Dear Parents and Carers

The Duke of Edinburgh Award – Silver

As you are aware Rickmansworth School trialled the Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award last year with Years 10 and 12. I am pleased to say with their mature attitude and organised approach to the award we have decided to run it for a second year.

As you are aware the award requires a great deal of time, effort and commitment from the members of the scheme, it can also be costly. Students will need to complete the three sections; Skill, Volunteering and Physical. They must compete two sections for 6 months which must include one being the volunteering section. They can then choose the skill or Physical for 3 months.

The expedition side of the award also increases and students will be expected to be out in more challenging terrain and for a longer period. The days are extended to 7 hours of activity a day and the expedition is extended to 3 days of activity and 2 nights camping.

As this is the next level, students will again be remotely supervised but they will have a much greater sense that they are more independent. This is part of the Duke of Edinburgh Award’s scheme to promote the independent side of the award and for the groups to problem solve without the need of staff to assist. There will be the same level of staffing on these trips as the bronze, but students will have less interaction with staff in order to feel more independent. This does not mean there will be less supervision but more that students may not always be aware of the supervision. Students will have the same emergency procedures in place as the bronze with an emergency phone and contact numbers.

When are the expeditions?

26 June – 28 June 2020 Practice Expedition in New Forest (Leaving Friday morning and returning Sunday evening)
25 September to 28 September 2020 Qualifying Expedition in Wales – (Leaving Friday lunch time and returning Monday night) This date is TBC due to School Open Evening.

There will also be one full day of training that students must attend this may fall during the holidays/inset day or weekend but the date is yet to be confirmed.

Students are required to attend the Practice and the Qualifying dates.

Students will need a certain amount of equipment for the expeditions. The School has a limited amount of equipment that may be loaned. Should you wish to borrow School equipment a deposit of £25 is required which will be returned when all kit has been handed in, in a satisfactory condition. You can view the official Duke of Edinburgh kit list here https://www.dofeshopping.org/dofe-expedition-kit-list-download/
In order to cover the cost of this award there will be a fee covering the cost of transport on expeditions, campsites, School equipment and the fee to complete the award as set by the Herts County Council. The cost for the award will be £295. The first instalment of £100 will be due on 10 October 2019.

**Applications**
Places will be offered to Years 10 and 12 students who have fully completed the bronze award. If more students apply, we will be offering places on random selection. Students are not required to have completed the bronze award to be offered a place, but students who have not completed the bronze award are expected to attend the Bronze Training on Tuesdays after School. They are also expected to complete longer time frames for the independent sections.

**If you would like your son/daughter to be considered for a place on the Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award, please complete the online slip prior to 10 October.**

If you require any further information, please feel free to contact me at the school on the following email address DofE@rickmansworth.herts.sch.uk. Alternatively, general information can be found on the Duke of Edinburgh website [www.dofe.org](http://www.dofe.org)

Yours sincerely

Miss J Baron
Duke of Edinburgh Coordinator
Rickmansworth School
To: Miss J Baron  
Re: The Duke of Edinburgh Award – Silver

Student Name ...........................................................................................................

Form & Teaching Group ...........................................................................................

Having read and understood the details of the visit as set out in the letter of 1 October 2019, I wish my son/daughter to be considered for a place on the Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

☐ I acknowledge the need for my son/daughter to behave responsibly and agree to the School’s procedures in this respect. Although the staff of the School escorting the party will exercise due care and attention, I understand they cannot necessarily be held responsible for any loss, damage or injury, which may befall my child named above during or as a consequence of the journey and visit.

☐ I understand that students will not be accompanied at all times during the expedition phase of the award.

☐ I understand that students are responsible for organising their own activities and that the School will not be carrying out any checks on the suitability of the provider. Such measures are the responsibility of the parent/carer. Failure to complete 2 of the 3 sections will prevent my child’s participation on the expedition.

☐ Should my child be offered a place, I will ensure that the first payment instalment of £100 is made prior to the 21 September, payable to Rickmansworth School

☐ The School may be able to assist you with payments for the scheme, if you are unable to meet the cost (please indicate if this applies to you)

Emergency Tel No 1:......................................................................................

Emergency Tel No 2......................................................................................