



26 September 2019

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 last year may be given priority, the Silver award is also available to a small number of 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 a letter of application of 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.

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 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 them 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 £229 per student. 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.

**Your son or daughter must hand in the medical consent form to finance as well as the letter of application to Miss Stannard (R003) by Wednesday October 9 2019 to be considered for the award. Confirmation of places will then be**

**finalised and payment letters will be sent out to parents of successful applicants.**

In order for your child's successful completion of 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:

- Wednesday 6 November - First Aid Training - St Martin's (R003) – 15.30 – 17.00
- Wednesday 20 November - Expedition Planning - Overview and Nutrition - St Martin's (R003) – 15.30 – 16.30.
- Wednesday 15 January 2020 - Expedition Planning - Equipment and Weather - St Martin's (R003) – 15.30 – 16.30
- Wednesday 22 January - Camp Craft - St Martin's (R003) – 15.30 – 17.00
- Wednesday 5 February - Navigation Practice - St Martin's (R003) - 1530 - 1630
- Wednesday 12 February - Route Planning (Practice Expedition) - St Martin's (R003) - 1530 - 1630.
- Wednesday 11 March - Route Planning and Equipment Distribution (Practice Expedition) - St Martin's (S004) - 1530 - 1630.
- Friday 20 – Sunday 22 March - Practice expedition - (South Downs)
- Wednesday 22 April - Route Planning - (Qualifying Expedition) - St Martin's (R003) – 15.30 – 16.30.
- Wednesday 29 April - Route Planning - (Qualifying Expedition) - St Martin's (R003) - 15.30 -16.30.
- Friday 29 June - Equipment Distribution - St Martin's (R003) – 15.30 -16.30.
- Wednesday 8-Thursday 11 July - Assessment Expedition (Buxton)

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. Transport to and from the expeditions will be by school mini-bus. The practice expedition will take place on the South Downs and the qualifying expedition will be in the White Peaks near 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 via [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***