

Harris Church of England Academy

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Headteacher Mrs Roberta Harrison



September 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

Duke of Edinburgh's Silver Award – Harris CofE Academy 2025/26

We are pleased to offer the Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award as an extra-curricular activity for students in Year 10. The Duke of Edinburgh's award is a nationally recognised accreditation for young people. It gives all those who participate the chance to develop skills for work and life and fulfill their potential. Taking part in the DofE builds confidence and self-esteem whilst developing skills such as teamwork, communication, leadership and independence. The programme requires persistence and a high level of commitment but can have a lasting and sometimes life changing impact on the attitudes and outlook of young people who complete their award.

There are four sections to the award; skills, volunteering, sport and the expedition. Each of these sections will take up about one hour a week – most of which will be whilst undertaking independent activities away from school. Further information regarding the structure of the award can be found at <http://www.dofe.org/do/basicinformation/>. Please encourage your child to view the website before deciding whether or not to join the programme.

Students are able to undertake the Silver Award regardless of whether they have completed the Bronze Award, although priority places will be given to those students who have completed the Bronze level. Those entering the award directly at Silver will also have a slightly longer programme to follow, however it is still possible to complete the award in a year.

DofE meetings will take place at Harris periodically throughout the year to monitor the progress made across the sections and also to prepare participants for the expeditions in the Summer Term. There will be a school based training day to begin preparing students for their expeditions and practice map skills. Subsequently there will be a 3 day / 2 night practice expedition and a qualifying expedition of 3 days / 2 nights in locations that ensure progression from the Bronze level such as the Peak District. Final details on expedition locations are yet to be confirmed but all the relevant information regarding expeditions will be sent out closer to the time. Transport to and from the expeditions will be provided by school.

At Silver level participants **must** complete **both** the practice and the qualifying expeditions. **Please check the dates carefully for your availability before expressing interest in enrolling your child.**

Phase	Date	Location
TrainingDay	27th March	on site
Practice Expedition	Thursday 14th to Sat 16th May	Derbyshire Peak District
Qualifier Expedition	Friday 3rd July to Sunday 5th July	Long Mynd Shropshire



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Registered Office: The Benn Education Centre, Craven Road, Rugby CV21 3JZ

This year we are offering places on the Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award at £138 which is a significant reduction in cost from previous years. We have been able to achieve this by our own D of E leaders becoming qualified to supervise expeditions without the need for expensive external providers.

The fee covers:

- Registration to the Duke of Edinburgh's Award (which includes limited personal accident insurance).
- All group equipment including maps, compasses, tents and stoves.
- Campsite fees for practice and qualifying expeditions.
- Stove fuel for practice and qualifying expeditions.
- We have a limited supply of Rucksacks that can be borrowed from school along with a small number of sleeping bags and roll mats.

In the event of withdrawing from the programme, all monies paid are non-refundable. This includes if after the practice expedition it is decided that the participant should not join the qualifying expedition due to their performance in the practice expedition.

If you wish your child to be considered for a place on the SilverDofE, please pay **a deposit** of £50 via Wisepay ASAP. The deposit is non refundable once your child has been allocated a place. Once you have received written confirmation from us that your child has secured a place on Silver DofE, we shall provide you with further details about completing payment and other information relating to the details of the programme. Successful applicants will be enrolled in early October. If your child is not successful in securing a place then the deposit will be refunded.

I hope very much that your child will consider taking a place on the adventure that is the Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

Yours faithfully

Mr D Unwin
DofE Manager