

14th September 2026

Dear Students & Parents,

We are delighted to offer students the opportunity to complete their Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award through Ashby School.

If you are currently in Year 10 and have completed/finalising the completion of your Bronze Award, you are eligible to move straight on to Silver. Students in Year 10 who have not previously completed their Bronze Award are still eligible and welcome to start their DofE journey by opting for the Direct Silver route (see explanation below).

Silver Award Details

The Silver Award is comprised of 3 sections, as outlined below. It is expected that these sections are found and completed outside of school meaning that the award does require students to make a significant and independent commitment to these areas.

Section	Silver Award From Bronze Route	Direct Silver Route
Volunteering	6 months	Same as 'From Bronze Route' plus a further 6 months in the Volunteering section or the longer of the Physical or Skills section
Physical	One for 6 months	
Skills	One for 3 months	

Expedition Dates

In addition to the 3 sections outlined above, students must complete the following expeditions:

- **Silver Training Residential** in the Peak District: Saturday 12th – Sunday 13th June 2027
- **Silver Practice Expedition** in the Peak District: Friday 25th June (PM) – Sunday 27th June 2027
- **Silver Qualifying Expedition** in the Peak District: Friday 10th September (all day) - Sunday 12th September 2027

These expeditions are delivered in partnership with Premier Expeditions, a licensed Approved Activity Provider, and supported by Ashby School staff. More information about Premier Expeditions can be found at www.premierexpeditions.co.uk.

It is essential that all three expedition elements are attended in order to complete the award. In an exceptional circumstance such as a medical reason that prevents a student from completing the expedition element, we will offer a transfer to the next cohort's expedition event. However, if students want to complete the expedition via a different route or at a different time of their choosing, this would incur additional costs. Costs for incomplete expedition elements cannot be refunded.

Running the Duke of Edinburgh's Award is an optional enrichment programme and as such is not funded by the school. Ashby School serves as the students' DofE authorising body, supporting them in registering, managing and evidencing their progress.

Behavioural expectations

As Silver DofE activities include overnight stays at public campsites, we expect all students to demonstrate respectful and responsible behaviour throughout. Students must follow the instructions of Ashby School and Premier Expeditions staff at all times. This includes expectations around quiet times, lights out and remaining in designated sleeping areas overnight.

Any serious or repeated failure to meet these expectations may result in parents/carers being contacted and the student being collected from the event. Where behaviour gives cause for concern, a student may also not be permitted to take part in subsequent expeditions. In these circumstances, any payments already made will not be refunded, although parents/carers will not be liable for any future instalments that have not yet become due.

Silver Award Sign-up form

If you already know that you would like to sign-up to the DofE Silver Award, then please complete the Microsoft sign-up form linked below by **Friday 16th October 2026**:

[DofE Silver 2026/2027 Sign-up form – Fill in form](#)

This form asks for information about your young person but also asks for information about how the students are planning to complete the other elements of the award. If you require more information about completing the sections, there are a range of ideas on the DofE website <https://www.dofe.org/>

Costs & Payment Schedule

Alongside completing the sign-up form, we also require a deposit in order to secure your child's place on the expedition, register your child with the DofE scheme and cover our in-school costs. This will need to be paid via WisePay by **Friday 16th October 2026**. The cost for the award is as follows; final amounts for the two instalments will be confirmed once numbers are known. This does not include transport to and from the expedition locations and we ask for parental support with this. Financial assistance is available for Pupil Premium students.

	Payment Deadline	Silver Award
Non-refundable Deposit	16 th October 2026	£150
January instalment	31 st January 2027	£100
March instalment	31 st March 2027	£95
Total costs		£345

The official launch date for the DofE Silver Award will be **Monday 2nd November**. As of this date, students that have completed their Bronze awards will be able to log in to the eDofE app and see that they now have access to the Silver level (assuming that they've signed up with the Microsoft form and paid their deposit). Students that have signed up and paid their deposit for the Direct Silver route will be sent an invitation to attend a DofE Drop-In session to collect their log-in details and then be given a live demo of the eDofE app.

Need more information before signing up?

Whether you have already completed the Bronze award and would like to get a better understanding of the differences between Bronze and Silver or whether you are completely new to the Duke of Edinburgh and would like to get a better understanding of how it all works, then please come along to a DofE Drop-In Session in the Hub (in the library) on Tuesday lunchtimes. A member of our DofE team will be there to answer all of your questions so that you can make an informed decision.

Kind regards,

Mrs Attle
DofE Manager