

October 2024



Duke of Edinburgh 2024/25

Silver – Year 10

Dear Parent / Carer,

We are delighted to launch the Duke of Edinburgh's Award at Lymm High School for this year and we hope your child might choose to sign up. Last year, we had nearly 250 students sign up and it has been fantastic to see participation remain high for several years now. We continue to offer all 3 awards in school and these will be open to all students in the 3 year groups below, thanks to the continued collaboration with *Get Outside The Classroom (GOTC)*, the expedition provider we have worked with for the last 8 years. We will be offering the following awards this year:

- Bronze to Year 9
- Silver to Year 10
- Gold to Year 12

We do not offer the Duke of Edinburgh's award in Years 11 and 13 due to our students' external examinations, but students in these years are welcome to pursue DofE awards outside of school if they wish.

The **Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award** is available to **Year 10**, Bronze is available to Year 9 and Gold is available to Year 12. Students do not need to have done a previous DofE award to sign up for Silver.

Further information (including FAQ), is available on the school's website under Enrichment/Duke of Edinburgh; there is also a wealth of information on www.dofe.org. We would thoroughly recommend taking some time to access this information before committing to any payments or expedition dates. We will be hosting a parent information meeting about the Silver DofE Award, in early November, and urge you to attend if you feel you need further guidance on the signing up process and the award schedule/expectations. Further information to follow on Class Charts.

A DofE award is an enormously valuable programme and is recognised worldwide. Universities and employers are looking for more than just strong academic achievement and participation in extra-curricular activities, so emphasising involvement in DofE on a UCAS or job application can tell an institution or employer that a student is ambitious, has demonstrated leadership skills and commitment, and has spent time helping other people in their community.

The cost of the Silver award this year is **£395**. This covers the training day, 2 expeditions, insurance, loan of various equipment and the DofE registration pack. It is important to make you aware that the school operates the Duke of Edinburgh's award on a 'not-for-profit' basis. Due to our large numbers, we would not be able to run the DofE programmes in school without the support of GOTC. Equipment such as tents, stoves, fuel bottles, maps, compasses, sleeping mats and rucksacks can all be borrowed from GOTC free of charge and any monies remaining in budgets at the end of the year are reinvested to ensure future participation.

We are now open to enrolment, but please be aware, there is a deadline of **Monday 8th November 2024** for participants to secure a place.

Headteacher: Mr Gwyn Williams

Lymm High School, Oughtrington Lane, Lymm, WA13 0RB
01925 755458 www.lymmhigh.org.uk

The payment deadlines (via Parent Pay) are as follows:

Date	Amount due
8th November	£100 (non-refundable deposit to secure place) as well as return of reply slip at bottom of letter. By returning this reply slip you confirm they are able to complete the compulsory training day in school and both the practice and qualifying expeditions. Please note, if a student misses either the training day or practice expedition, it is highly unlikely they will be able to complete the qualifying expedition with us this year.
13th January	£150
22nd April	£145 (final balance)

For any questions about payment please contact Mrs V Inskip in the School Shop on 01925 755458 ext. 113 or vinskip@lymmhigh.org.uk

Please be aware that in the unlikely event of a conflict in dates occurring, injury/illness or family emergency preventing a student's participation in any expedition or training day, unfortunately it may not be possible to refund monies paid, due to costs already incurred by the school. You may wish to explore personal travel insurance options where your provider allows before signing up. Circumstances for a need to withdraw are by their nature very individual and we would ask you to contact Mark Harnden via email (mark@getoutsidetheclassroom.co.uk) as soon as possible should any issues arise. Contacting us early gives you the best possible chance of a least a partial refund. We would also ask you to cross-reference the expedition dates with your family calendar and ensure you are able to drop-off and pick-up your child on the expedition dates indicated before signing up to ensure your child can commit to the award fully.

Training and expedition dates for this year are set in the school calendar as follows:

SILVER – Year 10

Event/Expedition	Date	Venue	Transportation
Silver Training Day	Thursday 23 January 2025	Lymm High School	n/a
Silver Practice Expedition	Monday 17 March – Wednesday 19 March 2025	Bollington / Macclesfield (Peak District)	Parents
Silver Qualifying Expedition	Wednesday 25 June – Friday 27 June 2025	Llangollen/Ogwen Valley (tbc)	Parents

Please be aware that in order to keep costs down for participants, parents are required to drop off and collect for all DofE expeditions (you may find it helpful to car share).

Participants will be given access to an online eDofE account and shown how to add their section aims and evidence after we purchase places (this will be done on a weekly basis during the sign-up window). DofE now send registration packs direct to students' home addresses but we will continue to get students logged on and set-up on eDofE in a registration session in school where needed. Once students have completed the aims and chosen their activities for their sections, they simply need to follow their commitments and obtain the important Assessor's Report as soon as they have finished.

We now have two staff to support – a DofE Administrator: Mrs Riley, who is also our school receptionist and can help with all aspects of the DofE awards, especially eDofE queries. Her email is ariley@lymmhigh.org.uk and myself, Paul Greenwood, the DofE Co-ordinator pgreenwood@lymmhigh.org.uk

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is a fantastic opportunity, and all students are welcome to apply for a place. If your child is eligible for Pupil Premium, please consider using your trip voucher towards the cost of the award by informing Mrs V Inskip (see above contact details) but there is also additional support available for students eligible for Pupil Premium – please contact your child's Head of Year if needed. We would just like to finish by taking this opportunity to thank you in advance for all the support you will undoubtedly be offering in the background to help your child to participate. If you have any queries regarding any aspect of the Award, please don't hesitate to get in touch. We really look forward to your child's participation in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award this year.

Yours faithfully,

M Harnden



Mark Harnden

Mr P. Greenwood

DofE Award Manager (Get Outside The Classroom)

Lymm High School DofE Coordinator



Duke of Edinburgh's Award 2024/25

SILVER – Year 10

STUDENT NAME:

FORM:

Please tick boxes:

- I wish my child to participate in the Duke of Edinburgh's award at Silver level this year.
- I can confirm they are available for participation on all compulsory training days, practice and qualifying expeditions as listed in the above letter.
- I can confirm I have paid the £100 deposit on Parent Pay.

We will send you an electronic link for you to confirm that all medical and contact information is correct before the expeditions take place.

PARENT NAME:

DATE:

PARENT SIGNATURE:

PLEASE RETURN THIS SLIP TO THE SCHOOL SHOP