



18 November 2025

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

Please note that any student that has not completed Bronze DofE completely by the start of Silver DofE will be entered as Direct Entrants and as such will have to complete the longer timeframes on their sections.

We would also like to remind students that DofE is a whole programme, not just the expedition, and they should be actively engaging in the other sections during the completion of the award.

Headteacher: Mr Alan Blount, MA, BSc, QTS

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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.

The Practice Expedition will run from **25-27 March 2026**, starting on the evening of 25 March. The Qualifying Expedition will run from **24-27 June 2026**, starting on the evening of 24 June. The Practice will take place in the Ashdown Forest and the Qualifying Expedition will take place in the Guildford area.

Students will not be allowed to use mobile phones whilst 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 5 December 2025
- £100 2nd instalment by Friday 30 January 2026
- £100 3rd instalment by Friday 27 February 2026

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 day decided once deposits have been paid. Some of these sessions may not be mandatory but please do not sign up if you are unable to attend after school sessions without prior discussion with me.

Kit

The 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 5 December 2025**.

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 the 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 Silver 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