



30 October 2018

Dear Parents and Carers

**Re: Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award**

Your son or daughter is now eligible to sign up for the opportunity to complete the Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award at St. Martin's School. Although those who completed their Bronze Award at St Martin's in 2017 or 2018 may be given priority, the Silver award is also available to students who have completed their Bronze award outside of school, or those that do not have a Bronze Award (although there are more conditions to fill if this is the case).

Students will be required to hand in an application form (no more than half a page) to Miss Stannard outlining why they wish to partake in the award. This is to show their commitment to completing the award. Please note that we will be running the Duke of Edinburgh Award in house this year and do not plan to use the Mud and Maps company previously used for the Bronze award.

The Award has four sections: Physical, Skill, Volunteering, and Expedition. The Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award requires each participant to partake in a voluntary activity for six months. The physical and skill section will need to be undertaken for three months each, then one of the two for another three months. Students who did not partake in the Bronze Award will need to undertake a further six months in either volunteering or the longer of the physical or skills sections. The expeditions will be run by myself and Mr Bias.

The Duke of Edinburgh scheme (DofE) is a non-competitive scheme that will give your son or daughter skills, confidence and a view on life that everyone is looking for, from employers to colleges and universities. Your son or daughter may be doing many of these activities already and the DofE is a way of getting recognition for them. Please note that acting as a school Prefect can be used as volunteering, as can other examples of volunteering at school, such as reading programmes. School activities and teams outside of lessons can also contribute towards sections of the award. Completing the Silver Award will help your son or daughter to make a difference to other people's lives and the community, be fitter and healthier, make new friends and have memories to last a lifetime. It will also enhance college, UCAS and job application forms.

More information can be found on the extensive DofE website: <http://www.dofe.org/>

The cost of the Silver Award is £258 per pupil. This money is required for larger items of equipment, assessor costs travel and accommodation for expeditions, and other charges set out by the Duke of Edinburgh scheme.

**In order to apply, your son or daughter must first hand in the attached medical consent form to the Finance Office and the attached letter of application to Miss Stannard in room R003 by Friday 9 November 2018 to be considered for the award. Confirmation of places will then be finalised and payment letters will be sent out to successful parents.**

In order for your son or daughter to successfully complete the award, they must attend a series of compulsory training sessions after school. Students must also complete two weekend expeditions. The dates for these are listed below:

- 21 November 2018 First Aid Course, St Martin's (South Hall) 3.30pm - 5pm
- 5 December 2018 Countryside Code/Food Selection, St Martin's (S004) 3.30pm - 5pm
- 13 December 2018 Food & Cooking, St Martin's (Food Tech) 3.30pm - 5pm
- 16 January 2019 Equipment/Kit Lists/Rucksack packing, St Martin's(S004) 3.30pm - 5pm
- 23 January 2019 Camp Craft, St Martin's (Outdoor learning space) 3.30pm - 5pm
- 13 February 2019 Navigation/Route Planning, St Martin's (S004) 3.30pm - 5pm
- 6 March 2019 Route Planning (Practice Expedition) St Martin's (S004) 3.30pm - 5pm
- 13 March 2019 Equipment Distribution, St Martin's (R003) 3.30pm - 4.30pm
- 15–17 March 2019 Practice Expedition (South Downs, East Sussex)
- 8 May 2019 Route Planning (assessment), St Martin's (S004) 3.30pm - 5pm
- 2 July 2019 Equipment Distribution, St Martin's (R003) 3.30pm - 4.30pm
- 4-7 July 2019 Assessment Expedition (Buxton, Derbyshire)

Failure to attend any of the sessions above will result in your son or daughter being unable to complete the award. The training sessions and route planning will be carried out in school. Depending on final numbers, transport to and from the expeditions will either be by coach or school mini-bus. The practice expedition will take place on the South Downs and the assessment will be in the White Peaks in Buxton. More details for these expeditions will be provided when the places have been assigned.

If you have any further questions or concerns, then please do not hesitate to contact me at [istannard@st-martins.essex.sch.uk](mailto:istannard@st-martins.essex.sch.uk)

Yours sincerely

Miss I Stannard  
***Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award Co-ordinator***