th February** and a place on the expedition/s will not be allocated without full payment being made by this date.

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Please be aware that in the unlikely event of a conflict in dates occurring or injury/illness preventing participation in any expedition you may not be eligible for a refund through the school insurance policy. Circumstances for a need to withdraw from an expedition will be assessed individually and we would ask you to contact us via email as soon as possible should any issues arise. **We would also ask you to cross-reference the expedition dates with your family calendar at this point as we are afraid this payment of £100 is non-refundable.**

Expedition dates for 2020 are set as follows;

Event/Expedition	Date	Venue	Transportation
Silver Training	**Fri 1st – Sun 3rd May 2020** **Organised Transport leaving school at 3pm.**	Peak District	School Transport to the first campsite Friday 1st May. Parents to collect from meeting point Sunday 3rd May.
Silver Qualifying	**Fri 3rd – Sun 5th July 2020**	Llangollen	Parent transportation, drop off Friday 3rd (AM) and pick up Sun 5th July (PM)

On Tuesday 28th January, any participant wishing to register for the first time, select their choices for the new level and/or seeking support to finish off their old level is welcome to stay after school and find support in the Upper School Library between 3:00pm and 4:00pm with Mr Harnden & Mrs Barlow. No appointment is necessary.

Direct Entry Participants that register on 28th January will be given access to their own online eDofE account and be shown on how to make the system best work for them.

If your child is already participating at Bronze, the appropriate level will be added to their existing account and they are welcome to sign in independently from the 20th January, providing they have previously registered with school and have paid the required £100 (**non refundable)** deposit**.**

Once planners have been submitted and approved, all participants simply need to follow their commitments and obtain that all import assessors report at the end.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is clearly a fantastic opportunity and is available to every student within the school. If circumstances are such that the cost alone is a barrier to your son/daughter's participation, please do get in touch at your earliest possible convenience.

I would just like to finish by taking this opportunity to thank you in advance for all the support you will undoubtedly be offering in the back ground to help facilitate participation. If you have any queries regarding any of the above, please do not hesitate to get in touch via the email at the top of this letter.

Yours Sincerely

M Harnden

Duke of Edinburgh Award Manager