



NEWSTEAD WOOD SCHOOL

"creating opportunities for success"

6 December 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

Year 11 Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award

We are pleased to offer students in Year 11 the opportunity to undertake their Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award through the school. The Silver award consists of the following four sections:

Section	Details	
Volunteering	6 months	If the Bronze Award has not been completed, one of the 6 month sections must be extended by a further 6 months
Physical	One for 6 months and one for 3 months	
Skills		
Expedition	Please see details below	

All timescales involve a minimum commitment of 1 hour a week (excluding holidays).

The school will make the necessary arrangements for students to undertake the Expedition section of the award. Students will be expected to organise and fund the non-expedition sections themselves. We will give advice and support to students on how to complete these sections during a training support session.

It is the responsibility of parents and carers to satisfy themselves of the health and safety procedures of the organisations facilitating the Physical, Skill, Volunteering and Residential sections of the award including insurance provision and child protection measures. Newstead Wood School takes no responsibility for this.

Expedition

The expedition is a physically and mentally demanding challenge requiring participants to work together as a team to plan for and carry out a three-day expedition in open country, preceded by a two-day training expedition. This requires students to show a high level of independence as contact with staff on the expedition will be minimal in order to comply with the DoFE's remote supervision requirements. All staff accompanying our expedition will have been DBS checked.

Headteacher: Mr Alan Blount, MA, BSc, QTS

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The Practice Expedition will run from **2-4 April 2025**, starting on the evening of 2 April. The Qualifying Expedition will run from **25-28 June 2024**, starting on the evening of 25 June. The Practice will take place in the Guildford Area, the Qualifying Expedition will take place in the Ashdown Forest.

Students will not be allowed to use mobile phones whilst actually on expedition but can use them before and after.

Cost of the Award

The cost of enrolling onto the Silver Award and completing the expedition section will be £250 per student. The trip will only go ahead if numbers permit. For this reason we need to know the number of students committed as soon as possible and therefore are asking for a non-refundable deposit of £50. The deposit will of course be refunded if the trip does not go ahead due to insufficient take up. The suggested payment schedule for the award fee is as follows: -

- £50 Non-refundable deposit by Friday 10 January 2024
- £100 2nd instalment by Friday 14 February 2025
- £100 3rd instalment by Friday 21 March 2025

Payments need to be made via WisePay. If a student drops out at any stage, all payments made up to that point can only be refunded where trip funds permit or if a replacement can be found from the waiting list.

WisePay also offers the option for payment of the whole fee to be made up-front or in any increments resulting in paying sooner than shown above.

If you have any concerns regarding payment for the award, please contact finance@newsteadwood.co.uk in confidence. Some assistance is available via the DofE for pupil premium students. Please contact me if you require any further information at hmorland@newsteadwood.co.uk

The above costs include campsite costs, training costs, specialist kit hire (see below) but do not include food carried by students on the expedition itself.

Training

Students will be required to attend 1-hour after school training sessions. These will be on a Thursday unless a significant number of students cannot attend on that day. Some of these sessions may not be mandatory but please do not sign up if you are unable to attend after school on Thursday without prior discussion with myself.

If students did not undertake the First Aid Training day for Bronze DofE they will also complete that with the Bronze DofE Cohort. Please email me at hmorland@newsteadwood.co.uk if this is the case.

Kit

The above training sessions will include guidance on kit expectations and food selection and purchase.

All necessary specialist equipment for the expedition (such as tents) will be provided by the school. A basic personal kit list will be provided; the required expenditure for this will be kept to the minimum necessary and most things may be borrowed from the school if necessary. Participants will also be able to purchase kit at a discounted rate from certain retailers.

Finally

A behaviour contract will need to be signed by applicants and breaches of the code of conduct will result in withdrawal from the award at full cost to the participant.

The deadline for all applications to be received is **Friday 10 January 2024**.

Places on this expedition are limited and in the event of more applications being received than there are places available, applications will be accepted on a first come first served basis and a waiting list will be formed. It is also possible to register for Silver DofE without doing this expedition. Students will be able to receive a completion certificate for all sections apart from the expedition. Anyone on the waiting list will also be expected to do this. It is also possible for those people to complete their expedition outside of the school with any approved activity provider and the school can supply details of these. Please also remember that you do not have to have completed Silver DofE to progress onto Gold DofE

If you have any questions or would like any further information about the Duke of Edinburgh Award at Newstead Wood School, please do not hesitate to contact me at hmorland@newsteadwood.co.uk

Yours sincerely,

Hannah Morland

Miss Hannah Morland
Silver DofE Coordinator