



## Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme - bronze and silver awards

At Jo Richardson we believe that the award scheme is the best non-academic award available for young people. It challenges young people throughout the world aged 14-25, to volunteer and serve others, acquire new skills, be physically active and experience adventure. It is also very highly regarded by a growing number of employers, colleges and universities. Students at JRCS can apply at the end of year 8 to start bronze D of E in September of year 9, and at the end of year 9 to start silver D of E in September of year 10.

The Scheme is not competitive, and anyone with the necessary perseverance, enterprise and effort can gain an Award, including students with additional needs. Participants are encouraged to choose activities that particularly suit their interests and talents.

The award is divided into four areas:

- **Volunteering** – providing some kind of voluntary service to the school and/or the wider community.
- **Skill** – a regular hobby or pastime
- **Physical Recreation** – a sporting activity.
- **Expedition** – a journey on foot of at least six hours and over two days. This aspect of the award will also include a requirement to complete training for the expedition in areas such as the Country Code, camp craft, first aid and navigation (map work skills).

The first three aspects may develop existing interests or provide the opportunity to try something new. Time can be logged once they have registered for the award. One aspect, Volunteering, Skill or Physical Recreation must be sustained regularly over a period of six months; the others must be a minimum of three months commitment. Regular commitment is defined as at least one hour per week or equivalent.

The expedition aspect of the award will involve regular commitments once a fortnight to attend training in the evenings after school, and also three weekends away for the practise expedition and the final expedition itself.

Skills you will develop include:

- Perseverance
- Independence
- Reliability

### Assessment

- Completion of the Award scheme online log for Volunteering, Skill and Physical Recreation.
- Evidence of completion of all training, practice expeditions and final expedition, including a presentation uploaded onto the eDofE system.

## Cost

There is a charge of £22 to register for D of E which covers the award administration both locally and nationally, and contributes towards the annual licence fee that the school is required to pay each year to run the award. Weekends away (of which there are three, one in September/October, one in May and one in June/July) cost £20 each. This covers camping costs and staff expenses, and helps us to maintain and replace the school's equipment. **It is however the school's policy that no students will be excluded from D of E for financial reasons.** If families are experiencing financial difficulties help may be available in certain circumstances with these costs.

## Careers and further study

Once this award is completed, students can go on to the silver and gold awards, in years 11, 12 and 13. All of the awards are highly regarded by higher and further education institutions and employers as a sign of a student's interest in and further commitment to school and the wider community, above and beyond their academic achievements. Research has demonstrated that the Duke of Edinburgh Award is the most highly rated non-academic qualification by employers and further and higher education institutions, rating even above work experience.

## How long does it take?

The tables below show the time that you will need to spend on your activities for the bronze and silver awards:

### Bronze

Volunteering	Physical	Skill	Expedition
3 months	3 months	3 months	Plan, train for and complete a 2 day, 1 night expedition
<i>All participants must undertake a <b>further</b> 3 months in the Volunteering, Physical or Skills section</i>			

### Silver

Volunteering	Physical	Skill	Expedition
6 months	One section for 6 months and the other for 3 months		Plan, train for and complete a 3 day, 2 night expedition
<i>*Those who did not do Bronze must undertake a <b>further</b> 6 months in the Volunteering, or the longer of the Physical or Skills sections</i>			

## D of E offer across Years 9, 10 and 11 at a glance

Year 9	Complete <b>bronze</b> volunteering, skill and physical
Year 10	<b>Bronze expedition</b> Option to start <b>silver</b> (either continuing from bronze or as a straight entrant) and complete <b>silver</b> volunteering, skill and physical.
Year 11	<b>Silver expedition</b> (training before school and at Easter, final expedition after exams.)

## 2018/19 recruitment

- Attend a meeting in the sixth form common room at **1:40pm on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> May**
- Submit an application form to Ms Montague by **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2018**.