



TNH-office@attrust.org.uk



01760 721480



tnha.attrust.org.uk



Brandon Road, Swaffham, PE37 7DZ



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Dear Parent/Carer

Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award

I'm pleased to let you know that The Nicholas Hamond Academy is in a position to offer the Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) to students in Year 10 who have completed their Bronze award. The DofE is a great chance for your child to broaden their horizons, discover new interests and talents, have fun with friends, develop essential skills for their future and achieve an internationally renowned Award. As The Nicholas Hamond Academy's DofE Manager, I wanted to send you some information about what a DofE programme involves, the benefits for your child and how they can sign up.

About the DofE

The DofE is non-competitive and open to all young people – it's about setting personal challenges and pushing personal boundaries. There are three levels of DofE programme which, when successfully completed, lead to a Bronze, Silver or Gold Award.

Through their DofE, students will make friends and memories and build traits like confidence, resilience and self-esteem, which can benefit mental health. They'll gain skills and attributes for work and life, like problem-solving, team-working and self-motivation – and they'll achieve an Award that's recognised by top employers and can help them stand out when applying for university or jobs. In order to achieve their Silver Award, participants must complete four sections: Skills, Volunteering, Physical and their Expedition.

Every young person's DofE programme is personal to them – they can choose what they'd like to do for their Skills, Volunteering and Physical sections, and most activities can count. We will provide guidance and support, and students can either choose to continue an activity they already do or discover something completely new. Activities for each section take a minimum of one hour a week over a set period of time, so they can fit around studying, hobbies and social lives. Silver timescales are as follows:

Volunteering – 6 months

Physical and Skill – one section for 6 months and the other for 3 months

Practice expedition – 2 days/2 nights

Expedition -3 days/2 nights

About the expedition

The Expedition section involves your child working as part of a small team to plan their expedition's aim, choose a location and do some training to make sure they're fully prepared – before spending three days and two nights in the countryside.

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There will also be a number of training sessions after school in which your child and their group will plan their route and prepare. Participants will only be able to do their expedition if they attend the organised training.

The expedition will take place from 28th to 30th June 2024, with further details to follow. Silver students are also required to complete a practice expedition which will be held on 10th to 12th May 2024. Again, further details will follow along with pre-expedition training dates.

eDofE and the DofE app

Participants can create their DofE programme and record their progress using eDofE, the DofE's digital system, available online at eDofE.org and through the DofE app – downloadable for free from Google Play and the App Store.

If your child decides to enrol, we will set up their eDofE account and they will receive details of how to sign in and get started.

Signing up

The cost of taking part in the DofE Silver Award is £30.00 per participant. This covers your child's participation place and Welcome Pack, which will be sent to their home address and includes their personalised DofE Discount Card.

If your child would like to take part, please complete and return the enclosed enrolment form and arrange payment via School Money for the total of £30.00.

We will hold an information event for parents and students in due course. If you would like any further information in the meantime, please feel free to contact me via email: Rachel.Wells@attrust.org.uk.

Many thanks for your support and we look forward to helping your child to achieve through their DofE.

Yours faithfully

Rachel Wells

DofE Manager