

Our Lady's Catholic High School

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Headteacher: Mr R Charnock

Being One of Ours

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award

We are pleased to offer students the opportunity to take part in the Silver Duke of Edinburgh's (DofE) Award.

Most students considering Silver will already have completed their Bronze Award and will therefore be familiar with how the DofE programme works. At Silver level, students complete the Volunteering, Physical and Skills sections, alongside a three-day, two-night practice expedition and a three-day, two-night qualifying expedition.

Students do not need to have completed Bronze to take part and can enter the programme directly at Silver level. However, students who are direct entrants will need to complete an additional six months in one of their sections.

Expedition dates

Both Silver expeditions will take place in the Lake District. Students must be available for both expedition weekends:

Practice Expedition: 9–11 May

Qualifying Expedition: 4–6 July

Please check that your child is available for both sets of dates before signing up, as attendance at both expeditions is an essential part of completing the award.

Cost and payment

The cost of the Silver DofE programme is currently £360 per student. To help spread the cost, payments will be made in instalments between October and March:

8th October – £40 deposit

6 November – £70

4 December – £70

8 January – £60

5 February – £60

5 March – £60

The cost includes:

- Silver DofE registration
- Transport to and from both expedition venues
- Hire of expedition equipment
- External instruction from qualified mountain guides for the practice
- Campsite fees
- A pizza party and prize night to celebrate students completing their award

Please note that food for the expeditions is not included in the cost. Students will receive further guidance about suitable expedition food as part of their preparation.



**Artsmark
Gold Award**
Awarded by Arts
Council England

The Silver Award is a fantastic opportunity for students to build on their Bronze experience, develop their independence, resilience and teamwork, and challenge themselves in a new environment.

Students will complete their Silver Award by the time they enter Year 11, making it a valuable achievement to include in college applications and personal statements, where it can help demonstrate their commitment, resilience, teamwork and willingness to take on new challenges.

How to sign up

If your child would like to take part, please sign up via SCOPAY and pay the initial deposit by **8th October**. By signing up, please ensure that your child is able to commit to both expedition weekends and to completing the required DofE sections.

We would like the Silver DofE to be accessible to all students who wish to participate. If your child would like to take part but you are experiencing financial difficulties, please contact cma@olchs.lancs.sch.uk in confidence before the 8th October deadline to discuss what support may be available.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs McNeela
Assistant Headteacher